



# Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

## September 2017 Newsletter



## **PRESIDENT REPORT**

As a young boy growing up in the small village of Broomfield in Kent I spent many enjoyable hours hunting through the woods and paddocks exploring a whole range of wild life and developed a great love for the outdoors. Once I was old enough I head out into the wider country side and found the joys of fishing in the manmade lakes created by the Romans just outside the famous City of Canterbury.

My mum often complained about the numerous jam jars of bugs that I collected on my journey through nature, I even manage to have a collection of Newts that I captured from the pond in our orchard. This love for bugs was a huge advantaged when I started 'course fishing', our main sources of bait was the 'maggot' from the common house fly. I learnt how to breed my own by hanging a piece of ox-heart up in tree, after a day or two I would with a paper bag and wait for nature to take over.

The sad part with today's young kids they have far too many other distractions such as I Pads, X Box and numerous other technology that encourages them never leave the house and head out into the country side and explore nature. We now have a generation of young people that have very little or no interest in New Zealand great wildlife, this concerns me as they will be influencing what New Zealand looks like in the future.

We have to find a way that makes 'nature' a cool subject for our young people to explore and develop a passion to ensure that it's not lost to future generations.



*On the left a common Newt and on the right Great Crested Newt*

On Saturday 23 September, we have our opportunity to try and influence the future direction of our country, we have been indicated with all kinds of facts and non-facts on why we should vote for this party or that one. One of the most thought-provoking facts for me was one defining the impact of present number of cows as having another 62,000,000 humans living in New Zealand. How can this beautiful country sustain the impact of this?

***Front cover: Pahaoa River in Wairarapa from video of River Dog***

*Any newsletters success is influenced by the contribution of others so please pass on any truthful or Imaginative stories otherwise you may find 'yourself' as part of future tales from the river bank. [malcolmi@xtra.co.nz](mailto:malcolmi@xtra.co.nz)*

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*You are invited to the next KFFC Club Night on  
Monday 25 September 2017 - Bryce Johnson the  
Chief Executive of Fish and Game will be our  
guest speaker*

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## **FROM THE TYRE'S BENCH AT SCHOOL ROAD –THE GREY GHOST**

With the White Bait season now in full swing now a good time to head out onto the lower reaches of the Otaki River, use a sinking line or sinking tip on a floating line and try your luck using the Grey Ghost streamer.



### **Materials:**

**Hook:** Kamasan B830 or TMC 5262 size 2 to 12  
**Thread:** White of Grey  
**Body:** Silver Mylar Tinsel or White chenille  
**Ribbing:** Silver wire  
**Wing:** Four Grey Neck Hackles  
**Tail:** Orange or Red Hackle fibers  
**Hackle:** Grey



### **Step 1**

First step is to bind the hook with thread and tie in the tail.

Next lay the silver wire long the top of the hook.

To make the body even in diameter it's important to lay these along the whole body. Leave the wire and vinyl rib extending out the back.



### **Step 2**

Next is to attach the ribbing and body material, again lay it along the whole hook from front to back, tie in, a good idea to apply some glue if you haven't already as this will help lock the body to the hook and stop it sliding up and down the hook when you fish it.

Now wind it forward to create the body and tie off.



### **Step 4**

Select 4 nice even hackles from your cape, using 4 gives the wing enough bulk.

Because the hackles have a natural curve we need to use them in pairs. One pair presses against the other ( ) like two brackets, this makes them lay straight and stops them splaying apart.



### Step 5

Prepare the feathers by stripping the hackle fibers off the bottom of the feathers where they will lay against the hook.

Remember you are using two pairs as you do this, so it will be the opposite side on the second pair.



### Step 6

Next part is the fiddley bit as aligning 4 feathers with minds of their own can be tricky.



### Step 7

Hold them in place and take a secure with at least four turns, then split a gap through the hackle as you bring your ribbing forward. Care needs to be taken to keep the hackles on the top of the hook.

Once trapped the feathers can be adjusted as necessary, then continue winding the wire forward and tie off. A spot of glue here would be a good idea.



### Step 8

Next take another hackle, you can use up any less than perfect hackle here. Strip the hackle off the forward side as shown in the picture so you can wind on the collar with the hackles facing backwards.

Tie off and trim, then fold the hackles back along the body with your fingers and wind the thread back over the hackle stems to make them lay down against the body.



### Step 9

And this would be the finishing point for the traditional pattern, just glue the head and you are done.

You can create a nice head and attach epoxy eyes, once in place use epoxy glue to secure the eyes.



**Finished Fly**



## ***THE RIVER WATCH PROJECT BY GRANT MUIR***

Declining water quality is something that all freshwater anglers have been seeing for quite some time. Rivers and streams that once provided an abundant resource for fishing have, in many cases declined to such an extent that there is no aquatic life left. This has been the case for my beloved Pahaoa River that runs around my farm in Hinakura. In 2002, it was alive with fish, literally jumping out of the water. Fly rods always hung at the back door, for family and visitors alike to go and catch a feed.

Ten years later in 2012, the river was devoid of aquatic life. Its fish were long gone, washed up dead on its shores for lack of oxygen and a life sustaining environment. Over the years I made many attempts to draw this to the attention of the regional council and my neighbouring farmers whose farm practice was a major contributor to the aquatic decline. The river and my concerns appeared on many national television programmes and the award-winning documentary River Dog. Every time I discussed the degradation of the Pahaoa River with those in authority, I was told to 'prove it'. It seems that without sound scientific water quality data from the river nothing could or would be done to enforce the already existing environmental standards.

I was determined to at least try to save this river, as many anglers will empathise with me, when it comes to rivers and streams you have your favourites. They become part of your family. You get to know them and love them. And it is heart breaking when you watch them die. So, with the help of Victoria University's Doctor George Allan and Winston Seah of the Computer Science and Engineering faculty we began the RiverWatch project.

Over the last five years we have worked with students to build and develop accurate and robust water quality monitoring technology and a data dissemination platform. As we worked on the project we realised how unscientific the water quality data being collected by authorities was. Also, the data was not robust because it was collected at a single point in time and did not reflect the overall condition of where the sample was taken from. We also discovered that turbidity (sedimentation) was the primary cause of habitat loss for aquatic species. In fact, New Zealand has ten times the world average of sedimentation. So much so that water quality testing instruments from other countries (that cost tens of thousands of dollars) do not work in our extremely muddy waters. When designing RiverWatch, we refined the parameters that were in most important to those that engage with the water quality.

In 2016, we finalised and built our first working RiverWatch prototype. This was tested for accuracy alongside regional council instrumentation and integrated into our data collection platform on the WaiNZ website and RiverWatch app. The prototype was awarded the 2016 WWF Conservation Innovation Award and with the \$25,000 award we continue to develop RiverWatch for commercial production. We approached many organisations that were engaged with water use and its quality for funding. But found little appetite from these organisations and farming leaders to support water quality testing. We continue to fund RiverWatch from our own resources.

By mid-2017, we had built prototype version three that tests for turbidity, conductivity, temperature, pH level and dissolve oxygen 24/7 at pre-determined time intervals. Alongside this, we had also developed an IoT, LoRa communication platform for remote areas and integrated data collection for real time web browser connection. Having exhausted our own funds we turned to Pledge Me crowd funding and the New Zealand public, hoping that their support and enthusiasm for clean water would enable us to fund the next stage of the RiverWatch development, which is building ten prototype units for beta testing throughout the country. This campaign finishes on Monday 18 September 2017.

We chose not to test for water soluble nitrates because, to date there is no reliable way of measuring nitrate concentrations on a 24/7 logging device. However, we are actively pursuing research and development to add this measurement as a sixth parameter to RiverWatch. Our data collection platform runs algorithms across the five parameters, providing indicators of nitrate levels but not parts per million.

One of the most important measurements for RiverWatch is turbidity, with many of our rivers running brown and murky for over 70% of the year. Sedimentation has a major effect on sustainable aquatic life, destroying spawning grounds and habitat. Coupled with dissolved oxygen depletion during the low-flow summer months it has created a perfect storm for the survival of aquatic life.

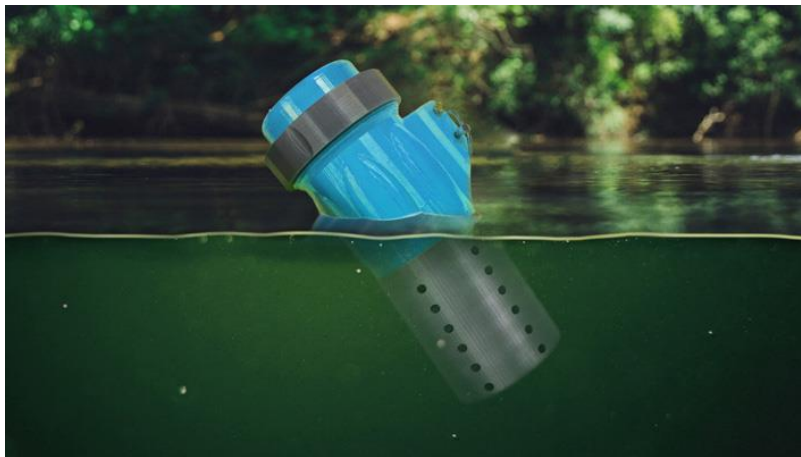
The current situation seems to be, if the fish can't live in the water and humans can't swim in it, then the water can only be used for irrigation. This seems to be the place that we have come too in the water quality debate of 2017. That the water should be used for irrigation rather than improve its quality so that others can use it. Your support and the support of your friends and others that care about water quality is now vitally important. We do need your help to bring RiverWatch to all our rivers, lakes, and streams. And to prove once and for all, the systemic level of water quality degradation that is occurring in every river.



**Joanne - Grant - Lilla - Andre with the RiverWatch**

### ***NEW TECHNOLOGIES HELPING CLEAN UP WATERWAYS***

New Zealand farmers and companies are starting to use Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, data analytics and automation to decrease impact on New Zealand rivers, a leading national tech expert observes.



**RiverWatch**

New Zealand farmers and companies are starting to use Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, data analytics and automation to decrease impact on New Zealand rivers, a leading national tech expert observes. In countries, right across the world the IoT devices are being used to help clean up water, New Zealand IoT Alliance Executive Director Kriv Naicker notes.

Irrigation is by far the largest use of water in New Zealand, making up 65.9 percent of water use between 2013 and 2014, the Ministry for the Environment says. Places like Israel and California have had to learn how to manage their farms and use of water really well as they don't have much of it available, Naicker explains.

"In New Zealand, we have plenty of water so we haven't paid as much attention to the impact of farming until recently. "There is now a push to make all New Zealand's waters and rivers swimmable again.

## **Tough target**

“Earlier this year the government set a new target to have 90 per cent of New Zealand’s lakes and rivers reach swimmable water quality standards by 2040.

Currently just 72 per cent meet the standard.

“New Zealand can quickly learn from other nations and use sensors to monitor water quality, water levels, nutrient flows and other metrics, analytics to quickly understand what is happening where on the farm and automation and robotics to adjust delivery of nutrients and water to reduce impact on waterways.”

Using soil moisture sensors, analytics and water automation systems, Californian avocado growers have been able to reduce water usage by 75 per cent.

A water sensor that will allow people to check the health of waterways has recently been tested on the Manawatu River near Palmerston North. The sensor will allow communities to check the health and safety of their local waterways.

## **Ample advantages**

Naicker says the advantages of the ability to remotely track, IoT monitor and then report on the condition of a herd of cows or flock of sheep or quality of water introduces huge efficiencies for the modern farmer. “They can be alerted to various scenarios in advance and save both time and money by not having to patrol and survey, using satellite technology to receive various information in a proactive fashion.

“Some good examples of companies providing sensors for the quality of lakes and rivers includes RiverWatch Water Tester in the Wairarapa, Waterforce in Canterbury and KotahiNet in Wellington. In addition, Spark, Vodafone, and Thinxtra and Kordia are rolling out IoT water management solutions,” Naicker adds.

## ***CLUB TRIP TO TUKITUKI RIVER BY MICHAEL MURPHY***

I had been looking forward to this trip for a long time as I had not fished the Hawkes Bay rivers so when Pete Haakman sent out the trip notification I phoned Leon and we were first on board having first convinced our partners. This was easy for Leon as my daughter Lisa was easily convinced that I needed a strong hand to look after her old Dad and I suspect Kathryn was happy to get some peace! Lucky us, as we had just spent the last weekend at the Sporting Life FlyFest in Turangi. So, I am at last becoming a TroutBum!

We headed off, along with nine other club members, to the Hastings club’s Patangata clubhouse early afternoon feeling jealous that a number of them had stolen a march on us and that they would be hooked into the mighty Tuki Bows.

Wow, what a clubroom and what a location! With the Tukituki, right beside it and the Patangata Pub on the other side what could be more perfect. Even better several of the Hastings club members were also there for the weekend and we could not have been made more welcome- thanks Fellas

With only a short time to darkness Leon and I hit the river and second cast--- Boom, fish on and shortly a nice 3lb hit the net. So, this was going to be an easy weekends fishing....?

After a long night in a top bunk and too nervous of crashing to the floor if I got up, we were all up, breakfasted and on the river and eagerly looking forward to a great day. Lots of smaller fish in great condition but Leon and I only landed a nice 3 lb each however it was great to be on new water.

Off to the Pub for dinner early and discussion as to whether we could stay up and watch the AB/OZ rugby test but with finish around midnight we all gave it a miss and opted for an early night after a long days fishing. I can’t remember how many fish had been caught but as usual lots of lies were told and apparently many a big one had got away!

After a leisurely breakfast, we headed down towards Waipukurau to find some new water whilst the rest of the team spread themselves far and wide, all keen to catch that monster trout.

We had some success and were on our way home shortly after lunch unaware of how the others had fared. Thanks to Pete for arranging the trip and an especial thank you to Doug, Red and the boys from the Hastings club for their hospitality. They also issued us with a challenge to meet again and contest for the Patangata Tukituki Challenge. Shield. That will be fun!

Now, when is the next trip?

## ***FISH AND GAME ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE BY GRANT DYAON***



**Fish and game have appointed Martin Taylor to take over as Chief Executive from the long serving head Bryce Johnson.**

Martin Taylor has a wide experience in the corporate sector, including as Chief Executive of the Aged Care Association. He has also been chair of the Wellington Fish and Game Council and is presently working for Capital Coast DHB as a project manager.

The chair of Fish & Game's New Zealand Council, Lindsay Lyons, is delighted with Mr Taylor's appointment.

"Martin's the right person for this demanding role. He's highly qualified, an experienced leader and politically astute," Mr Lyons says. "He's also a mad keen angler and loves the outdoors and New Zealand's wild places, so from our point of view, this is a perfect combination. We are delighted to have him on board."

Lindsay Lyons says there was huge interest in the role. "We were humbled by the large number of high quality applicants who wanted to continue the fabulous work Bryce Johnson has done protecting our environment and water quality. "That fight for the environment isn't over and there are huge challenges ahead, but with Martin's appointment, Fish & Game is well placed to meet them."

Martin Taylor says he is delighted with his new role. "I am honoured to have been appointed to such an important and high-profile position. I am determined to make sure New Zealand's rivers, lakes and streams are swimmable, fishable and safe to gather food from," Mr Taylor says. "I am also committed to ensuring that kiwi families retain their access to the outdoors so our children can grow up enjoying our unique mountains, bush and waterways."

Martin Taylor will be taking up his new role in early November. Bryce Johnson is retiring in October after 37 years leading Fish & Game and its predecessor, the Acclimatisation Societies' national body.





Introduced mammals such as cats, stoats, weasels, ferrets and rats were the bats' main predators. The long-tailed bat population in South Canterbury needs greater protection of its natural habitat, residents have said in their feedback to the district's plan review. The Timaru District Council summarised the responses to its district review in a report published last week.

"There was support for continuation of identification of significant areas for values not fully investigated," the report said. In total, the long-tailed bat population in South Canterbury is believed to be between 200 and 300. Those areas long-tailed bat habitats, as well as Peel Forest and Orari Gorge. Geraldine Department of Conservation biodiversity ranger Damien Bromwich said the majority of the bat habitats were on private land but there were some on public conservation land and land looked after by Forest and Bird.



"These very special mammals are only population of long tailed bats on the east coast of the South Island, so this unique population we would like to see increase and thrive. Active monitoring has been carried out since 1999," Bromwich said. Introduced mammals such as cats, stoats, weasels, ferrets and rats were the bats' main predators, but loss of vegetation particularly along waterways and forest margins, also had an impact on the bats.

"This would include old and dead standing trees as these plants and trees provide good feeding areas and places to roost," Bromwich said. "[The bats] are insectivorous so the predominantly feed on flying insects which are most

abundant near waterways and bush edges, this means that bats are usually found near waterways or forest margins [like] Tengawai River, Talbot Forest.”

In total, the population was believed to be between 200 and 300.

The steering group consisted of representatives from Federated Farmers, Forest and Bird, DOC, Fish and Game, ECan and the Timaru District Council. ECan provided \$12,500 in funding for a project to protect bats in the Pleasant Point area earlier this year, helping to provide money for traps and baits.

Traps were placed around bat habitats, 25 meters apart for rats, 100m apart for possums, and 200m apart for weasels. The trapped predators were disposed of on site. Other strategies included placing wax "ice blocks" near bat habitats, and tracing the pawprints of predator species.

## **The Timaru Herald**

### ***RISE FLY FISHING FILM FESTIVAL 2017***

Be inspired this spring as RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival, the world's most extensive fishing film festival, hits theatres on the New Zealand leg of its 2017 worldwide tour. The film tour serves as a stage for the best Australian and Kiwi filmmakers in the industry to premiere their latest offerings, allowing the fishing community to share their passion for the sport by attending film screenings across the country.

In its 12<sup>th</sup> year, RISE is on a mission to celebrate the diverse world of fly fishing, to connect anglers through shared experience, and to create public awareness of fly fishing's new dynamic emergence. It's the biggest kick-off to the fishing season there is!

Gin-Clear Media's ***Pure Fly NZ***, a Kiwi fly fishing TV series that has drawn wide acclaim, is the feature of the festival. The first series of ***Pure Fly NZ*** set a new benchmark in fly fishing entertainment and Series 2 is set to raise that bar. RISE will premiere an episode from Series 2 featuring Jeff Forsee & Ronan Creane as they explore the myriad of fly fishing opportunities on NZ's West Coast.

***Corazon*** is another festival highlight and the work of master filmmaker R.A. Beattie. A tribute to remarkable Mexican fishing guide Sandflea, it is the story of an unlikely friendship between two anglers and the willingness of the fly fishing industry to rally around a guide in desperate need. ***Providence*** is a film recounting the first trip back to Providence Atoll, Seychelles since the waters were closed to all boat access in 2010 due to the threat of pirates. The team returned in October 2015 spending three insane weeks exploring and fishing for giant fish in a pristine flats environment. ***Yakutia*** is the latest effort from up and coming filmmaker Jako Lucas. This film chronicles an extreme adventure deep into the uncharted wilderness of Siberia, giant taimen and pike await the adventurers as well as a predatory fish species never before caught on fly in this area.

For many, RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival has become so much more than just going to the cinema. These annual fish-fests have become a true celebration of fly fishing, it's an excuse to get together with friends and reminisce about the past season as well as look forward to the season to come.

Presented by Gin-Clear Media, RISE will screen across New Zealand, including Auckland, Hamilton, Taupo, Tauranga, Palmerston North, Hawkes Bay, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, Dunedin, Gore and Queenstown.

For more information, local show dates, movie trailers etc. visit [www.gin-clear.com](http://www.gin-clear.com)

### **For more details, contact:**

Nick Reygaert

Event Manager, Gin-Clear Media

Email: [nick@gin-clear.com](mailto:nick@gin-clear.com)



**RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival - Wellington**

Buy your ticket for the Wellington Show of RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival 2017 here!

**LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA - PETONE**

52 Beach St, Petone 5012

**Monday, 2nd October 2017**

**8.30pm- 10.30pm**

Your e-ticket is delivered electronically after purchase and can be redeemed for an entry ticket at the RISE merchandise table in the cinema foyer from 7.00pm onwards on the evening of the show.

For more details, DVDs, merchandise and film teasers visit [www.gin-clear.com](http://www.gin-clear.com) or email [events@gin-clear.com](mailto:events@gin-clear.com)

**All tickets are delivered by email, no paper tickets are issued.**

There is no seat allocation for this event .

**NOTE – BUY TICKETS AT: <https://app.etickets.to/buy/?e=15197>**

### Tickets

Ticket Type	Price	Quantity
<b>Adult</b>	\$29.00	0 ▼
Adult Ticket		
<b>Child (under 18)</b>	\$19.00	0 ▼
Child Ticket		

Tickets: \$0.00

Service Charge: \$0.00

**TOTAL: \$0.00**

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For more information on this event contact the organiser:  
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## ***THOUGHTS ON EARLY SEASON TACTICS BY TONY ORMAN***

The first day of October still holds a magic for me since for many of my earlier years, it heralded the opening of a trout season after a closure since April 30. There was no winter fishing in the months of May, June, July, August, and September. Now there's winter fishing to give a 12-month season.

Somehow, I've never quite come to grips with the winter season but I should for in the occasional foray to the river, I've done alright if without spectacular success. But any day fishing is great, summer or winter. But the summer half I much, much more prefer.

A few occasional winter dabs have been promising. Like one still June day I headed out and fished the Pelorus River at Dalton's Bridge just upstream from Canvastown and the Trout Hotel. I picked a likely ripple with cobbled stones on the bottom. That sort of bed is often the most productive in terms of trout tucker and consequently trout themselves. A floating line, a 3 plus metre leader and an olive Woolly Bugger lure was flicked out and on about the sixth cast a good fish took hold. It turned out to be a 2.3 kg brown.



**Pelorus River looking towards Daltons Bridge**

But overall, I don't do much winter fishing and look forward to the early part of the new season. Often for the fly fisher early October can be challenging with higher volumes of water, even if it's clear.

Rivers tend to carry a lot of water in October.

But "it's an ill wind that blows nobody any good". For spin anglers, the higher water can be ideal. While the fly fisher has to contend with large areas of water to try and find trout, the spin angler with longer casting has better chances of covering the expanse of water in pools.

The average threadliner in my opinion, fishes the wrong way, wading into the top of the pool and casting out into the current letting the spinner swing down and around. Some trout are taken this way, but only a small fraction of those the more tactical angler fishing upstream will get. Fishing downstream has the one big disadvantage of lifting your lure and line up to the surface. Early season gets deep. The answer is to fish upstream!

Brown trout in particular are especially liable to take a lure coming downstream past them. Spinning should be a series of short casts fishing straight upstream and down against the bank and then radiating lengthening out into the centre and bringing the lure back to your feet. Long casts are necessary but they always come after the closer water has been explored.

"Always fish the water at your feet first" is an adage that applies equally to threadlining as it does to fly fishing.

Early in the season, whitebait are moving in from the sea and sea-run browns just love them. The Otaki, Ohau and Waikanae River estuaries could be well worth a look. On spinning gear, pinch three or four split shot about 20 cm



above a fly lure imitating whitebait such as a size 8 Grey Ghost type pattern and with lighter breaking strain nylon you can cast 10, 15 or even 20 metres.

Using a Grey Ghost type lure (not too big - size 8) in estuaries during October and into November can give some good fish. Of course, the fly fisher can fish the Grey Ghost type lure on a fly rod and floating line.

Estuaries are real food factories with a great variety of trout tucker not only whitebait but small crabs, freshwater shrimps and others. Higher up by the tidal limits, damsel flies and freshwater life add to the trout smorgasbord. Small side streams off main rivers are worth a look as trout have been up there spawning in May or June and been feeding up since. While there's a decent flow in the side streams they can hold in there.

Anywhere early season, don't neglect dusk and into the dark of night, wet fly and lure fishing either. A pool that's just at the tidal limit or slightly above is ideal. Prospect it in daylight noting the rapids, drop-offs, the current, snags and other detail.

For me, as dark descends, I'll fish across and down with a floating line, perhaps a March Brown Spider little wet fly just before night sets in and then as darkness descends I would change to a size 6 fly lure - a Hairy Dog, Fuzzy Wuzzy or a personal favourite such as the Hob Nail Boot. Fish it slowly from a cast across and around and tighten on the merest suggestion of a take. Brown trout at night can feed in a quiet, confident manner that can be very subtle takes.

### ***GOVERNMENTS NEW ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS***

The government's claim of giving the crown's irrigation company a new environmental focus is "cynical" and "a smokescreen" say Fish & Game. The Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy has just announced Cabinet has approved changing Crown Irrigation's constitution - so it can fund water storage projects with direct environmental and economic benefits rather than just economic benefits alone.

Crown Irrigation was established in 2013 to invest and advise on irrigation schemes and Mr Guy claims the move to expand its focus is good news for the environment. But Fish & Game says the move is cynical and will provide no environmental benefit. "This is just a smokescreen for the government to continue its policy of intensifying agriculture at the expense of the environment while appearing to be listening to the growing public anger over the state of our waterways," says Fish & Game's Chief Executive Bryce Johnson.

"Despite what the minister is claiming, irrigation and dams aren't good for our rivers, lakes and streams. "Creating more and more water storage projects will only exacerbate our water quality problems by encouraging more and more intensive agriculture," says Bryce. "This is a path to further environmental degradation and we need to stop trying to put intensive farming operations like dairying in inappropriate regions with naturally leaky soils and vulnerable waterways.



"The government has plenty of reports, including from its own advisors like the Parliamentary Commissioner for The Environment and the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, that this sort of development is not good for the environment. "To claim otherwise is just plain wrong and it is time the government heeded its own advisors," says Bryce.

Fish & Game says the government's apparent change in direction is just semantics and indicates it realises it is exposed by its claims that irrigation schemes and dams provide significant economic benefits. "The reality is that dams provide very expensive water and farmers are reluctant to commit to buying water from schemes like the one proposed for Wairarapa," says Bryce. "That understandable reluctance by farmers is why the government is using taxpayers' money to subsidise these otherwise economically unfeasible schemes.

"The government's latest announcement is desperate stuff and shows it is scrambling to prove its damming and irrigation policies are economically sound when in reality they are being debunked economically and environmentally," Mr Johnson says. He says with an election only weeks away, the present government would be better to listen more carefully to the public anger over water quality.

"The public have had enough. They are tired of having their waterways damned, diverted and dirtied and the present government's failure to listen is frustrating voters even further. "Surely the government needs to listen to the obvious public mood and come up with a coherent and acceptable water quality policy which heals the damage already done," says Bryce.

### ***WORK PUT ON HOLD FOR CLAUDIA THE DUCK BY DAVID LOUGHREY***



**Claudia leads her offspring from the Water of Leith**

Mark Green, who found Claudia the duck at her nesting site. It's a special duck that can force a small army of burly contractors with hefty earthmoving equipment and a strict project timetable across a major Dunedin stream and keep them there for a month. But Claudia the duck, heavy with eggs and in need of a nesting site, did just that.

Claudia decided to settle in to produce her ducklings this year in the middle of where Downer workers were busy on the \$3.5 million Otago Regional Council Leith flood protection scheme. Site engineer Scott Reid - through an ORC communications spokeswoman - said Claudia's nest was found early last month by Mark Green, a man he described as "a very observant member of the construction crew."

Mr Green was undertaking some cleaning on the right bank wall extension of the waterway, 5m upstream from the Leith footbridge, when he discovered the expectant bird. "After consultation with Fish and Game and discovering

it would take about 30 days for the eggs to hatch, it was decided that work on this section of the contract would be put on hold to allow nature to take its course," Mr Reid said.

Claudia took advantage of the reprieve and last week produced nine ducklings. The family was last seen "playing in the weirs downstream of the work site."



***'FEARLESS' FRESHWATER SCIENTIST MIKE JOY HONOURED BY JAMIE MORTON***



Dr Mike Joy has received the inaugural Critic and Conscience of Society Award for his work in drawing attention to water quality in our rivers, lakes and drinking water.

A "fearless" ecologist who has been in the thick of debate around the state and causes of New Zealand's freshwater woes has been honoured with an award from a group representing the country's universities. Universities New Zealand has presented Massey University academic Dr Mike Joy the inaugural Critic and Conscience of Society Award for drawing attention to water quality in our rivers, lakes and drinking water - and the impact of intensive agriculture.

Joy's blunt, up-front commentary on the issue has drawn controversy and criticism - former prime minister Sir John Key dismissed his views on BBC's *Hardtalk* show and soil scientist and agribusiness commentator Dr Doug Edmeades implied he was biased, prompting a response from the New Zealand Association of Scientists. The independent judging panel noted how Joy, a senior lecturer in ecology and environmental science at Massey, had made a substantial contribution over the past two years to raise public awareness of an important issue facing the country.

"Mike's work has successfully placed a complex and difficult environmental issue on the public agenda," said panel member Professor Steve Weaver, of the University of Canterbury. "He's single-handedly raised awareness of an issue that's at the heart of our country's primary economy and environment. "While some of his messages are unpalatable to some, Mike has been a fearless crusader to ensure this issue remains a top of the agenda for central and local government, as well as for the agricultural industry.

On receiving the award Joy said he was "extremely honoured."

"I'm grateful for the support I have received from Massey University and especially hope that the existence of this award will motivate other academics to take up the unique but threatened privilege of being the critic and conscience of our society."

Joy has previously received Forest & Bird's Old Blue award, the Ecology in Action award from the New Zealand Ecological Society, and the Royal Society of New Zealand's Charles Fleming Award for Environmental Achievement.

### ***CANTERBURY CROPPING FARMER EMBRACES ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS***

Third-generation Canterbury farmer David Birkett isn't fazed by tougher environmental regulations and says they can even lead to an improved bottom line. He talks to Tony Benny.



Leeston, Canterbury, cropping farmer David Birkett is chairman of the Foundation for Arable Research. David Birkett's farm is near Leeston, not far from what has been called New Zealand's most polluted lake, Te Waihora/Ellesmere, and he's well used to close scrutiny of the environmental effects of farming there by the regional council, members of the public and media.

"There's a bit of pressure on farmers but they gain out of it, that's the silly thing. I can't understand someone who doesn't bother to try to do the best they can because your bottom line is going to be better," he says. "Doing some measuring and making sure you know what's needed, most of the time you're actually financially better off than what you'd previously been doing.

Winter wheat crops can put roots down as far as 1.8 metres and take up nitrogen leached from previous crops. Following on from his father and grandfather, Birkett's family has been on the farm for about 80 years and there's even a family connection via marriage back to the original European settlers. "I think that does tend to make you lean towards looking after it better, just because you know that connection does go back further.

The property's always been a cropping farm. Birkett's been in charge for 10 years, having previously farmed in partnership with his father. Over the past 20 years they've changed from a conventional full cultivation-based system to much lighter cultivation, incorporating crop residues back into the soil whenever possible to improve soil structure. Residue used to be a by-product to be got rid of whatever way possible, by burning or baling. "We generally just disc it in now. This year even the grass seed straw price wasn't good enough so we put it back in.



"Previously you would have said, 'It's X dollars to bale it off', now we're saying, 'It's worth X dollars to bale it off but there's three years of benefits of putting that residue in', so you need to calculate what that is to make a decision. Before making the change, the Birkett's were concerned their soil was deteriorating. There was little organic matter, carbon content was reducing and the soil was becoming harder to work, meaning more hours spent in the tractor.

"There was some science, some talk around the world, around soil quality and the benefits of it and Plant and Food Research at Lincoln had been doing a trial on soil quality and it was starting to show some results and we wanted to make sure the soil was getting better every year," says Birkett.

It took seven years, Birkett says, for the soil to improve significantly. "It takes that long to start building carbon and organic matter up in the soil and over those first few years it can take a little more nitrogen to get the system going." For some crops, ones that need a fine seed bed, the ground is still turned over with a plough but the policy is, if it can be direct drilled, it is direct drilled.

"The farm was probably a one and a half to two-man unit before whereas now it's a one-man unit and a lot of that's because of the improved soil structure allowing us to get crop cultivated and planted easier. "

Conscious that Roundup resistance is a growing problem worldwide and in New Zealand, Birkett is careful to limit its use, even though it is a vital tool in his cropping system. "We don't always spray and sometimes if you're straight after harvest and you've got a pretty clean seed bed, you can still get away without a chemical control in there," he says.

"Every plant has the ability to develop resistance in some way and new chemistry coming through is becoming rarer and rarer so we have to make sure we look after the chemistry groups that we do have." Although he's a committed cropping farmer, Birkett finishes store lambs in winter and says they fit in well with his operation.

"I don't particularly like stock but I think they play a very good role around resistance management. If you do have weeds that escape and those sheep are able to clean them up after harvest, that's a non-chemical way of actually getting rid of resistant strains that may be still in the soil."

The lambs are usually ready to go when paddocks of clover and ryegrass are being closed up. Birkett doesn't grow a fodder crop for the lambs but feeds them grass and clover plus stubble. "Sometimes you can have dormant seeds with those feed brassicas you might plant and they can contaminate your following brassica crop for seed. We're trying to keep it as clean as possible.

"We could certainly push the stock numbers a lot harder but, especially on heavy ground, everything comes at a price. If you have a wet winter with lots on, you'll pay for it come your spring cropping programme." Traditionally cropping farmers in Canterbury grew ryegrass, wheat and barley and perhaps some peas but today they grow a huge range, including white and red clovers, brassicas and kales for seed and vegetables for seed.

"The vegetable seeds have probably been something that's kept the arable industry afloat in a way. When you get it right, it pays well but it does come with the associated risk," Birkett says. It can cost twice as much to grow vegetable seed as an arable crop and they're more delicate too. "Five days of overcast weather at the wrong time can be quite devastating, particularly during flowering or close to harvest time."

Birkett has been growing vegetable seeds for close to 20 years and was among the first in his district to try his hand at what has developed into a multi-million-dollar industry. New Zealand's advantage is that it can multiply seed out-of-season for northern hemisphere customers, and can do so reliably with high quality. "Previously a lot of that production was done in Europe, quite often in France, but for a lot of those crops now, New Zealand has become the main producing area.

"It's amazing, you look at a truckload of radish seeds and you wonder where does that all go. There's so much of it there yet that's just one line and there's hundreds of lines in Canterbury. Much of the seed Birkett produces goes to commercial growers, glasshouses in Holland as well as customers in America and Asia. One of the key

ingredients is reliable irrigation water. Without the right amount of water at the right time, it's very difficult, if not impossible, to produce consistent, high quality vegetable seed crops.

Birkett and his forebears have had irrigation for 46 years, taking water from wells on the farm. More than a decade ago, the zone between the Selwyn and Rakaia Rivers was reviewed by Environment Canterbury and for the first time, rules and regulations were put in place, limiting takes by irrigators because of concern they were affecting lowland streams. A group of farmers took ECan to the Environment Court and succeeded in having some of the new rules moderated but even so, many felt they were still at risk so they moved their wells further away from streams and went deeper so they weren't deemed to be connected to the streams.

Under the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, Birkett's farm is now in a Cultural Landscape Values Management Area, meaning simply that traditional Maori mahinga kai (food and other resources) areas must be taken care of. "It's interesting when you talk to the runanga about mahinga kai. The values they're trying to uphold are almost exactly the same as what we're trying to do as farmers. We're trying to protect our soil so that we have food for future generations and they're doing exactly the same," Birkett says.

"It's really about just making sure around your creeks that you're managing accordingly, you're making sure fertiliser placement is correct, that cultivation's not on angles down to the creek and where possible having margins that protect between your creek and your crops." Birkett says some farmers are resentful about the cultural landscape values measures but he doesn't see it that way.

"Most farmers probably think it's just someone trying to grab some of my land or make it so that I can't use it but I think if they fully understood what is trying to be achieved ... you know, you can still use it, the management just has to be a little more accurate and mindful of doing things in the right way." On his heavy land, nitrogen leaching is less of a problem for Birkett than farmers on lighter, more porous, country but he still works hard to minimise losses. He grows legumes which take nitrogen from the atmosphere and put it in the soil but it is careful not to grow too many.

"If you continue to grow legumes year after year, a cropping farm can actually leach more than a dairy farmer so having the rotation right is vital and if you get it right you can manage the nutrient very well." "If there has been a wet winter like the one we've just had, you want to make sure you're growing something that can get its roots down to where that nitrogen has leached. Most cereals are deep-rooted and an autumn sown wheat crop can have roots 1.5 to 1.8 metres deep."

Birkett's just had his soil tested for nitrogen levels so he can accurately gauge how much extra will be required by the crops he'll grow in spring and summer. Like most Canterbury farmers, he's now required to have a farm environment plan that spells out what he's doing, why and how.

"I think it's a brilliant tool actually. It makes you stop and think about why you're doing things on the farm. I think everyone should be trying to be as efficient in their nutrient management as possible, aiming for the lowest N-number they can." But Birkett says the Canterbury Water Management Strategy has been hard on some farmers, especially those closest to Te Waihora Ellesmere.

"I think a lot of the media coverage which has been negative has probably impacted on people bit," he says. "People are doing a lot and have done a lot, yet there seems to be no recognition of that. We need farmers on-side to make this work, it's a co-operative thing, we need farmers to be part of the solution. If we get farmers offside and they're not prepared to help, we don't have a solution."

However, Birkett has little time for farmers who aren't making the effort to change their ways and farm in a more environmentally sensitive manner. "There are probably some farmers that need a big stick waved at them," he says. "There are cases where ECan could have made examples and they haven't and I feel they probably have been a bit lax in that way. You either incentivise people who are doing well or you punish the ones who don't and I think ECan has just sat in the middle and hasn't done either."

## ***DAM DOES 'NOT QUALIFY' FOR FRESHWATER FUND – ECONOMIST***

Money allocated for a large dam project near Nelson from a fund aimed at improving freshwater quality is a misuse of taxpayer money, a former treasury economist says.

Environment Minister and Nelson MP Nick Smith recently announced the \$7 million grant as part of a plan to distribute funding from the government's \$100m Freshwater Improvement Fund. Tasman District Council and Waimea Irrigators are partners in the dam project, which was first mooted a decade ago but was stalled by disagreement over an earlier funding model. The council earmarked \$25 million in its 2015-25 Long Term Plan for the project which is estimated to cost \$82.5m, which includes about \$50m for its construction. Other potential funders include Crown Irrigation Investments and Nelson City Council.

Economist Peter Fraser told Nine to Noon the proposed project did not qualify for the fund under Ministry for the Environment guidelines. He said its criteria for allocation of funds included a vulnerability measure and Nelson-Marlborough fell outside that. He said he believed it would be uneconomic because the modelling showed it would supply water at four times the average irrigation price - twice the price of the now-shelved Ruataniwha project in the North Island.

"The fund must be for improvement of rivers and I don't think it will in this case," Mr Fraser said. The government said the fund would go to the Tasman District Council for improving water quality and minimum flows in the Waimea River, which would occur through construction of the dam. Tasman District mayor Richard Kempthorne said the dam was the region's most important infrastructure project and it was needed to secure the supply and quality of fresh water.



Waimea River - Nelson

Mr Kempthorne said Waimea River was currently unhealthy and regularly dried up in summer. He said the fund should not be seen as taxpayers subsidising the region's irrigators or ratepayers. "I don't believe it does subsidise, and we could argue that until the cows come home. "What it does do, is it does fund the support for establishing a m He said there was an expectation of more intensive land use on the Waimea Plains, but that was not necessarily what a new dam would be used for minimum flow that's going to lead to increased health in the river," Mr Kempthorne said. "There are other issues around land use but that's another discussion. Our urban areas are experiencing high growth rates while our stock numbers have not really changed," Mr Kempthorne said.

## ***REPORT FROM OUR TURANGI CORRESPONDENT – NOEL THOMAS***

What a month this has been. A high lake level has meant that any rain (and we have had plenty) has encouraged good runs of trout into the rivers.

Fresh fish are still being caught but my gut feel is there is a slowing down of fresh runs coming into the system as winter comes to an end.

With daylight saving it will be time to dust off the dry fly box and look for recovering trout chasing mayfly hatches.

With Glo bugs being the go to fly this winter I had to brush up on my tying skills. Tying Glo bugs with Glo bug yarn has always been a frustration as I could never seem to get a nice round shape and they always finished bigger than I liked. Just recently I discovered Mc Fly foam. What a difference. I now have a box full of round little Glo bugs ready for next winter.

Anyone want to buy some cheap gloves bug yarn?



*Editor - I would like to thank the following member for their contribution to this month's newsletter:*

- *Grant Muir - River Watch Project*
- *Michael Murphy - Club trip to Tukituki River*
- *Elena McPhee - South Canterbury call for support for Long-tailed Bats*
- *Tony Orman - Thoughts on early season tactics*
- *Fish and Game Bryce Johnson - Governments new Environmental Focus*
- *David Loughrey - Claudia the Duck*
- *Jamie Morton - Mike Joy Honoured*
- *Tony Benny - Canterbury Cropping Farmer Story*
- *Economist Peter Fraser - Dam Does Not Qualify for Freshwater Fund*
- *Noel Thomas - Report from Turangi*

*Your contribution is welcome so if you come across an interesting article then please forwarded to me at [malcolm1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:malcolm1@xtra.co.nz).*



### **CLUB ACTIVITIES OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS**

There are numerous benefits from participating in the club trips and activities outside of the great companionships and that the opportunity to learn from other members of the club. Many members are more than willing to share their knowledge as I found out recently on the trip to Lake Otamangakau, I now have these strange looking snail flies in my box.

Date	Event	Contact person
Monday 25 September	Bryce Johnson Chief Executive of Fish and Game	
Sunday 1 October	Opening Day Waikanae River	
Monday 2 October	RISE Film Festival - Petone	Peter H
Monday October 9	Interclub Fly Tying Competition host Hutt Valley	Malcolm
Sunday 15 October	McWilliams Shield - Hutt River	Craig
Monday 23 October	Club Night - Fishing the Waikanae River	Malcolm
11 or 12 November	Manawatu River	Malcolm
25 - 26 November	Rangitikei River	Peter H
Jan/Feb TBC	Manganui-o-te-ao River	Pete H/ Malcolm

**I would like to remind members that Sporting Life are our sponsor and you are encouraged to visit their website or contact them when you are next looking for a fly fishing item to purchase, Graham will give you a generous discount as a club member.**



Please note: I if you have an item or items you would like to sell then please advise the editor and we can include your advertisement in the newsletter.

## Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

### Purpose:

- *To promote the art and sport of Fly Fishing.*
- *To respect the ownership of land adjoining waterways.*
- *To promote the protection of fish and wildlife habitat.*
- *To promote friendship and goodwill between members.*
- *To promote and encourage the exchange of information between members.*

### Club meetings

You are invited to attend our club meetings that are held on the **Fourth Monday** of each month.

The venue is the **Turf Pavilion Sport Grounds**, Scaife Street, Paraparaumu,

Our **meetings start at 7:30pm** with fellowship followed by speakers of activities.

Club Committee meetings are held on the first Monday of each month and the meetings are held at various member's homes and start at 7:30pm.

### Contacts

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please remember that the club has two Five Weight 8'6" fly rods that members are welcome to use, just contact Malcolm Francis.

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*Newsletter copy to be received by Second Monday of each month, your contribution is welcome just send it to: [malcolm1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:malcolm1@xtra.co.nz)*

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