



# **Kapiti Fly Fishing Club**

## September 2020 Newsletter

This month's front cover: Waikanae River- Opening Day and here's hoping! Photo by Malcolm Francis

### In this month's newsletter:

- Page 2     Presidents Report
- Page 3     Fly Casting Tuition – Gordon Baker
- Page 3     New Monthly Fly-Tying Group from October – Gordon Baker
- Page 3     For sale, a Sage VPS 690 two piece 9' 00" 6 weight Fly Rod
- Page 4     Fly Pattern of the Month by Gordon Baker
- Page 5     Lake Otamangakau research update 2020
- Page 7     A Fly-Fishing Chronicle: The Coch-Y-Bonddu by Fred Klein
- Page 10    Your First Day of Fly Fishing Wasn't This Good by Sam Lungren
- Page 11    Cash start from government fund gives boost to Foxton River Loop restoration project by Paul Williams
- Page 14    The case for Trout farming
- Page 16    A case of Churnalism or simple an Advertorial by Dr Peter Trolove
- Page 18    Trout Farming a risk for sport fishing by Mike Fisher
- Page 21    A woman with wise-set eyes by Tom Davis
- Page 24    The two gems of Rotorua by Mike Davis
- Page 30    Trying not to look dishevelled by Nick Weldon
- Page 31    Fly Fishers are in for a lifetime of pleasure and excitement in the trout ... by Derek Grzelewski
- Page 35    Learn to Fly Fish at the Otaki Hunting and Fishing Store – Main Road Otaki  
Starts at 6:00pm 19 October

### Club activities

Date	Event	Coordinator
Monday 28 September	Club Night – guest speaker Paul Shortis	Michael
Thursday 1 October	Opening Day	
3 and 4 October	Lake Otamangakau	Michael
Monday 12 October	Fly-Tying workshop – Kapiti Community Centre	Gordon Baker
Monday 19 October	Hunting and Fishing Otaki – Learn to Fly Fish	Malcolm
Sunday 25 October	Day trip Hutt River	Malcolm
Monday 26 October	Club Night – guest speaker Steve Bielby DoC Community Ranger	Michael
Monday 9 November	Fly-Tying Workshop – Kapiti Community Centre	Gordon Baker

---

*You are invited to the next KFFC Club Night on Monday 28  
September our guest speaker: Paul Shortis Chair of National Fish  
and Game Council*

*Meeting starts at 7:30pm looking forward to seeing you there*

---

## *President report*

Well, it's almost the start of the new Fishing season which will see a fair number of us abandon the Taupo area and start hitting our local rivers. Well, not quite as we have a small club trip to Turangi on the weekend of 3rd and 4th of October where we will also get a chance to maybe catch a monster Lake Otamangakau trout as the season commences there on 1 October.

At this stage we only have minimal accommodation, so it's been on a first in first served basis.

I know a number of our members have had some fantastic Taupo fishing over the last month with the best winter season for years.

I sure has been a strange last six months and I am sure very difficult for a lot of us both financially and mentally. I, for one, having been told so much that I am an at risk oldie that it's been a bit of a struggle, not the least that I along with others caught the "Turangi Virus" on our last club trip and it's taken me a month to get over it.

If you are unwell, coughing or have family members with colds or this winter virus then I suggest that you do not go on trips with members or attend our functions. You will not like it if you get the same virus, we have had

Just remember that our fishing can be quite physical at times often with a lot of walking so it is up to all of us to ensure that we are both well-equipped and as fit as we can be, I take my Garmin InReach with me at all times, even locally as we never know when trouble can hit us and as some of us we'll know it is easy to get into trouble on the water.

Remember to check all your gear before hitting the water. Have you replaced your leaders and are your hooks nice and sharp and don't forget to purchase your Fish & Game seasons licence.

You will all have had an email from Pete advising that we have been fortunate to have Fish & Games Council Chairman Paul Shortis presenting at Mondays club night and if you are passionate about retaining your present rights to fish in NZ without the commercial threat of trout farming then come along. This is a one-off opportunity!

I am sure you will have questions for Paul and to keep the session running smoothly then it will help if you can write them out, bring them along on Monday and We will read them out.

The committee have decided to present a new annual trophy at the AGM to be called "The Graeme Waters Memorial Cup" in honour of Past President Graeme who was so instrumental in ensuring the clubs success in its early era. (We are in the process of seeking Graeme's family approval). This award will be presented by the incumbent club President for the person who has made a significant contribution to KFFC during the year.

It's been a difficult period to organise big group functions however now that we are at Level One, we can now organise more events. Take a look at the Newsletter for more information and dates and keep an eye out for group emails advising functions and trips.

- Gordon and Malcolm will be hosting monthly fly-tying sessions from October
- There are a couple more fishing trips planned pre-Christmas

- Nick has organised the annual Club Christmas dinner function, this time to be held in November

See you on Monday evening, or if not then hopefully at one of the club trips or functions

Kia Kaha

Michael

### *Fly Casting Tuition*

Club member Gordon Baker is available for one on one casting tuition. Gordon is a casting instructor with Flyfishers International (USA). He is available to help beginners get off to a good start and to assist more experienced members improve their distance casting skills. Although not yet an approved two-handed casting instructor Gordon is a keen learner willing to share new skills.

Email Gordon [kiwifyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:kiwifyfisher@gmail.com) or phone 0274946487 to arrange a suitable time for a lesson. There is no charge.

### *New Monthly Fly-tying Group from October*

The club is restarting the fly-tying group at the Kapiti Community Centre at 7.30 pm on the second Monday of October (12th) and November (9th). We have pencilled in a booking for the second Monday night from February to November next year.

Each month will feature a pattern or tying style relating to that time of the season. The fly of the month will be published in the newsletter prior to each meeting. There is no cost as The Flyshop (formally Feather Merchants) has agreed to sponsor materials and the club is covering venue hire. There will be spare vise's and tools for members looking to get started.

### *For sale, a Sage VPS 690 two piece 9' 00" 6 weight Fly Rod*

This rod is in new condition and only been used once, comes with reel and line, if you are interested in buying this rod, please contact Malcolm Francis on 027 384 6596



## *Fly Pattern of the Month*

### Parachute Adams Dry Fly



The Adams was created about one hundred years ago and became one of the greatest fly patterns. The origin of the Parachute Adams occurred at a much later date. It is easy to tie and is the most popular and effective dry flies.

Because it floats low in the water and is particularly appealing to hungry trout. Its grey colour can suggest a wide variety of aquatic insects when tied in different sizes. Highly visible even in turbulent streams it can be used in larger sizes as an indicator fly with a trailing nymph. Medium sizes can suggest caddis and very small ones can suggest midge or midge clusters.

Hook	TMC 9300
Tail	Brown/grizzly hackle fibres or moose mane
Wing	White calf body hair
Body	Grey dubbing
Hackle	Brown/grizzly

**Flyshop NZ** sponsor our fly-tying group with materials and tools. They have a wide variety of quality flyfishing and fly-tying products that can be purchased online from <https://www.flyshop.co.nz/>

**Meeting 7.30pm the second Monday of every month except December and January  
at the "Rata" Room Kapiti Community Centre.**

## *Lake Otamangakau research update 2020*

*Summary of a presentation from Taupō fishery scientist Dr Michel Dedual for Taupō Fishing Club.*

Dr Dedual was invited by the Taupō Fishing Club in July to speak about recent research findings, including a major piece of work focussed on Lake Otamangakau (Lake O).

Recent angler reports of dead trout sighted at Lake O during hot, dry summer conditions was a real concern for the Taupō fishery team. We know from research carried out by international colleagues that warm water with low dissolved oxygen is a lethal combination for trout (>20°C is the key figure).

Such warm conditions are not unusual at the surface of Lake O, particularly during dry hot summers when cool water flowing into the lake from the western diversion of the Tongariro Power Scheme is reduced. However, water temperature is not uniform throughout the water column. Cooler temperatures are found in deeper parts of the lake which normally provide sanctuary for trout, even during extended hot weather. So, what is causing the recent increase in trout deaths and what can we do about it?

Such warm conditions are not unusual at the surface of Lake O, particularly during dry hot summers when cool water flowing into the lake from the western diversion of the Tongariro Power Scheme is reduced. However, water temperature is not uniform throughout the water column. Cooler temperatures are found in deeper parts of the lake which normally provide sanctuary for trout, even during extended hot weather. So, what is causing the recent increase in trout deaths and what can we do about it?

### **Investigation**

To better understand exactly what is going on at Lake O we introduced monitoring equipment to record temperature and dissolved oxygen levels at varying depths and locations within the lake. In addition, we set up an automated monitoring system to quantify angling pressure. Finally, we ran a 'catch-and-release' survival study to capture the impact of this increasingly popular fishing approach. The results from this work were also combined with results from regular ongoing angler surveys and previous spawning trap data.

### **Previous research**

Before we consider the results from recent studies it's valuable to look back at previous work and consider what we already know.

Ongoing angler surveys tell us that voluntary catch-and-release has become increasingly popular, particularly at Lake O. In recent years between 80% and 90% of anglers adopted this approach at Lake O compared to an average of 60% to 70% in Taupō rivers and approximately 30% in Lake Taupō.

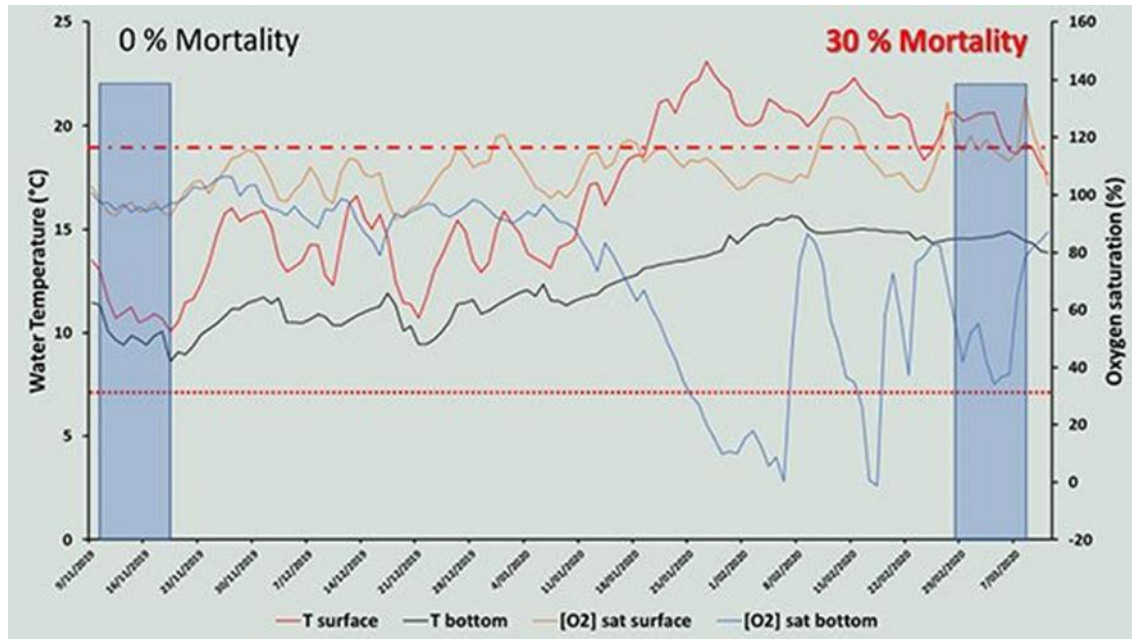
From spawning trap data gathered between 1995 and 2013 we know the trout population size in Lake O has increased significantly over time. Over the same period the number of very large trout decreased. For example, in 1996 there were 92 fish over 4kg recorded in the fish trap -

which equates to 12% of the spawning run. By 2009 that figure was down to 1 fish over 4kgs and 0.03% of the run. As expected, the increased trout population resulted in a higher catch rate for anglers but the chances of hooking a very large fish (over 4kgs) diminished.

### Key results from the study

Our latest studies confirmed Lake O receives very heavy angling pressure - from October 2019 to March 2020 it received 2,487 visits representing 13.8 angler days/hectare. As a comparison Lake Taupō is estimated to receive only 1.1 angler days/hectare. The distribution of angling pressure at Lake O is also a concern, with the largest concentration of angler visits coinciding with the warmest weather in January.

The catch-and-release investigation gave a clear indication that warm surface water has a considerable impact on trout survival rates at Lake O. The early season sample, which was collected during cooler water conditions in November, delivered a 100% trout survival rate. The later sample collected during hot summer conditions in February/March revealed a mortality rate of around 30%. The graph (figure 1) captures this information along with key environmental conditions.



Summary of Lake Otamangakau mortality research data - [view larger \(JPEG, 157K\)](#)

### Fishery management

Any potential changes to the Taupō fishery regulations must be based on robust evidence. The combination of our own primary data collected at Lake O and the data generated by other members of the scientific community, provides a firm platform for change.

Water temperatures above 20°C and the associated drop in dissolved oxygen levels can easily kill trout. Under these warm conditions catching and releasing a trout at Lake O effectively draws the fish away from the safety of cooler water, into the dangerous conditions found near

the surface. Approximately 1 in 3 of these fish will die. High angler pressure encountered during warm water conditions in January and February adds to the problem.

Some form of restriction on fishing is required to protect trout at Lake O when surface water temperature exceeds 20°C. We are currently evaluating options. From a technical perspective we are looking at modelling that considers environmental conditions, angling pressure, catch rates, and potential trout mortality. We are also mindful of the angling community and want to ensure any changes are fair and enhance the long-term recreational fishing opportunities at this venue.

A draft management plan for Lake Otamangakau will be generated and shared with the Taupō Fishery Advisory Committee (TFAC) - made up of representatives from a cross section of angler interest groups and fishery stakeholders. Feedback will be sought in response to the draft management plan.

### *A Fly-Fishing Chronicle: The Coch-Y-Bonddu by Fred Klein*



*“Oh, how happy here’s our leisure! Oh, how innocent our pleasure! Oh, the valleys! Oh, the mountains! Oh, the groves and crystal fountains, how I love at liberty by turns to come and visit ye!” – Izaak Walton (1653)*

#### **On the waters**

Late summer mornings are a magical time along the woodland trout stream that flows behind our Pennsylvania home. A short walk brings greetings of misty ferns, painted lady butterflies and a wood thrush singing with joy as the days of summer grow shorter. Evening showers and cool nights offer a welcome relief from the sweltering heat, and the spring stream is renewed with wild trout in every pool, shaded by maple, birch and towering sycamores. A quiet observation reveals subtle changes of the season with mayfly and caddis hatches dwindling and a stream bed alive with darting minnows, dace, and the flutter of emerald aquatic beetles.

With a gentle cast my fly settles just above a riffle, drifting below the surface into a calm pool as three awaiting trout races into the sunlight, deceived by a tiny wet fly with the subtle flash of peacock and auburn hackle.



Let's take a journey back through the corridors of time with a fly that has adorned the boxes of fishermen for over four hundred years

### Beginning's

With origins in England, Wales and Ireland, the Peacock Soft Hackle was a favourite fly of anglers when news journals heralded the accomplishments of Galileo, Shakespeare, and John Smith's Jamestown Colony in the new world. It was a fly pattern described in nearly every major work of fly fishing literature, the earliest written in 1613—*The Secrets of Angling* by John Dennys—and on through the ages to more modern works including Ray Bergman's *Trout* just before the onset of World War II.

In 1883 Mary Orvis Marbury of Vermont penned: "The Cock-y-Bonddu Hackle is made in imitation of a small beetle, sometimes called the Bracken Clock. There are several species, some of them found upon poplar trees, and others are numerous upon ferns by the waterside. Fly makers vary the size of the fly and its colour slightly, and name it according to locality, as the Marlow Buzz, Shorn Fly, Hazel Fly and Brown Beetle.



Plate from Mary Orvis Marbury's "Favourite Flies and Their Histories" (1892)

In 1883 Mary Orvis Marbury of Vermont penned: "The Cock-y-Bonddu Hackle is made in imitation of a small beetle, sometimes called the Bracken Clock. There are several species, some of them found upon poplar trees, and others are numerous upon ferns by the waterside. Fly makers vary the size of the fly and its colour slightly, and name it according to locality, as the Marlow Buzz, Shorn Fly, Hazel Fly and Brown Beetle.



Francis Francis the British author wrote, “The Coch-y-Bonddu a noted fly in Wales, and useful in very many streams. It may be dressed of any size, from the largest to the smallest. I use this fly in preference to all others, as a wet fly, ribbed with fine gold wire, it kills in many streams nobly.

### Contemporary

Today the fly-fishing community has grown globally, especially with the many new fly patterns shared online. The evolution of styles and synthetic materials have advanced to astounding levels. Yet this tiny soft hackle remains, a durable reminder of the days of antiquity when anglers first twisted feathers around a bent needle and cast to trout with horsehair line. Whether it represents an aquatic beetle, a terrestrial insect, or nymph with pulsating hackle, the Cock-y-Bonddu will be found in fly boxes for generations to come.

Perhaps you too will tie some peacock and brown feathers on a hook and discover why this simple little fly has followed anglers across the continents and through the corridors of time.

*“Mark well the various seasons of the year  
How the succeeding insect race appear  
In this revolving moon one colour reigns  
Which in the next the fickle trout disdains  
Oft have I seen a skilful angler try  
The various colours of the treacherous fly  
When he with fruitless pain hath skimmed the brook,  
And the coy fish rejects the skipping hook  
He shakes the boughs, that on the margin grow,  
Which over the stream a waving forest throw  
When if an insect fall, his certain guide  
He gently takes him from the whirling tide  
Examines well his form with curious eyes  
His gaudy vest, his wings, his horns, and size  
Then round his hook the chosen fur he winds  
And on the back a speckled feather binds  
So just the colours shine through every part  
That Nature seems to live again, in art.”*

- John Gay



### COCK-Y-BONDDU DRESSING

**Pronounced:** Cocky-Bondy

**Hook:** Partridge Round Bend Blind Eye size 8

**Tag:** fine gold wire

**Body:** peacock hackle—natural, not dyed—over black thread, oval-shaped body

**Hackle:** furnace hackle or brown rooster

**Head:** red 8/0 thread coated with lacquer.

## *Your First Day of Fly Fishing Wasn't This Good by Sam Lungren*

Most of us try our whole lives to break the hallowed 30-inch mark with a brown trout. Many who achieve it travelled off the continent with that very goal in mind. Kari Gentry, a registered nurse from Conway, Arkansas, was able to lock up that milestone on her first ever day of fly fishing.

On May 23, Gentry and her husband Austin floated the White River near Cotter, Arkansas, with guide Ben Levin of [Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher](#).

"This is a Saturday on a Memorial Day weekend and there's like 9 million boats on the water," Levin told MeatEater. "My expectations and hopes are just to get them into a few fish, show them a nice time, have Kari, especially Kari, catch a few fish. The last thing you expect to do is catch a giant fish on a Saturday afternoon, on a holiday weekend, in full sunshine."

Right off the bat, Austin Gentry caught his own personal best brown trout, a 19.5-incher. Kari got in the game with her first fish on the fly, a rainbow. The float was going quite well but Levin was quickly growing tired of all the disturbance from so much motorboat traffic, so he pulled off the main channel into a riffle and dropped anchor.

"I was just doing some instruction with them on some upstream nymphing and it was working," Levin said. "We were catching plenty of rainbows and the odd normal-sized brown. And Kari hooks this rainbow, 10 inches long or something. Fishing is kind of a second choice right now cause we're just kicking back watching the boats go by."

Then Levin saw a big swirl. And it looked like Kari's line was hung up on the bottom.

"Sure enough, all of a sudden I see the fish, which is just this big, old, giant, dark brown. It kind of rolls up near the surface, right where her line is. And I knew immediately what was going on because this has happened three or four times. But I've never actually landed the big fish."

Brown trout will become [primarily piscivorous past a certain age](#), meaning they mostly stop eating insects in favour of meatier meals. This one tried to eat the rainbow trout on Kari's line.

"I knew that big brown was either latched onto her rainbow or was still chasing it one way or another. So, I was just like, 'let him have it, give it a little bit of loose line.' And she did. And this goes on for four or five minutes. I was not expecting it to hold on that long. But I was like, 'alright, well let's just play this out as much as we can and see what happens.'"

Levin coached Kari on how to apply as much tension as the 9-foot, 5-weight rod and 4X tippet could take.

"She was like cool as a cucumber the whole time. And I actually think being a newbie, being like her very first time to do this, I think that allowed her to sort of not even realize what was out there on the end of her line and not freak out. I can guarantee you that if it was somebody who'd been fly fishing a long time and they actually saw that fish that they would have just like pooped their pants right away and snapped it off. She was just cool and calm and just did everything I told her to do."

Kari diligently recovered line and worked the fish closer to the boat. After a 15-minute tug-of-war, Levin reached out as far as he could with the net and scooped the fish. He said they all

nearly fainted with elation. The giant fish measured 31 inches long with a 19-inch girth. The size 14 caddis pupae was hooked perfectly in the roof of its mouth. Levin thinks it swallowed the rainbow and got to keep the meal. Win-win.

Austin captured a few photos and then they released the fish without even attracting attention from the numerous boats nearby.

“I just really appreciated all that Ben did for us,” Kari told MeatEater. “There’s no way that we ever would have been in the right area to catch something like that, but we also wouldn’t have been able to get it in the net if he hadn’t been such a great guide.”

Kari works as a labour and delivery nurse at Baptist Health-North Little Rock Hospital, which has been treating patients for Covid-19.

“We have been lucky, but it can be stressful and tiring dealing with all the changes during the current situation,” Kari said. “We have kayaks, so we have tried to go a few times. We love to be outside so I’m glad that we have still been able to be outdoors. It has been a great stress reliever.”

Kari grew up catching catfish in Mississippi but she’s excited to add fly angling to her arsenal.

“I’ve already bought in. I’ve already bought a pole,” she said. “I was actually using all of their gear just to kind of see if I would like it. And that was the first thing that some people were saying afterwards, ‘You’ve most definitely made a fly fisher out of her now!’”

### *Cash start from government fund gives boost to Foxton River Loop restoration project by Paul Williams*



Provincial Growth Fund official Di Grennell said a revitalised Foxton Loop was an issue close to the heart of Iwi and the wider Horowhenua community.

A man who remembers swimming and fishing in a stretch of Manawatū River as a child dreams that one day his mokopuna might do the same.

That dream came one step closer to reality this week for Robin Hapi with news of a government grant of \$100,000 towards a restoration project, announced at a meeting of the Horowhenua District Council.

Health warnings signs stand where Mr Hapi once threw his towel down and jumped in. He said generations were being denied their river. Mr Hapi, who is chairman of Save Our River Trust (SORT), said the Government grant from the Provincial Growth Fund marked progress after years of advocating for the river.

"We are now on the escalator," he said.



"There's not too many in Foxton that can remember swimming in that water...it was our food basket," Robin Hapi, chair of the Save Our River Trust. "You have to start somewhere, and this is as good an opportunity as we have had for those who have been fighting for its restoration."

Mr Hapi said he "would warn anyone against thinking it was now a home run ... but one thing Foxton is never short of is good ideas, resilient people and perseverance."

"This is certainly a major step forward for those who have worked tirelessly to have this part of the Manawatū River returned to the community of Te Awahou/Foxton," he said.

"While we have cause to celebrate ... there is still much to do to earn the confidence necessary for further investment. "This is big for Foxton but also a milestone for Horowhenua. The river has and always will be an extremely important feature of our town."

"Those that have been involved in this for decades want to ensure that what we pass down to the next generation is better than what we inherited from the last, who unfortunately didn't have the opportunity, wherewithal and resources to make a difference."

SORT's energies were focused on a part of the river known as "The Loop", once part of the Manawatū River and a bustling port that was now a silted up and stagnant backwater. Exotic weeds flourish in its nutrient-laden waters and high E. coli concentrations meant it was unsuitable for recreational contact.

The Manawatū River stopped flowing through The Loop in the 1940s following a large flood after a government department carried out flood mitigation work.

HDC CEO David Clapperton said for decades Foxton locals had called for The Loop to be reopened and recently council funded a report into how that might occur. "Foxton has

transformed in the past few years into a bustling visitor destination thanks to significant council investment. This study will help us understand the community, recreational, tourism and economic impacts," he said.

"The investment by the Government announced today allows for scientific environmental research, a peer review of the GHD report into technical aspects, and a destination management study to be carried out.



A redeveloped River Loop would enhance the mana of nearby Manawatu River estuary which was internationally recognised and drew in a range of tourism and marine-related activities.

"The project fits well with council's efforts to remove all treated wastewater discharges to waterways from across the district, including the Loop."

Mr Clapperton said a study would look at opportunities for commercially funded activities such as interpretive and educational facilities for children and the general public. The focus would be on the river environment, infrastructure such as high-quality toilets and the development of walkways and cycleway networks.

Fund official Di Grennell said a revitalised Foxton Loop was an issue close to the heart of iwi and the wider Horowhenua community. "Restoring this waterway has potential to not only spark economic growth in the district but to help address a decades old situation that had had a lasting effect on the region," she said.

Piriharakeke was the Māori name given to the stretch of river that had many Māori pā in its path and was culturally significant for Ngāti Raukawa.

In 1943 the Whirokino Cut was proposed with a weir as a spillway for flood events. But an unexpected flood during construction led to it becoming the main path of the Manawātū River. High silt loads during flooding eventually cut The Loop from the main river.

A report in 2016 explored options for reopening The Loop, which showed it was possible by constructing a new diversion channel to connect to the previous river path.

The priority was a 2km section by the Foxton township that needed dredging and restoring water flow would dramatically increase water quality. It was hoped that one day kayakers would be able to circumnavigate the nearby Matararapa Island.

## *The case for Trout farming*

*Anglers have long resisted the idea of commercial trout farming, but a select committee recently recommended the Government give the idea "serious consideration". Clive Barker makes the case for trout farming.*

The species of fish used for aquaculture were at one time very limited. Carp were the fish used in pond culture originally in China. The method was transferred and developed in Europe during the Middle Ages. This was to help inland populations to follow the centuries-old law of meat abstinence on Fridays. In addition, there was the period of Lent during which eating meat was also prohibited. The 15th and 16th centuries were called the "Golden Age" of Carp pond farming.

The species of fish used for aquaculture were at one time very limited. Carp were the fish used in pond culture originally in China. The method was transferred and developed in Europe during the Middle Ages. This was to help inland populations to follow the centuries-old law of meat abstinence on Fridays. In addition, there was the period of Lent during which eating meat was also prohibited. The 15th and 16th centuries were called the "Golden Age" of Carp pond farming.

Fish & Game New Zealand follows this same system of hatchery-grown trout to enhance the recreational fishery e.g. their 2020 report shows 27,880 trout were released in Northland, 49,000 on the West Coast, 330,000 in North Canterbury and 2900 in Southland. This is just a sample of Fish & Game's 12 districts that in total had some million hatchery-grown trout released into our rivers and lakes.

Why Fish & Game plus the Freshwater Anglers are so against commercial trout farming is somewhat difficult to comprehend when they are New Zealand's largest trout farming operator.

Their argument that they have a totally wild river trout fishery seems a stretch.



**Clive Barker's salmon farm in Takaka, Golden Bay**

My recent interest in trout farming has come about from my involvement with the Golden Bay High School Aquaculture Academy. New Zealand, when compared to most other countries, does not have an abundance of freshwater fish species.

Australia for instance has four native freshwater fish plus trout and salmon all being farmed, producing employment and export earnings. It seemed an obvious move to introduce trout as a commercial species to be studied and utilised here in New Zealand.

The oceans have seen better days. They are inundated with plastic waste, both single-use and tonnes of plastic microparticles that find their way back into our food. Their water temperature is rising, and acidity increasing, causing other harmful effects. Pollution and overfishing have depleted multiple marine species. Aquaculture of both our marine and freshwater resources must be managed to give food security to future generations.

In 1972 I commenced looking at trout farming, however the new government stopped trout but allowed salmon. Thus in 1976 a salmon culture venture was started in Takaka with two paddling pools. I had to produce our own food for the fish as the intention was to grow the salmon in captivity.

To obtain the salmon fry, some had to be released to sea and in 1978 a formal licence was obtained.

However, by 1979 we developed our own Brood Stock. Thus, the farm was free of any outside interference on how salmon were utilised. There were surplus eggs that other salmon farms were able to build from. The salmon industry in some respects is operational today because of this battle to hold salmon in captivity and grow fish to maturity.

One of the advantages of rainbow trout over salmon is they do not die of maturity like Pacific salmon do. Hatchery systems have produced trout for food and sports use for 279 years and other countries are still doing so. Why in New Zealand is only half the potential of trout utilised.



**Barker's salmon culture venture was started in Takaka with two paddling pools**

Salmon have been cultured in captivity from the top of the South Island to Stewart Island for 40 years without any sign of a disease; this is because there are no salmonid diseases in our waterways. Fish farms in themselves do not suddenly create a disease, as with all diseases it has to be firstly in the environment.



The biggest threat to our freshwater environment is, in fact, the overseas tourist fisher. It takes only a few hours by air for a fisher to arrive from his home stream to be fishing in a New Zealand stream, and with him arrives a host of possible harmful invaders.

Two recent imports into our rivers and lakes are causing serious concern, according to the University of Canterbury.

Both are water algae. Didymo smothers the riverbed, killing the food supply for fish. A university survey showed that 60 percent of streams that had Didymo algae no longer held fish.

The other algae, Lindavia, is microscope in size (often called lake snow) and is a sticky slime that clings to people's skin and clogs boat engines and most possibly fish gills.

Poaching of trout is another fear voiced by anglers. Unemployment-generated poverty will always create some poaching as a source of food; however, those fish would never compete with quality farmed trout in either supermarkets or other outlets. Like other products, once they become readily available to the public, black market trade disappears.

Trout are the most versatile of fish, both for culturing and eating. The share of trout and salmon in world trade has increased strongly in recent decades, helping aquaculture become the fastest growing food-producing sector in the world and accounting for 50 percent of world's fish supply for human consumption (FAO, 2015).

New Zealand is missing out on the employment and export revenue farmed trout would produce and sports fishers would still be able to enjoy their recreational pursuit.

### *A case of Churnalism or simple an Advertorial by Dr Peter Trolove, President NZ Freshwater Anglers*

This seems a sad example of the broken (4th) estate where Newsroom has uncritically published Clive Barker's refurbished submission on trout farming including many of his unsubstantiated claims on the alleged benefits of trout farming. A case of churnalism or simply a paid advertorial?

It is a matter of record that Clive Barker obtained his initial salmon stocks from the acclimatization societies on the basis they would be used only for ocean ranching. He deceitfully withheld brood stock to provide seed for his unsanctioned salmon farming venture. Later he sold farmed smoked salmon illegally to hotels. Clive has had no training in aquaculture. What he knows he "learned by doing" - he is no more an expert aquaculturist than he is an opportunist. While he may take credit for being a pioneer salmon farmer, he was also one of the first to fail as a fish farmer,

Equally sad is the lack of critical evaluation by the select committee considering Barker's submission.

Given trout farming like many aquaculture ventures has a long cycle to harvest requiring significant capital investment the select committee should have asked the following questions:

1. What is the likelihood of trout farming returning a profit?
2. What are the natural advantages New Zealand trout farms might have?
3. What are the risks to the existing \$1.5 billion recreational fishery?
4. Would the trout farms be accessible to benefit ordinary New Zealanders?

#### Answers:

1. There is little hope of developing a viable export market when the current global price of frozen trout is US 25 to 50 cents / kilo thanks to cheap industrialized Asian trout farms, The Norwegian, Canadian, and Australian governments spend millions propping up their nation's salmon farms with millions of dollars of subsidies using public money (6:1 state to private dollars in Canada, and 3:1 \$AU in Australia).
2. What are the natural advantages NZ trout farms might have? There are few. The fish around NZ are high in mercury making NZ baitfish and fish waste unsuitable for fish feed. The NZ salmon farms spend around 60 to 70% of their production costs on imported fish meal. As NZ King Salmon have demonstrated rather conclusively, our sheltered waters are vulnerable to stress and disease associated with high summer water temperatures. This is conveniently passed off by the salmon farming industry as "global warming."

Thanks to industrialized land-based agriculture our freshwater resource has come under increased pressure from pollution by nitrate, phosphorus, and sediment runoff in addition to overallocation of water for irrigation. Fewer NZ freshwater sites would have year-round water quality of sufficient standard for trout hatcheries.

NZ King Salmon accepts 40 to 50% mortalities as normal in their Marlborough Sounds salmon farms. In Scotland such a high level of mortalities would be unacceptable to the Scottish Government. The Scottish Green Party is presently asking for a moratorium on Scottish salmon farms on animal welfare grounds.

There is then the unpopular need to privatise trout farm sites for the benefit of the few NZ and Global corporates with sufficient capital reserves to buy a piece of the action - who knows perhaps they are confident of benefiting from grants of public money as the Ministers promoting trout farming end up having to prop up the ill-considered ventures to save face.

3. Poaching, disease, and loss of access to freshwater sites are obvious threats to the recreational fishery.  
Genetic pollution is a problem in wild Northern Hemisphere salmon fisheries. The famed Loch Leven wild brown trout fishery has been displaced by escaped rainbow trout in Fife in the East of Scotland.

Here in New Zealand MPI has a poor track record of managing a recent possible disease incursion involving NZ King Salmon's Marlborough Sounds salmon farms.

4. The New Zealand salmon farming industry presently has a high level of offshore ownership. With Labour's recent track record on the sale of land to foreign investors there is a real risk that trout farming will benefit few in this country.

It would be a sad day indeed if our politicians allowed trout farming on the basis of Clive Barker's simplistic submission.

**Dr Peter Trolove BVSc MSC (Aquatic Veterinary Studies) MBA**

The Kapiti Fly Fishing Club is an affiliated member of the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers, any member can become an individual affiliated member all you need to do is register at their website: <https://nzffa.com>

### *Trout farming a risk for sport fishing by Mike Fisher*



Trout, great to catch, not that great to eat

***A threat looms again of New Zealand's world-class trout fisheries being damaged and debased by trout farming, writes Mike Fletcher***

Parliament's primary product select committee has recommended the Government "give serious consideration to commercialising trout farming."

In August, the committee considered a petition by former salmon farmer Clive Barker to allow trout farming, banned under the Conservation and Fisheries laws. Trout cannot be sold here, either. Barker, who first presented his petition in 2018, claims trout farming will, in rural areas, provide jobs, food and relieve pressure on existing fish stocks.

The Federation of Freshwater Anglers and the national council of Fish & Game, the organisation with statutory authority to manage fish and game activities throughout New Zealand except for the Taupo fishery, oppose this latest move to farm trout.

They are concerned about the risk to the wild fisheries from disease, the poaching, and the selling on the black market of fish taken illegally from prime rivers. Trout farming would provide a market for wild trout, too.

Prime rivers have long been poached, mainly by locals seeking food. The fear is that the poaching would increase significantly. Barker claims the science does not support the need for a ban. To test this claim, Fish and Game is funding research into the science.

What has been known for many years is that trout farming has caused ecological disasters in the United States, South America, and Europe. Diseased fish in the close-packed pens have created problems.

Trout farms require large quantities of fresh water. Generally, they have been set up on rivers that have then been polluted by effluent from the feeding of the fish kept in the pens.

There has also been genetic damage caused by escaping farm trout mating with wild stock. Then there has been the problem of wild trout failing to reproduce because they have been too busy defending their territory against the escaped incomers.

The Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Primary Industries are sceptical about trout farming. DoC says there could be a biosecurity risk. MPI has recommended a review be undertaken of the risks and the economic potential.

According to the select committee it is illogical to argue disease as a reason to prohibit trout farming. It cites the fact that trout hatcheries exist.

These hatcheries, run by F&G and DoC under strict conditions and without the commercial imperatives of trout farming, rear small fish in special isolated ponds for boosting stocks in rivers and streams. There is no genetic, disease or pollution risk. The eggs and fertilising milt are stripped from the wild fish caught in the traps operated by the hatcheries. The resulting fingerlings are of the same wild stock as their bigger brothers and sisters.

The notion of commercial trout farming in New Zealand is not new. In the late 1960s/early 1970s it gained impetus until quashed by an angry angler vote.

The idea, though, has remained with politicians ever since. This latest recommendation by a select committee will no doubt spark action by anglers and ecologists.

There is an old saying: don't fix what ain't broke.

Setting aside the concerns about disease, poaching, black market activity and loss of status as a world-class trout fishery, it is difficult to imagine commercial trout farming can generate sufficient dollars to make a compelling argument for its approval.

Trout fishing generates a lot of money directly and indirectly. Reports suggest the sport is worth \$1 billion a year. Directly, anglers variously buy licences, fishing tackle, special clothing, hire guides, pay for accommodation, food and beverages, fuel, air travel, vehicle hire. Indirectly they cover costs relating, for example, to own-vehicle use, boat-buying and use, the upkeep of fishing holiday homes. Anglers who combine a fishing trip with a family holiday - and many do - add to the spending.

Commercial trout farming will not generate \$1 billion a year, or anything close to it – but it will imperil the sports fishing industry. And for what?

As an eating fish, trout - even a prime example - is delicate in flavour and texture. It requires seasoning and cooking effort to tease out the flavour. Smoked trout has more appeal.

In blunt and brutal terms, trout does not compare with, say, snapper or kahawai, and is light years away from blue cod.

It is hard to imagine trout will become a popular eating fish.

Few trout anglers fish exclusively for the pot. Over the past 30 years, catch-and-release has been promoted and accepted. The true sport and challenge in trout fishing is the hooking, landing, and the release.

New Zealand's reputation as a world-class fishery has been cherished by anglers here and overseas since the mid to late 19th century when brown trout were introduced from Tasmania, followed by rainbows from California. Taupo, the Rotorua lakes and the southern lakes and rivers of the South Island, in particular, have strong and established reputations.

Some of the fish that have been caught in these and other waters are the stuff of legends.

During the life of the Labour government in the 1980s many grand and brave schemes for the making of a dollar were fostered. They included the farming of fitches, ostriches, alpacas. When these farms failed, as most did, the animals were surplus to requirements.

Fitches were let loose to prey on other animals. The ostriches and alpacas saw out their days in confinement if they were not put down.

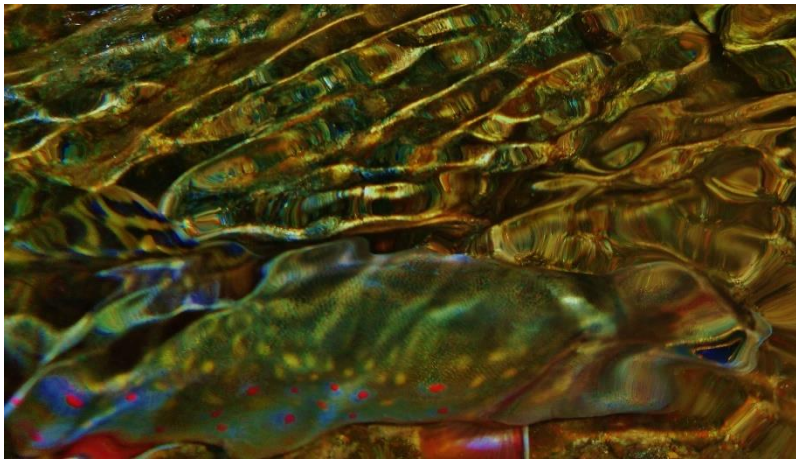
If politicians cave-in to this latest tilt at commercial trout farming, they must be prepared for consequences of failure and the impact the use of our rivers and streams will have on the New Zealand and international angling community, many of whom are wealthy and influential.

**Editor's note: Over the past few weeks the topic of Trout farming has been in the media, as a Fish and Game license holder for over 50 years I am opposed to any form of trout farming in New Zealand. The comments made by Colin Baker that Fish and Game have been 'trout farming' is not correct and the figures that he has quoted as examples are trout that are bread to supply fish for the 'Take a Kid Fishing' events.**

I have selected the above three articles to provide members an insight to just some of the comments that have been circulating within the various types of media, at this stage I have not met an angler who supports the introduction on 'trout farming.'

Paul Shortis Chair of the National Fish and Game Council will be speaking at this month's meeting when he will be able to provide us some clarification on Fish and Game position on Trout Farming.

### *A woman with wise-set eyes by Tom Davis*



I'd been on a Jim Harrison binge in the wake of his death—easy to do given his prodigious output. In particular, I'd been enjoying the stuff set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and two recurring characters, both classic Harrison anti-heroes, who hail from that land lost in time: Sunderson, the retired cop and borderline alcoholic who still carries a torch for his ex-wife but doesn't let that deter him from bedding everything in sight; and Brown Dog, the irrepressibly raffish vagabond of mixed Finnish and Chippewa ancestry who lives entirely "off the grid" and is, if anything, even more priapic than Sunderson.

Indeed, the only activity whose rewards rival sex for this pair, or that commands a comparable percentage of their attention, is trout fishing. The events that propel the novel *The Big Seven* are set in motion when Sunderson buys a cabin on a trout stream, while in the novella "Brown Dog Redux" Harrison writes of the title character "He was observant of the multiple torments people seemed to have daily and felt lucky that he could resolve his own problems with a couple of beers and a half dozen hours of trout fishing..."

It's also the case that while their tastes in trout (as in women) are catholic, given their druthers they'll take brookies every time.

**All of which** helps explain why brook trout had been on my mind even more than usual—and why, when I stopped at the fly shop for a couple spools of tippet material and heard a guy off-handily mention that he'd caught "big brookies" in a certain northern Wisconsin stream, I locked

on like a pointer with a nose full of quail. Still, I tried to tamp down my excitement and play it cool, hoping that by feigning indifference I might finesse a few instructive details out of him, if not the GPS coordinates.

I needn't have been so cagey. As if it were some terrible secret that he couldn't wait to unburden himself of, the guy not only told me the name of the town closest to the good water but pulled up a picture of the stream on his phone.

The photo showed a pretty boulder garden of moderate gradient flanked by wooded banks that looked to be at least 30 feet apart—plenty wide enough to wade and cast a fly, in other words. This is no small consideration in Wisconsin, where (as in Harrison's U.P.) there are hundreds if not thousands of miles of brookie water but precious little of it is conducive to fly fishing, at least as the term is normally understood. Much of it is so brushy tight that even a bow-and-arrow cast is problematic.

"Great pocket water," the guy said, expectantly.

"Yeah," I replied, "I can see that." I was already riffling through my mental calendar trying to determine which obligations I could juggle, cancel, or simply duck in order to wet my waders there ASAP. And I was already imagining myself swimming a Pass Lake, my go-to brookie pattern, through that murmuring, tea-coloured water, tensed for that fist-tight boil and the tug on the end of my line.

**As I close** out my sixth decade and prepare to enter my seventh, I confess to knowing little more about women than I ever did. Of course, this mystery is central to what makes them fascinating. They are not unlike trout streams in this respect—beguilingly enigmatic, predictable only to a point, and by turns generous with their favours and stingy with them. Sometimes your approach and presentation make all the difference, and sometimes they seem not to matter at all.

One thing I have determined, though—and it only took me 60 years to figure this out—is that the physical characteristic shared by the women I find most attractive is wide-set eyes.

Not what you were expecting, I know.

When I think of the women whose beauty makes me want to fall to my knees—Rita Hayworth, Emmylou Harris, one or two others whose names I dare not confess—this is the common denominator, the *sine qua non*. And while I can't tell you much about the young woman who all but stopped my heart the moment, I stepped into the convenience store where she was working, I can tell you that she had wide-set eyes.

Needing gas, I'd swung into the town my fly shop source had mentioned and, after almost driving past, located its lone C-store. The woman—barely more than a girl, really—was standing behind the counter, and her impact struck me like a physical blow. I had to force myself not to stare, but in the few seconds it took for me to ask where the rest room was, and for her to tell me, I noticed that those eyes were dark and almond-shaped, that her hair was jet-black and pulled behind her ears, and that her skin, the colour of café au lait, conveyed such an impression of mousse-like moistness it looked as if it would swirl beneath the pressure of a fingertip. A Native American in her early 20s, she was absolutely breath-taking—and a woman of breath-taking beauty was absolutely the last thing I expected to see in that desolate place.

I knew of it by name but had never been there until that day. It proved to be one of those old logging towns of the kind you find scattered across the North Country from Maine to Minnesota—a boom town gone bust that limps along like a crippled dog, surviving for no apparent reason other than force of habit and, I suppose, human biology. To add another layer of misery, it lay in the pain shadow of a reservation that, like reservations everywhere, suffers from the litany of afflictions spawned by grinding poverty and pervasive, unrelieved hopelessness.

The irony, of course (it's tempting to call it "tragic" but I think the tragedy lies elsewhere), is that more often than not it's places like this—forgotten, on the road to nowhere, and with little else to recommend them—that are where the best brook trout fishing is found.

**Naturally** I wondered what the hell such a lovely creature was doing in this rathole, betraying in the wondering the prejudice toward physical beauty that permeates every nook and cranny of our culture—as if simply by being uncommonly attractive she somehow deserved "better." It occurred to me, too, that Harrison, who wrote persuasively from the perspective of women in extremis, could have written a novel about this girl.

Everything about her, and everything about this place (including its alleged trout stream), was right in his wheelhouse, a hanging curveball over the middle of the plate just begging to be knocked out of the park.

It hit me then, hard, that she could have been the model for Dalva, the eponymous heroine of the novel that I and many others consider Harrison's masterpiece. She looked the part—as in direct from central casting—and it may be that that's why I was so taken with her: She was the Dalva of my imagination made flesh.

That's as far as it went, of course. I dawdled in the C-store for a while, pretending I was looking for something and finally buying an overpriced vanilla Bun Bar that I didn't especially want. A purple-faced schlub sipping coffee from a Styrofoam cup and ranting about "them Moslems" tried to get me to rise to the bait but I pretended not to hear him.

I toyed with the idea of saying something to the girl—you know, some profundity like "Do you have any idea how gorgeous you are?"—but couldn't think of any purpose it would serve other than to brand me in her mind as a pathetic old perv, undoubtedly one of the many who'd tried to hit on her over the years. One of the benefits of age is no longer giving a damn that you might be making a fool of yourself, but you shouldn't abuse the privilege.

So, I paid for my candy bar, allowing my gaze to linger wistfully on the side of her face while she made change, knowing there was every chance in the world I'd never lay eyes on her again. Then, after consulting my Gazetteer for directions (I'm not really a GPS guy), I drove out of town, past the windowless taverns, the sad little houses, and the auto salvage yard that crowds the county highway, its heaped and rusting contents putting me in mind of the piled-up bones of bison.

Welcome to postcard-pretty northern Wisconsin. At least the sun was shining.

**But** it hadn't been a day or two earlier, when heavy rains pounded the area. I located a couple road crossings where the touted stream looked promising but, swollen and running at a rate that



induced a significant pucker factor, it rendered the idea of wandering-up a non-starter. Maybe I'd come back in the fall.

I made a strategic retreat, angling west and north along the ragged seam where hardscrabble dairy farms meet scruffy second-growth forest. My destination was a tributary whose flows, owing to the unique character of its watershed—ag land, mostly, and table flat at that—are about as stable as freestone streams can be. It's also the single most reliable producer of brookies that I know, generous almost to a fault. The rains had left it a tick high and a touch off-colour but whatever effect this had was likely to be positive.

I'd been depressed thinking about the girl's bleak prospects in that shit-heel town, also disappointed to find the new stream I'd been excited to try in unfishable condition, but now I felt the clouds begin to lift. I was in a familiar place, the portents were favourable, there was reason to believe I'd be rewarded.

I tied on a Pass Lake, stepped into the murmuring, tea-coloured water, and started fishing, thankful to be on a stream that gave me plenty of room to cast.

### *The two gems of Rotorua by Mike Davis*



The Rotorua region is largely perceived by the angling community as a lake fishing destination, and for good reason – the city of Rotorua is surrounded by thirteen lakes, all within half to three quarters of an hour's drive of the main street in the CBD.

None of the lakes in the Rotorua region have large spawning tributaries entering them, so the streams that do enter the lakes are few and generally fairly small.

Most river fly fisherman in the North Island will head to the larger Taupo tributaries to chase the spawning rainbows that enter over the autumn and winter months, but they're missing out on the wonderful fly fishing experience of targeting large fish in small water – especially in the Ngongotaha and Waiteti streams that enter into Lake Rotorua.

## Little stream with big fish

While being fairly small, the Ngongotaha and Waiteti streams give the angler an intimate and personal experience. They both produce quality sight fishing when clean, as they are both spring creeks, and carry rainbows that average 3-4 pound but produce large bows that will reach double figures on good years.

The brown trout are in a different league altogether and on any given year they will average 7-8 pound in weight and often reach a staggering 15-18 pound when growing conditions are optimal. They are some of the biggest wild fish to be found in the country and will test the ability of the very best anglers on the planet. Many are hooked but very few are landed as they duck and dive into every piece of available cover. Undercut banks and fallen debris from the overhanging trees help these huge fish to evade coming to the net.



The Ngongotaha stream is open year-round from the mouth up to the State Highway 5 bridge at the Agrodome, while the Waiteti is open from the mouth up to the bridge in the middle of town year-round. Through these sections the streams are open to both fly and spin anglers.

Upstream from these points both streams are open from the 1st of December through to the 31st of June to fly-only anglers.

There are limited angler access points along the streams that are clearly marked and there are three access signs along Paradise Valley Road along the upper Ngongotaha giving easy access to all. Much of both streams flow through private property but many of the landowners are very good to deal with to genuine anglers who show some respect. Generally, it only takes a half decent chat to the owners and earning a little trust and most of them are very accommodating. The biggest problem they face is seeing anglers just clambering over their fences uninvited and helping themselves.

Over the year the streams are fished fairly heavily but most of the pressure comes on after April, when anglers try to come in and chase the spawning rainbows as they leave the lake and migrate upstream to spawn. Many anglers don't realise that the rainbows are entering the stream year-round to spawn and large numbers of rainbows can be spotted by the angler on any given day. When numbers of rainbows are high in the streams some of the pools can appear to look black, and it is not until the fish move and suddenly you can see the bottom then you realise you were looking at a huge school of fish.

The brown trout, on the other hand, congregate at the steam mouths around the start of December, as they follow the smelt around the lake and then enter the streams from there.

The brownies will stay in the streams for a long period of time until their spawning runs finish up towards the end of May.

### **Getting down to business**

Back at the stream mouth of the Ngongotaha the brownies can be targeted successfully by anglers spotting and stalking the flats around the front of the mouth. Targeting these fish is very much like bone fishing the flats up in the islands and it is very much a patience game. The best time to target this area is at first light, early in the morning before the wind gets up. Once the wind gets up it is too hard to spot the fish, making this type of fishing hard.

By walking the flats and scanning the water 15 metres in front of you, very large brown trout will be seen cruising across the shallows and generally they will be feeding well. By casting small size 10 or 8 Woolly Buggers or Mrs Simpson flies, 3-4 metres in front of the fish, giving a slight strip of the fly and then letting it hang you will be amazed at how many of these huge fish you will hook, as they accelerate to investigate the fly.

The shallow nature of the Ngongotaha stream mouth means that one only has to fish with a floating line or a slow sinking intermediate fly line. If needed, the angler can also fish a polyleader off the end of the floating fly line to achieve the required depth.



The mouth of the Waiteti is slightly different in that it has a deep hole for the anglers to fish into, and the rainbows wait and hold in here until they decide to run the river proper. Large numbers of rainbows will hold in this hole at the front of the river and they will generally wait until there is some rain, a barometer drop, or a fresh before they run the river and head upstream



If the fish have only been in the streams for a few days, they are generally pretty easy to hook – especially if they have entered during a fresh and the rivers have a little colour in them. When the rainbows enter en-masse, they will eat almost anything and will provide the angler with amazing sport, but the fish will become progressively harder to hook the clearer the streams get and with the increased pressure the fish receive from anglers.

When the streams are carrying colour, it is imperative that your flies are seen by the trout. This is when using flies such as Glo bugs, or flies with a hot spot incorporated into them, will come into their own. To remain successful as the streams, begin to clean up, change your flies to look more natural, such as using small pheasant tails or a hare and copper

The greatest thing to remember is that it is less about fly pattern and more about fishing at the correct depth that will see you successful or not. In the lower pools towards the mouth, many people will swing large wet flies like a grey ghost and as you move upstream the majority of anglers will be nymphing.

Some of the locals have got their own special rig, which is set up with a heavy Glo bug, a smaller natural nymph attached off the shank of the hook and then the grey ghost 30 centimetres behind the trailing nymph.

Even though you are allowed to fish three flies, most will fish with two flies when fishing the nymph. One nymph will generally be much heavier than the point fly and can be a very successful way to catch the trout in the more open water. The only problem is when really large fish are hooked and they are trying to run under the snags or undercut banks – you have one fly trailing that can then get snagged up on loose debris, causing many large fish to be lost.

When I know that the river is carrying large browns, I tend to fish one small fly and will put a small BB split shot 30 centimetres above the fly to reach the required depth needed. By using split shot, it eliminates the extra hook trailing through the water, so there is less for me to worry about when really big fish are hooked.

If you find that you are not hooking fish or are only catching really small fish, such as in the 1-2-pound bracket, your flies won't be getting down fast enough especially in the big deep pools. The large fish tend to occupy the eye of the pool while the smaller fish will hold in the very tail of the pool.



If you find that you are not hooking fish or are only catching really small fish, such as in the 1-2-pound bracket, your flies won't be getting down fast enough especially in the big deep pools. The large fish tend to occupy the eye of the pool while the smaller fish will hold in the very tail of the pool.

To fish the streams well, the angler has to be prepared to lose flies on the bottom and on submerged snags. On the runs, most fish will be sitting along the edge in the shadows next to the blackberries so there will be times when your flies will end up caught in the bushes on the far side. If you look closely when walking upstream, you will often see where others have busted off in the trees with loose nylon hanging down from some of the branches.

The two streams are not regarded as a dry fly fishery, but fish certainly can be brought up to take the dry fly. This is the exception though and not the rule.



Once hooked, the fish go absolutely ballistic, especially big browns. My friend and I have a rule that states if someone hooks a trophy-sized fish, the mate will do anything in their power to help land it. This has meant that a few swims have had to be taken over the years by the guy trying to net the fish. The golden rule is to not let the large browns get downstream of you. Usually when this happens it always ends in catastrophe with either a bust off or with the fish running you through snags.



### Training ground

The great thing about fishing the Ngongotaha and Waiteti streams is that they will teach you how to play fish and to not let the fish play you, if you are going to land your fair share of fish. The skills learnt on these streams will help all anglers to become more successful in landing large fish on other streams.

The streams are ideally suited to fishing #6 outfits. Don't use light tippets, with the lightest being 8-pound test. After a fresh I have been broken off while using 12 and 15-pound tippets in the past. Much of this will depend on the colour of the water, so when clean and clear, drop down to 8 pounds but if the creek is carrying some colour it will pay to beef up your tippet strength.



With the large numbers of fish running the streams every year, it makes the fishery a wonderful place for both young and old anglers and is a great place to teach new fishers how to fish, simply because they have many opportunities to hook and watch fish. Having the ability to watch fish will help the angler learn more about fish and how they react to certain situations, different weather conditions, varying river levels and during times of high fishing pressure.

During the school holidays many kids will be found exploring the easier pools to fish. The Ngongotaha locals tend to stick to the few pools in the middle of town and those who are from out of town are usually found poking around the upper reaches of the streams.

Most spread themselves out well throughout the streams and with both streams only two minutes' drive apart, options are available if your favourite pools have someone in it.

The Ngongotaha and Waiteti are amazing waterways that have forever been supplied with huge numbers of large fish from the parent body of water, Lake Rotorua.

The fish will leave you spellbound as you hook plenty, but many experiences end up in tears as these huge fish destroy many anglers' dreams. Once you manage to land one of the massive brown trout, the experience will be totally addictive and will see you coming back for more.

*This article was published in the New Zealand Fishing World*

### *Trying not to look dishevelled! By Nick Weldon*



Two for the smoker from the Major Jones but otherwise a fishless week caused by high winds and driving rain.

Not the best week to choose to go to Turangi.

Lost a couple more, one on the overgrown Poutu which needs serious bush bashing, mainly through brambles, to get to holding water.

Ruined a pair of waders!

Still loved it!

## *Fly Fishers are in for a lifetime of pleasure and excitement in the trout ... by Derek Grzelewski*

To the global fraternity of fly fishers, New Zealand truly is what the Himalayas are to the mountaineers - the absolute pinnacle of the sport, a holy land with innumerable shrines.

This is why the town of Gore, at the bottom of the South Island, built a monument to brown trout and proclaimed itself the brown trout capital of the world, while Tūrangi, where the Tongariro River enters Lake Taupō, did the same with rainbow trout.

**Two world capitals, two islands, two kinds of wild trout. Several lifetimes of pleasure.**

### **1. Taupō**

Even if there were no other trout waters in New Zealand, the Taupō region alone would be enough to give the country its international reputation of an outstanding fishery. Lake Taupō is the hub of a large and robust trout ecosystem. It offers year-round fishing, predominantly for rainbow trout, but there are also trophy browns around and in good number if you're prepared to put in the time and effort.



Some of my favourite spots include the one-and-only Tongariro River and several of Lake Taupō's tributaries such as the Tauranga-Taupō, Hinemaiaia, Waimarino, Waiotaka and Waitahanui. And, of course, Lake Otamangakau, known for good numbers of large fish and epic damselfly action.

### **2. Kahurangi**

In the headwaters of the Buller River - with Nelson Lakes, Murchison and Inangahua as gateways - you're truly in the epicentre of brown trout sight-fishing action. Further west is Golden Bay, which also used to be an excellent and relatively remote brown trout fishery, but which has deteriorated recently due to frequent and epic floods. However, it is still the back-door access into Kahurangi National Park and the headwaters of the Karamea, where you can get lost in brown trout nirvana for weeks on end.





There are more fishing guides working out of Nelson than in any other part of the country, a fact which should alert you to just how significant the region is on the New Zealand trout map.

### 3. West Coast

Through Reefton, Maruia and Springs Junction, the Kahurangi area blends into the West Coast, which is another brown trout specific region, from the Karamea and Mikonui River catchments at the northern end to the Cascade and beyond in the south. There are wilderness rivers with numerous tributaries, glacial lakes surrounded by rainforest and a plethora of spring creeks.



**Mikonui River**

Everything on the coast is a grade or two harder so this is not a place for a casual drive-by angler.

Frequent rains and sandflies are also a deterrent and, even on sunny days, dedicated sight fishers can be plagued by poor visibility that results from convective cumulus clouds. Perseverance, however, can pay off handsomely as on the coast you can catch some of the largest and prettiest trout you'll find anywhere in the world, and the wild scenery only magnifies the experience.

#### 4. Mackenzie Country

East of the Southern Alps you'll find the watershed of the Waitaki. Apart from brown trout, the Waitaki catchment has a huge and healthy population of rainbows, and the recent comeback of sockeye salmon - which provides a huge biomass of trout food in the system - is likely to make the fish grow only larger and more numerous.

Fishing around the hydro canals' fish farms now rates as the most popular fishing activity in the South Island and, if it's your thing, it sure is an easy place to catch some absolutely monstrous trout in the 20-30lb range. There is also plenty of good still water, relatively remote rivers accessible by a robust 4x4 and a few backcountry options.



**Waitaki River**

#### 5. Southland

Two geographically distinct regions make up Southland: the low-lying farmlands with Gore as their centre and through which four major trout rivers - Aparima, Waiau, Ōreti and Mataura - flow in courses paralleling each other, and Fiordland, which rises like an eyrie-like fortress in the southwestern corner of the country.

Over the past few years, I've been spending a lot of my fishing time in the lowlands, delighting in huge biomass of brown trout, epic mayfly hatches and the challenges these bring about.

The access is easy and mapped out, there are no bugs to bother you and, though the place is certainly popular, you don't need miles of water to have a good day as you would on a backcountry river.



**Aparima River**

Fiordland is another game entirely and except for busy drive-by places such as the Eglinton and Waiau Rivers, everything else here is an expedition. Helicopter and fixed-wing floatplane access is a norm and a seaworthy boat can open up a lot of independent options. The fishing, though, is as good as it gets, with large brown and rainbow trout in dizzyingly clear water and Lord of the Rings scenery.



Choosing where to go is ultimately the factor of how you like to fish. Your fitness, eyesight and general outdoorsmanship may also weigh in. The all-including beauty of fly fishing is that it allows for many different styles and approaches that become a reflection of the personalities and attitudes of the anglers who pursue them. Whichever path you choose, fly fishing for trout in New Zealand, you're in for a lifetime of pleasure and excitement, learning and exploration.

Professional fly-fishing guide Derek Grzelewski is the author of internationally acclaimed Trout Trilogy. His latest book, Fly Fishing in New Zealand - What You Need to Know, is out now

# Learn to Fly Fish at the Otaki Hunting and Fishing Store – Main Road Otaki Starts at 6:00pm 19 October



MANIC TACKLE PROJECT PRESENTS:

## LEARN TO FLY FISH



Once again Hunting & Fishing New Zealand have teamed up with the guys from Manic Tackle Project to bring you our Learn to Fly Fish evenings for 2020. We'll cover off these five essential topics in one night to make sure you hit the water informed and ready to catch fish:

- GEAR:** A basic outline of rods and reels and how to set them up
- FLIES:** An outline of dry flies, nymphs and streamers and what to fish when
- CASTING:** An understanding of the mechanics of a fly cast
- TACTICS:** How to pull it all together and create a successful strategy to catch more fish
- WHERE:** Our in-store experts will tell you some great local areas to explore

Our Learn to Fly Fish evenings will be held in most Hunting & Fishing New Zealand stores from September through to early November, so check in store for the Learn to Fly Fish poster and register for a night near you.



**Ngā Manu**  
NATURE RESERVE

## KIWI NIGHT ENCOUNTER

**CALL  
04 2934131  
TO  
BOOK**

Share in the magical night world of kiwi !  
\$5 Discount for Friends of Ngā Manu

**1 ½ hour experience:**

- Adult (Age 16+) - \$35
- Child (Age 7 -15) - \$25
- Row of 5 seats - \$150

Since the last newsletter, the breeding Kiwi's at Nag Manu have produced a new young Kiwi chick who is due to return to Nga Manu in the next 10 days. The breeding Kiwis have now laid another egg which is fertile and if all goes well and it hatches it will stay with its parents.

If you have never seen a Kiwi in its natural environment (near natural) then I would recommend the Kiwi Night Encounter at Nga Manu, you will need to book as it is limited to 10 people each night.

---

*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)*

---

**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.

**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*

**Contacts**

**President:**

Michael Murphy 027 591 8734  
Email: [mnkmurf@gmail.com](mailto:mnkmurf@gmail.com).

**Secretary:**

Peter Haakman 04 904 1056  
Email: [phaakman@icloud.com](mailto:phaakman@icloud.com)

**Treasurer**

Ashley Francis  
Email: [ashleyfrancis.nz@gmail.com](mailto:ashleyfrancis.nz@gmail.com)

**Vice**

**President**

Tane Moleta  
Email: [tane.moleta@gmail.com](mailto:tane.moleta@gmail.com)

**Past**

**President**

Malcolm Francis: ph. 06 364 2101  
Email: [malcolm1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:malcolm1@xtra.co.nz)

**Committee:**

Nick Weldon  
Email: [nandcweldon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nandcweldon@xtra.co.nz)

Leon Smith  
Email: [leonsmithplumbingltd@gmail.com](mailto:leonsmithplumbingltd@gmail.com)

Steve Taylor  
Email: [staylorbuilder@gmail.com](mailto:staylorbuilder@gmail.com)

Kras Angelov  
Email: [krasimir.angelov@gmail.com](mailto:krasimir.angelov@gmail.com)

**Club Coach**

Gordon Baker  
Email: [kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com)

**Newsletter**

Malcolm Francis: ph. 06 364 2101  
Email: [malcolm1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:malcolm1@xtra.co.nz)