

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED



Nigel Wilkinson on the Waimiha, photo by Charlotte W.

February 2011



Carol Payne with the winning fish for November



See Wades story in Presidents report.

OFFICIAL WEIGHMASTERS FOR THE ASSOCIATION

Hunting and Fishing	Lake Road	3496303
Bevan Lash	187A Ranolf Street	3489097
John McCarron	53 Rimuvale St	3461967
Roger Bowden	3 Rostrevor Place	3487816
Terry Wood	6A Holden Avenue	3455587
Eddie Bowman	34 Westbourne Avenue	3485652

IF POSSIBLE PLEASE PHONE BEFOREHAND

The Club offers to its' members the following benefits:

- ◆ Friday night social evenings at the Clubrooms. Make fishing mates and plan trips! Organise flycasting tuition!
- ◆ Fortnightly Flytying nights. Tie your own flies!
- ◆ Monthly BBQ's, Potluck Dinners and Annual Prizegiving Dinner..
- ◆ Organised fishing trips most months. Learn new waters!
- ◆ Calendar of Club events for next 12 mths
- ◆ Fantastic library of Books, Videos and DVD's.
- ◆ Kids Fishouts.
- ◆ Monthly newsletter.
- ◆ Discounts at local Fishing Shops advertising in the newsletter!

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSN. INC.

MISSION STATEMENT

To enjoy fishing first, to promote the development of all anglers to reach their full potential, and to respect and protect the environment.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS WHO ADVERTISE
IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE 2010/2011

These are the new office bearers and committee elected at the AGM for the coming year. Welcome to the newcomers and thanks to the incumbents for supporting the club once again. (Area code for Rotorua is 07)

PATRON	Lew Sperry	
PRESIDENT	Wade Fleet	345 9913
VICE-PRESIDENT	Larry Ware	348 0388
PAST-PRESIDENT	Neal Hawes	348 1734
SECRETARY	Bronwyn Douglas	345 9329
TREASURER	Don Stotter	345 9222
CLUB CAPTAIN	Bryan Taylor	357 2216
COMMITTEE	Terry Wood	345 5587
	David Hieatt	348 9090
	Roger Bowden	348 7816
	Bill Piper	350 1002
	Peter West	350 1215
	Peter Finlay	021 2106164
	Manuel Saiz	0274 484171
	Nigel Wilkinson	349 0336
	Shaun Wyatt	349 6116
WEBSITE WEBMASTER	Eddie Bowman	3485652
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Roger Bowden	348 7816
TROPHY MASTER	Bevan Lash	348 9097
SUB-COMMITTEES (conveners)		
KIDS' FISHOUT	Terry Wood	345 5587
A-Z SCHOOL	Roger Bowden	348 7816
ACTIVITIES (Trips)	Neal Hawes	348 1734
(Flytying)	Shaun Wyatt	349 6116
SOCIAL	David Hieatt	348 9090
LIBRARY	Nigel Wilkinson	349 0336
BUILDING	Terry Wood	345 5587

Please feel free to contact any of the above if you have any queries, comments or items you may like to discuss.

Visit our website on www.rotoruaanglers.org.nz

Remember, Roger Bowden is always grateful for any contributions to the magazine. (email rogbrit@slingshot.co.nz or post to **3 Rostrevor Place**)

Thank you for your contribution to our club and we hope you have a very successful season.

Wade Fleet **President**

Presidents Report

Happy new year to you all, I trust the break, assuming you got one, has refreshed you for the year ahead.

Personally I spent two weeks at the beach with the family. Fishing was put on-hold as swimming took precedence over casting a fly. That was until the 3rd January... The father-in-law recently had a birthday and had a desire to catch a decent Kingi. This was the mission and a trip to White Island was on the cards.

5:00am Waiotahi Drifts -the lights come on, time for breakfast, a flask of hot water and into the preloaded car it went, Whakatane the destination-30 minutes away.

7:00am We're on boat "Memory Maker", first stop for a little live bait collection, sabiki rigs and a light weight sent to the bottom. Before long we had a dozen or so Mackerel and Kahawai in the live bait bin, closing the lid we set a course and a little over an hour we were at White Island. Conditions couldn't have been much better. Sun shining, light winds and a slight swell.

9:30am Destination reached, the first live bait is set, gingerly released to the depths of a wonderfully blue ocean, pausing every few metres to entice an untamed beauty from the depths. Five metres and a twitch is still present on the end of my 80kg braid line, another five and a pause, another five and a pause. The apprehension building each metre, the twitching still present, imagining the fish checking out it's new environment. Then an increase in activity on the line, more frequent jerking's, building in intensity, feeling something heavy suddenly stripping line "Boot into it!" the call from the skipper.

An immense tension on the line that I am sure would have been tighter than a piano wire, and the sudden suck down of the rod line and almost me, over the edge of the port side. Reel stripping line and screams of joy coming from behind me. The sight of me struggling with an unseen monster drew calls for a 300gram jig to be sent down. The fights continued for most of the morning with several large fish, ranging from 13kg to an estimated 20kg of raw power and muscle coming aboard for a few photos and then a head-on plunge back to the depths. Fantastic...

3:00pm A few Hapuka stops on the return found few fish but did draw a dory from 160 metres, a fine fish.

It is fair to say a fine time was had by all; even the one human burley machine amongst us seemed to enjoy most of his time. Thanks to the crew for a wonderful day, (sorry your decky smashed your trailer on a tree while parking!!)

Tight lines
Wade Fleet
President

(see photo inside front cover.)

Committee Meeting



December

Safety - Following a committee decision to make life jacket wearing mandatory we are investigating deals with suppliers for discounted life jackets

Smithcreek have donated a sample belt net holder and wader safety strap for the club to use as we see fit, will be raffled following a period of showing at the clubrooms.

In an effort to reduce effort and cost an account is to be opened with the Scion digital print centre

Fish and games report - Gerald Inskeep has retired from Fish and Game and RAA acknowledges his service and retirement

Activities and trips

Ngpouri float tube trip very successful.

8th January Humurana fishing trip planned from 3pm

experienced anglers there to help inexperienced. Sausages & steak to be provided by club

Box for registration for lake Aniwhenua challenge in club rooms

A-Z School - Looking for new names, next one scheduled for March

Building and maintenance - Another leak in the water line repaired

Flytying - start up in January 14 people attend on 6 and 12 people on the 15th. Shaun looking for new ideas for next year.

Kids Fish-Out- Last for the year was in November. Dates set for next year, might look at starting earlier during the school holidays.

Social - BBQ night went well, 40 people plus, thanks to Bevan for cleaning up.

FISH OF THE MONTH— November—Carol Payne 2.9 Kg. Rainbow

December—Grant Horne 4.2 Kg. Brown

PHOTO OF THE MONTH— Whirinaki River on back of December's magazine.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. No movement on Timberlands access
- b. Winners of Raffle 1st John Gapes 2nd B&G Douglas, 3rd Manuel Saiz
- c. Fridge not working well, Terry will follow up
- d. Bar prices reviewed

Wade renewed the committees knowledge of our bar license and requirements, all visitors to be signed in.

ODE TO THE HUMBLE SAUSAGE

I feed the kids and hungry fishers
When they get together for social dishes,
And when I'm spare I go to freeze
To await my next outing for salads and cheese.

But one day people look and look
To seek me out from words, cups, beaks and books
Where am I, where am I, they all do cry
As shelf-man Kevin waits to fry.

I was waiting, waiting in my frozen state
And just wished I could sizzle on someone's plate
"Oh bother" says pipeman of social committee fame
And off he drives, to mad carver he came.

The fishers they ate with all their usual relish
I swelled their tummies, their appetites to embellish
So when they again my frozen type they seek
Just try first to ring our honourable beak.

ANON.

Outdoorsman Headquarters

NEW ZEALAND'S GREATEST
OUTDOOR OUTFITTERS

6 TARAWERA ROAD ROTORUA, PHONE 345 9333

OPEN 7 DAYS

www.outdoorsman.co.nz

Sponsors of your "Photo Caption" competition.

Stockists of

- Garmin handheld GPS navigators.
- GME personal locator beacons.
- Ocean fishing Kayaks,
- Minn kota electric outboard motors

JIGGING RIGGING.

With the hot weather upon us and the trout heading to the depths of our lakes, Jigging is a very popular method for the next couple of months. The prime Lakes are Rotoiti, Okataina and Tarawera. John McCarron has given me some information that will help your catch rate substantially.

Rod and reel—The preferred rod is about 7 ft. rated at 2-4 kg. with a stiffish action and a jelly type tip. The reel is an overhead model loaded with braid, preferably colour coded to gauge depth. This is why the trace is 10m. long as the colour coding is in 10 m. increments. The reason this is important is that when you locate fish on the finder you can target them through adjusting the depth of your terminal tackle to suit.

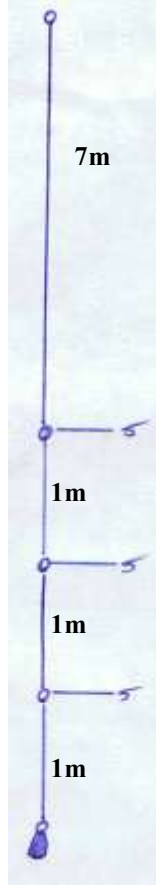
Trace

1. - 7 metres of 12-15 lb nylon, say Maxima or similar, then a small (9kg.) swivel (1st fly tied off swivel on 1 ft. trace of 8 lb fluorocarbon). The braid can be tied to the nylon with a Stren knot or similar if the swivel doesn't wind on to the reel.
2. - 1 metre of 10 lb nylon, then another swivel with dropper of 1 ft. of 8 lb Fluorocarbon to 2nd fly.
3. Exactly as above with a 3rd fly on Fluorocarbon dropper.
4. Lastly -1 metre of sacrificial 6 lb. nylon (in case of snags) tied to a teardrop sinker of 1-2 oz. depending on wind drift.

Flies—Preferred 'go to' flies would be small smelt flies such as Jacks Sprat or Grey Ghost in # 8. If you are unsuccessful with these then try other well known patterns such as Dorothy, Woolly Bugger, Hamills Killer, Parsons Glory. Also experiment with different sizes and patterns until you hit the winning formula.

Good luck with these ideas on set up etc. to get and catch some of those wonderful, hard fighting, prime Lake trout.

Join to braid
with Stren knot
or swivel.



Fishing Quotes and Sayings

Most anglers who have caught a trout- which is not by any means all anglers - are like criminals and invariably have an impulse to return to the scene of the crime.

The act of fly casting is an example of the science of motion. The act of fly-fishing is an example of the passion for art.

The traveller fancies he has seen the country. So he has the outside of it at least; but the angler only sees the inside. The angler only is brought close, face to ace with the flower and bird and insect life of the rich river banks, the only part of the landscape where the hand of man has never interfered.

It seemed a good time to reprint some hints on catching those mega Rotorua Browns from the pen of the late Bruce Smith. Bruce was a very keen fisherman and submitted many excellent articles to our magazine. They are too good to publish only once and we will remember Bruce by republishing his endearing tales, accounts and 'how to's' from time to time. **CRUISING BROWNS**

- ◆ **Whenever** possible search for the cruising Browns, and a good pair of Polaroid glasses is almost essential to mitigate changing light conditions. Move slowly and minimise the ripple disturbance. The Browns are known to have a regular cruising path, often quite close to the shore or past weed patches, or the Nigger Heads at Hamurana. Watch for the slight bumps or disturbances because they often indicate that a Brown has sucked an insect off the surface. They do not feed as greedily as the Rainbows, and they are very easily 'spooked'.
- ◆ **If you're lucky enough** to spot him before he is 'spooked', cast ahead of him (say 5 or 6 metres) using a floating line in shallow water, and then let your fly sink to the bottom. In the summer daylight I use a small hare and copper, or a blood worm, sometimes a bully type; and at nights a larger dark fly with a luminous eye; but any experienced angler or a tackle shop can give you their successful tips. Then watch your fish, and when he's about a metre away from the fly, give it a quick, sharp jerk. Even a slight movement is picked up by the Brown, and quite often he will accelerate and take it in. They seem to be more perceptive than the Rainbow, so you need to strike quickly in the shallow water, and then it's all on. if there is a good insect rise going on during the warmer weather, use a green beetle or a cicada - they do take these off the surface with a soft sucking motion. At nights you are fishing blind, so a very slow draw is essential, and when you feel him at the fly, pause to allow the trout to turn and return to the bottom, and then strike.
- ◆ **If you're fishing at night** at the stream mouths where there is a current, the insects that the trout are feeding on are coming down with the current, so cast up-current, allow your fly to go to the bottom, leave it there, count up to 20, and then slowly retrieve. I haven't really fished for Browns from a boat, but when rowing my 'tinny' for two competitions on Rotoehu last year I noticed they often let the boat drift with the wind and cast ahead of the boat, or towards the shore where the trout had cover. I also noticed the change to a larger fly when the boat was drifting over weed beds. So, if you want to try your luck on Aniwhenua, fishing from a boat as I intend to soon, try drifting down-current along the edges of the weed beds (usually 3 to 5 feet deep) and casting ahead and across so that the current moves your fly naturally. The sight of those broad backs scooting away across the weed beds still haunts me. The weed beds are up towards the top of the lake, but in the middle. Believe me, the Browns are elusive, but they give you ten times the satisfaction when you eventually net them, and great eating when smoked.

Schedule of Events – FEBRUARY 2011

- 8th** Committee meeting 7 pm.
11th-13th L Otomangakau Trip (Eddie Bowman ph 3485652)
14th Flytying 7pm. (Shaun Wyatt)
18th Full Moon
18th Barbeque at Clubrooms, all welcome.
20th Newsletter cut off.
25th Bring and Buy (Neville Robinson ph 3456683)
28th Flytying 7pm. (Shaun Wyatt)
Friday Nights Club nights 5pm– 7pm. All welcome

Members should be aware that there was a break in on a car parked at the Clubrooms on a Friday night. Don't leave any valuables in your car.

OHOPE WEEKEND TRIP

4-6 March

Once again Cliff and Lyz Soanes will be hosting the club for what has become an annual event.

Meet at 299 Harbour Rd, Ohope, Friday afternoon/evening.

Fishing options include sea fishing either with Cliff or on your own boat (weather and sea conditions permitting), or flyfishing the Waioeka or Waimana Rivers.

Those wishing to fish on Friday please contact me for options.

What to bring: Life Jacket

Sea fishing gear (Cliff has a limited supply of rods for those without their own)

Flyfishing gear if you are fishing the rivers.

Sleeping bag or other bedding.

Breakfast, lunch food.

Salad and dessert for dinner Friday & Saturday nights (we intend catching the main course!!)

Your favourite tippie.

Names on the board at the clubrooms please. I need firm commitment and numbers a week prior so we can accommodate everyone.

Or contact me on 3481734 or 027 2755012

Neal Hawes, convener

Lake Otamangakau 12-13 th February 2011

Our February club trip is once again to Lake Otamangakau. It is a small shallow lake that contains both brown and rainbow trout that occasionally grow to trophy proportions. The lake is best fished from small boats, float tubes or canoes. There is limited shore line fishing.

All lures work here from traditional damsel flies, water boatman and bloodworms to the larger kilwell no 1. Spinning is also effective and when the cicardas and damselflies are on the water floating imitations of these also work well.

Accommodation has again been booked at the Tongariro Holiday Park located about 5 mins from the lake on SH 47. All units sleep 2 and units cost \$55.00 a night per two berth cabin per night. Cooked meals are available via the holiday park restaurant for our members not wanting to cook their own food.

The communal kitchen cooking facility is available but the number of utensils available are limited, so may pay to bring your own cups, knife, fork etc.

Members are responsible for booking in on arrival and thereafter settling their own accounts when they leave. Members are to bring their own sleeping bag, pillows towels and suitable clothing for this lake.

A Taupo fishing licence is required for this lake.

I will need to confirm numbers a couple of days before the trip. A list will be on whiteboard at the club or let me know you are coming well before. In the unlikely event the trip is cancelled then I will cancel on the Thursday night so I will need contact numbers as well.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Eddie Bowman – convenor.

CLUB TRIP TO HAMURANA 8 JANUARY 2011

The first club trip for 2011 was a day/evening outing to Hamurana.

A great turnout saw 18 anglers trying their luck at various times during the day and evening. It was great to see several new members joining us, some bringing their family for the BBQ. In all, we catered for 29 at the BBQ, including Harvey's two Pommie guests.

Thanks to Roger for helping with the BBQ, and to Bronwyn for donating most of the steak.

Although the fishing was very good in the morning (Bryan got about 8, I believe), the south-east wind gradually strengthened through the day, making fishing hard in the afternoon. By evening, the wind ruined any night-time fishing, though I heard that Joe got a nice Brown (8.5 lbs.) not long before dark. Only a few braved the elements after dark, with little success.

All in all, it was a very successful club trip – one I would recommend for next year's calendar.

Neal Hawes

“THROWING DOWN THE GAUNTLET”

NEW ZEALAND v REST OF THE WORLD

INTER-FISHING COMPETITION

LAKE ANIWHENUA

SATURDAY 19TH MARCH 2011

9:00AM TO 4:00PM

All in good spirit, fun and banter I am inviting all Members, Ladies, Gentlemen, Girls and Boys to join me and compete within an inter-fishing competition at Lake Aniwhenua between New Zealand versus rest of the World.

An open competition for all Members of all experience. Boat fishing, utilising all legal methods, e.g. spinning, fly fishing, harling, trolling being all acceptable, giving our non-fly fishers an opportunity to compete and to represent their Country. The competition shall consist of two, three-hour sessions for the Saturday only. 9:00am until 12:00pm and 1:00pm until 4:00pm.

The team draw will take place at the Ballinger Lodge, Lake Aniwhenua, on Friday 18th March 2011 at 7:00pm.

To promote fairness the opposing team Member(s) will share a boat over a 3 hour period whereby each person has 1.5 hours to choose their preferred method of fishing and management of the boat, e.g. drifting, anchored and use of out-board (if equipped) providing ample scope for each competitor.

Competitor entry sheets to be completed and returned to the Clubroom collection box **by no later that Friday 11th March 2011.** Late entries will not be accepted. Competition rules will also be provided in due course.

Only one hour drive from Rotorua, easily commutable, Lake Aniwhenua has a free available Campsite or Lodge facility for paying Club Members preferring not to sleep under canvas. The cost for Club Members is \$25 per night (\$10 non-returnable deposits are required per person to be paid prior to competition weekend). A maximum of eleven Guest can stay at the Lodge. A paying Guest list will be available at the Clubroom during late February / mid March 2011. First names, deposit paid, get one of the beds. Numbers exceeding 11 and I will have to look at acquiring additional camp beds or floor mattresses. Please note that only paid guests can utilise the Lodge facilities, parking of boats and vehicles. March is usually a more cooler month weather wise but still comfortable to fish and camp.

Club March B.B.Q. and prize giving on the Saturday evening within the lodge grounds. We have been granted permission by the owner.

Prizes to be awarded for various winning categories. Steak and sausages provided by R.A.A.Inc, Social Club. Members attending the B.B.Q are required to provide a salad and dessert contribution please.

Glen Ballinger has two spare boats that can be utilised on the Saturday (Angler's donation required to cover fuel cost). However I cannot stress this point enough, but it is paramount to receiving commitment(s) from Members capable of providing boats. Unfortunately this non-commitment would no doubt affect final numbers competing, especially for our novice boat anglers, being a great shame.

We need boats for anglers to succeed, please help out.....

Think about this. What a wonderful scenario "a novice fishing along side a seasoned, experienced angler", utilising their preferred methods and both being successful.... Now that is magic...

I shall advise if the trip has to be postponed due to bad weather etc

Now it is time to choose a side !!!. Best wishes and I look forward to an enjoyable weekend with you.

Dave Hodge: Convener, Tel: 07-345-9282 / Mobile: 021-165-3658



ROTORUA



Hunting & Fishing

NEW ZEALAND



Rotorua's local Sage dealer

"Test fish" the magnificent Sage Z-Axis! Book one to treat yourself to a private session with no pressure! Models from Launch to the new Z-Axis and ZXL available. Sage launch combo's from \$650.

Stockists of fly rods and reels.



SIMS Stockists of the best Gortex waders money can buy, also clothing and footwear.

P O Box 10134, Cnr Fairy Springs Road and Lake Road, Rotorua

Ph 0064 (07) 3496303 fax 0064 (07) 3496308

Email: rotoruahuntingandfishing@xtra.co.nz

10% RAA member discount with membership card.

New DVD's in the Library

THE SOURCE—NEW ZEALAND

This is the NZ version of 'The Source', the other ones being filmed in Tasmania and Iceland. Nick Reygaert (who takes the Rise film festival around Australia and NZ is the director). Extensively exploring the South Island, the eclectic group of anglers cast tiny emergers to delirious browns during a blanket hatch, catch a trophy fish on a dry fly and jet boat into a remote fiord for virgin fishing. Breathtaking HD footage, stunning aerials and crystal clear underwater action, together with a lively soundtrack, make this a DVD not to be missed.

DESTINATION TROUT-NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand's most spectacular trout fishing locations are targeted in this DVD, including several Rotorua lakes, the Ohau Channel and the Whirinaki river. Three hours of amazing fly fishing action with a 100% NZ soundtrack. Twelve of the countries most beautiful and incredibly diverse fly fishing destinations of both Islands, are covered with some average to very good camera work. A great rainy day or lazy day watch. Also quite instructional from a 'how to' and 'where to go' point of view.

We also have another five **additional** new DVD's just added to our growing DVD library, covering some great fishing action (mainly fly fishing for trout in NZ) so come down to the clubrooms on a Friday social night, or the fortnightly fly tying night and check it out.

There is also a very extensive stock of books and videos (most of which are now on DVD.) Just write your choice of DVD/Book/Video out in the appropriate book on the table adjacent to the library and remember to sign it back in when you return it. This is just another wonderful benefit of your membership, entirely free.



Sponsors of 'Trout of the Month'

SPECIALS— UNTIL STOCKS LAST

NZL Silverstream flyrod 9' 8weight
plus metal body reel and Cortland floating flyline \$149.99 combo price

"CORTLAND LINES"

NZL clear Intermediate wf #9 and NZL floating flyline wf #9 NOW ONLY \$49.95

Phone number 07 3483147 and email rotorua@hamillsnz.co.nz
10% RAA member discount with membership card

TROPHY MASTERS REPORT

FISH OF THE MONTH FOR November 2010
was Carol Payne with a 2.9 kg. Rainbow from Lake Tarawera (see photo
inside the front cover)
Carol wins a \$10 voucher from Hamills.

FISH OF THE MONTH FOR December 2010
Was Grant Horne with a 4.2 kg. Brown from Lake Rotorua
Grant wins a \$10 voucher from Hamills.

Don't forget to weigh in your fish!

**Weighmasters are listed on page 3. or you can weigh your fish on registered
scales with a witness.**

**Scales can be checked and registered at the Clubrooms on Friday nights.
You can even weigh and release your fish.**

Trophymaster Bevan Lash

REPORT ON EASTERN REGION FISH & GAME MEETING 30 NOVEMBER 2010

The final meeting of the Eastern Region Fish & Game Council for 2010 was held at the hatchery on 30 November.

The meeting focused mainly on game shooting regulations for the 2011 season, as well as the annual report and financial statements. It is pleasing to note that the auditors gave these reports full marks.

Of interest to anglers.....

Water Quality and Quantity-The Land and Water Forum is currently travelling around the country presenting its report to public meetings, the Rotorua meeting being held on 22 November. Fifty recommendations were presented, the great majority of which are favourable to F&G and angler/hunter interests, and there are some very positive signs that this collaborative process will put significant pressure on central and regional governments and industry to improve the way they manage water and the surrounding land.

Angler and Hunter Access-Considerable work by staff (particularly Rob Pitkethley and Anthony van Dorp) and councilors has been going on in relation to the Kaingaroa access issue. MPs Todd McClay and Peter Dunne have also been heavily involved. Recent meetings with Timberlands management have shown some promise of a breakthrough, and while negotiations are still at a delicate stage, and I am not at liberty to divulge details at this stage, we are quietly confident that some improved access will be made available in the not too distant future. Watch this space.

Non-resident Licence -The National Council has discussed this issue, and agree that non-residents should pay a premium to fish NZ waters. This discussion is ongoing, and it seems likely that such a licence will be brought in. Again, watch this space.

Datawatch-During October, a total of 148 tags were returned and entered into the database. This is double the number returned in October 09. Most were from Tarawera (62), Okataina (44) and Rotoiti (30).

Ngongotaha Trap Operation-The trap was run for 9 successive nights during October. 29 Rainbows, averaging 470mm and 1.37kg, were trapped. Only one Brown, 435mm and 1.3kg, was trapped.

Smelt PhD Project-Staff are continuing to collect Rainbow head and gut samples from anglers fishing Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti and the Ohau Channel to assist in the University of Waikato PhD being undertaken to look at trout/smelt bioenergetics.

Opening Day Survey-A total of 880 anglers were surveyed across Lakes Tarawera, Okataina and Rotoiti on Opening day and the following day. Lake Okataina produced the best results with an increased catch rate (1.75 fish/angler) from last year. The spring-released 2yo fish were slightly longer (537mm) and about the same weight (1.88kg) as last year. Rotoiti anglers found the angling much harder than last year. 2yo fish were the same length (509mm) but slightly heavier (1.74kg) than last year. Tarawera produced a lower catch rate (1 fish/angler) than last year. 2yo fish were smaller (496mm) and lighter (1.4kg) than last year.

Lake Okataina Weed Cordon-BOP Regional Council will be installing a weed cordon at the Okataina boat ramp over the summer. F&G staff have been involved in the planning process and have worked closely with BOPRC in designing the cordon, which features fish passes in the side walls to allow trout to freely enter and leave the net area. It is anticipated that the cordon will have little effect on movement of fish along the beach and on the winter shoreline fishing opportunities for anglers. Any minor inconvenience to anglers and the public is outweighed by the need to prevent further weed incursions – if pest weed does become established, it could seriously threaten anglers’ ability to fish the area.

Okere Gates and Ohau Channel Weir Consent-The Consent Hearing for this project will take place in the week starting 6 December. F&G have opposed the consent due to uncertainty over the planned operation and timing of flushing events through the Ohau Channel, seeking some guarantee that flushing will not occur within peak angling times or in the lead-up to the angling season.

Compliance-For the new season, up to 5 November, seven offenders have been apprehended for 17 offences - fishing without licence, fishing closed waters, and fishing with illegal tackle.

Weed spraying-Spraying with a gel form of Diquat is currently being undertaken by LINZ in several Rotorua lakes, to control lake weed. Among other things, removal of weed in prime angling areas (such as Ruato Bay) will greatly enhance angling opportunities.

Retirement of Gerald Inskip-Many members will be saddened to hear of Gerald’s enforced retirement due to deteriorating health problems. Gerald has been a “part of the furniture” in F&G for over 20 years (and Wildlife Service and DOC before that), being a tireless and loyal employee, particularly with compliance issues. He was farewelled by Council chairman Barry Roderick at the end of the meeting, and was presented with a gold watch for his service to F&G. He will be sorely missed by all anglers (except the ones he prosecuted over the years), and on behalf of RAA I wish him well in his new life in Wanganui.

NEAL HAWES

FISHING THE MOST POPULAR SPORT—

Have you wondered why it is so hard to get a spot to yourself!!

In the US, a report this week indicates that fishing was the most popular outdoor activity in 2009, with 17 per cent of Americans over the age of six - or 48.2 million people - participating. This is not the first time that fishing has been the most popular outdoor activity in that country.

' Our numbers are smaller, but fishing in New Zealand is also the largest outdoor recreational sport.

Waimiha River

At the end of November Charlotte & I went over to Te Kuiti & stayed the night there with a friend. On the way we drove through Bennydale, before taking the first left turn (Waimiha Mangarehi Road) with the intention of spending a few hours fishing the Waimiha River. We drove about 8 km to the junction with Waimiha Road. Before driving into Waimiha Road we had to get permission to access the river from the local Farm Trust which is on the left just before the junction. This was readily granted and were told that we could go for miles. We drove about 4 kilometres up the road (which eventually became a grass track) running parallel to the river before stopping and walking upstream.

The weather was hot and sunny and the river was very pleasant to fish, running clear, but with plenty of trees providing good cover in places with the river meandering gently over the valley bottom. Access from the track to the river was very easy across open ground until we came to a tree covered gorge (see pic) which was as far upstream as our time permitted unfortunately on this trip. We saw a number of fish in the 2 kg range (landed one using a bead head Hare and Copper nymph) but the conditions meant that they were very easily spooked.

Altogether we had a very pleasant few hours (until about 3.30 p.m. so we were unable to be around to see anything of an evening rise sadly) and had the river to ourselves. We will definitely return and explore further upstream again using the same access point. The river is actually crossed in its headwaters by SH30 a few km's east of Bennydale if anyone wanted to try it up there.

Nigel Wilkinson

Photo's opposite and on front cover were taken by Charlotte W.



ORR'S MOTORS & BOATS
MARINE SERVICE

“SUMMER IS HERE NOW”
GET YOUR BOAT SERVICED NOW

30 years experience in the
MARINE INDUSTRY
60 Ngongotaha Road, Ngongotaha
(Opp Landscape Garden Supplies)

PHONE
357 5470 / 027 2346245
David Orr

LAWN MOWER SERVICE
872
027 2346245

CHAINSAW SHARPEN
525





Club's postal address

P O Box 1083 Rotorua

The stark beauty of the Ruakituri River, December 2010