

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED



"Boy, I cannot wait to send this photo back to South Africa, my fishing buddies will be so jealous"



Piet and his Trophy Trout, TukiTuki April 2011

June 2011



Pete Finlay with his first night caught rainbow from Okataina Beach weight 4 kg.



OFFICIAL WEIGHMASTERS FOR THE ASSOCIATION

O'Keefes Fishing Depot	1113 Eruera St.	3460178
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 Ave	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.

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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

A big thanks to those members and visitors who presented on our recent events evening. The fish filleting was great and many of those attending, commented on this great idea. The evening culminated in a member ducking home for the wok. It was plan fried Okataina fish for all, beautifully red flesh from the Okataina Koura. Jerome's presentation on the fishing and environment in his small part of the USA was fascinating and the big screen was a winner, thanks Shaun. The committee intends to organise many more with 8 months' worth of ideas already noted and in the planning stages.

The fly tying evening frequency is under review . The fortnightly event may change to a monthly if interest wanes over the next few months, so please do express your interest with an email or chat with Shaun.

I trust the Okataina trip planned for the 4th June will be a great success, from all reports I am hearing, a great time can be had on the lake with some really good fish caught currently.

Coming in June, is yet another of our well attended Pot luck dinners, this one is the mid-year Christmas potluck dinner, all welcome to this festive night. A great chance to get out on these cold nights and a plate to contribute to the spread is always welcomed.

In June there is no planned club trip planned, but do mark down the Aniwhenua weekend early in July. Don't forget there is the usual hospitality and the kind offer of use of his Glens homes beside the lake, or for those of us keen enough to camp, solar showers, flush toilets and a few acres of grass awaits.

From time to time I am asked if I know of anyone who wishes to go to sea on day trips. If any of you are interested please do send the club an email and I will add you to a register for just these queries. Generally there is a week or twos' notice but occasionally only a day or two notice.

The Rotorua Anglers Association is changing its email address. For a number of years now the address has been under a personal internet provider account and we believe it is time to go out on our own. Gmail is our new email provider and with huge amounts of storage and being accessible from anywhere, gmail was an easy choice. We can be reached at the existing address but will encourage you all to update your address lists with rotoruaanglers@gmail.com

I am keen to hear from those of you who have signed up for permits for Kaingaroa Forest and paid the \$50. I am conscious this cost has been slipped past the up roar and condemnation without as much as a murmur. Comments either way are welcomed.

A final note to our neighbouring clubs - Recent distribution offers of our 7th edition Anglers guide to other clubs, have been widely accepted with many books being sent out around New Zealand and some to Australia . If you have not yet requested our guide for your clubs distribution and are interested, please feel free to contact us.

Tight lines Wade Fleet

Lake Aniwhenua Club Winter Fishing Weekend 8th to 10th July 2011

Lake Aniwhenua is approximately one hour's drive from Rotorua. The accommodation provided for two nights sleeps 11 persons at a cost of \$25 per night, per person, which includes the supply of bed linen (personal sleeping bags optional if you prefer), cooking facility (bring your own food and drink), together with a warm and comfortable lounge for relaxing after that enjoyable Winter's day fishing experience. The Lodge is situated overlooking the lake, with easy walking and access to the nearby boat ramp. A second boat ramp can be accessed downstream of Rabbit Bridge (small craft only). Weed encroachment access to fishing from the shoreline can sometimes be restrictive, hence fishing from a boat being more effective. Club Members shall have the opportunity to hire two boats with outboards available via Glen Ballinger (Lodge owner) on a donation basis to cover fuel costs and therefore being a very generous offer only available to R.A.A. Inc. Both boats are adequately equipped, having the capacity to provide comfortable fishing for 4 anglers. This offer may also suit the angler who prefers not to have the extra hassle of boat towing / preparation costs, etc.

Lake Aniwhenua fishery has in former years earned the reputation for the production of trophy fish weighing over the 5 kg mark. Both Rainbow and Brown trout reside within the lake and are caught by fly fishing, spinning and trolling, maybe even jigging in the deeper parts of the lake. Brown trout tend to cruise around the lake perimeter, usually in shallow water in search of food, whereby the Rainbow will generally circulate in deeper water. All the aforementioned fishing methods do work throughout the year, giving the angler ample scope to successfully catch fish.

I will be available at the clubrooms on Friday 24th June and 1st July 2011 to promote the fishing trip and to give me an indication of numbers requiring accommodation. For Members wanting stay at the Lodge for either one or two nights shall pay a **non-refundable deposit of \$10:00** prior to their name being added to the guest list. Attending Members not requiring Lodge, accommodation have the availability of the nearby camp ground and toilet, shower-block, parking etc. Please note that only paid guests can utilise the Lodge facilities, and park boats and vehicles within the Lodge grounds.

We need the support of our seasoned Anglers with boats to provide an opportunity for non boat owners / anglers to succeed !!!!!. Due to currently inflated fuel costs why not buddy-up with a fellow member and share travel costs by making the trip more affordable.

First names, deposit paid, get one of the beds. Numbers exceeding 11 and I will look at acquiring additional camp beds or floor mattresses.

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

Best wishes and I look forward to an enjoyable, winter fishing weekend with you.

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



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due for renewal and payment by 30 June. Renewal notices are included with this issue. To avoid us having to spend precious club funds chasing you up (not to mention all the extra work for your hard-working secretary and treasurer!!), early payment would be appreciated. Don't forget to indicate if you want a colour calendar to enable us to order adequate numbers.

For those of you who prefer online payment, the club's bank account is:

Westpac Bank, Hinemoa Street, Rotorua

Rotorua Anglers Assn

03 1552 0102229 00

If using this option, **please let me know by email or phone**, so I can acknowledge receipt and issue your membership card.

Bronwyn Douglas, Secretary

Ph. 07 3459329

rotoruaanglers@paradise.net.nz

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First Impressions of RAA by an overseas member

Joining a group of interesting, knowledgeable, helpful and sincere fellow anglers in convivial *club night* mode. It was particularly pleasant to put a face to the names of some of the so many members that had encouraged my interest from afar.

Attending a fly tying session to witness a selection of the membership pursuing the gentler arts and being relieved to find that the junior membership was being educated also.

Spending a few solo visits to *Okareka* and *Tarawera* lakes and discovering that NZ trout are just as elusive as Scottish trout and not as prolific as the RAA Trout Fishing Guide and Fish and Game would suggest!

Fishing as a tutored guest of the Brown Trout House, Turangi on the Breakfast, Major Jones and Blue pools of the *Tongariro* River (the NZ equivalent of the Tweed, Tay and Spey prime salmon rivers of Scotland) and Lake *Taupo*, confirming the observations above. Where next do I go to land a rainbow or brown trout?

At *Waitahuni*, while Marjorie samples Taupo 9 hole golf and retail therapy, I land my very first NZ trout on a nymph – a 1lb. rainbow!

As a guest of Bevan Lash at *Lake Rotoma*, witnessed by Dave Field, I land a 2½lb. rainbow in excellent condition - by comparison with the stocked rainbows in my home fishery. Repetitive success goes to my head and I proceed to lose 2 further rainbows (definitely superior to the first). Using a trawled/harled snowflake Tasmanian Devil (at a depth of 18ins.) is another new experience of trout fishing for me. The hospitality, company and tuition of both RAA members was greatly appreciated.

Arrival of a long awaited (in terms of UK application time and distance) club outing to *River Tukituki* sated my anxious appetite. Ron Cole's company out, on The Friday, set the standard for my continuing NZ education which continued through morning tea at Rangatiki until return to RAA Pererika Street on Sunday.

Meeting a couple of kiwi "settlers" of my wife's acquaintance, from her home town of Kelso in the Scottish Borders after dinner in the Patangata Tavern and then returning to the darkened Hastings AC lodge to spend the night on the couch in the apparent absence of vacant beds by torch light was an unexpected surprise! If I failed to "land" any fish, I certainly learned much about NZ custom, history and culture which, in honesty, proved far more memorable than the fly fishing skills learnt from Bryan, Larry, and the others in attendance. The outing will rank highly as an experience where the company, scenery and fresh air beat the fishing. 2 x 1 lb rainbows from the Tukituki and Rangitikei rivers, hard attempts and a conducted tour of Kaimanawa forest Park via "Gentle Annie" rounded off another memorable NZ experience.

56 days out of Scotland, bonding with our grandchildren, (4 and 2 years) attending our son's wedding (second of two children "lost" to a Kiwi), attempting to land a "basket" – hard work for someone of 66 sheltered UK years. Meeting and sharing RAA membership was the "*icing on the cake*" for our 8th annual visit to NZ.

I do hope, most sincerely, that RAA continues to flourish. I also hope to have my membership renewal approved for 2011/12. My only concern for the future is that RAA look outward and *lay the foundations* for more youngsters to join you and lay foundations for a very successful club to contribute to the future of the gentler arts and continue the high standard set by your predecessors.

Thanks for the memory –

“Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again”

Very best wishes to you and yours for a long and successful future.

Martin Smith, Caledonian St.Andrew AC, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

NEW ZEALAND V REST OF THE WORLD

WHAT A GREAT WEEKEND THAT WAS HAD BY ALL. OVER TWENTY CLUB MEMBERS ATTENDED THE INTER CLUB TROUT FISHING COMPETITION THAT WAS HELD ON LAKE ANIWHENUA. THE HUGE AMOUNT OF TIME AND ENERGY TO HAVE TEN BOATS AVAILABLE, AND ALSO MAKING SURE THERE WAS TEN OUTBOARD MOTORS, MADE THE WHOLE THING VERY SUCCESSFUL? SATURDAY AT 9AM, AWAY WENT THE COMPETITORS, EACH BOAT HAVING TWO ANGLERS TO FISH FOR THREE HOURS, IN THE MORNING SESSION, ALLOWING EACH ONE, ONE AND A HALF HOURS, TO THEIR OWN METHODS. THIS AGAIN WAS APPLIED FOR THREE HOURS IN THE AFTERNOON, BUT A CHANGE WITH HAVING A DIFFERENT ANGLER COMBO'S.

WEATHERWISE, RAIN HAD FALLEN ON THE FRIDAY NIGHT AND THE SAT MORN DAWNED WITH A FOGGY BEGINNING. THE SUN SOON BROKE THROUGH AS WE VENTURED ONTO THE LAKE ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT THE RIVER COMING THROUGH THE LAKE WAS RUNNING DIRTY, WE HEARD CRIES OF OH! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS, WHERE IS ALL THIS DIRTY WATER COMING FROM. HOWEVER EVERYONE HAD TO BITE THE BULLET AND JUST GET ON WITH CATCHING A FISH. I HAD NOT SEEN SO MANY BOATS ON THE WATER, AND THOSE ANGLERS WHO EVENTUALLY DID CATCH A FISH, I COULD NOT BUT NOTICE OTHER BOATS ACCIDENTLY DRIFT CLOSE BY TO SEE WHAT METHOD WAS BEING USED. THERE WERE NOT MANY FISH CAUGHT, EVEN I BLANKED OUT, BUT WE HAD OUR LAUGHS AND BY FOUR THIRTY TIME WAS UP AND THE COMP. OFFICIALLY ENDED. ALTHOUGH I DID OBSERVE ONE OR TWO BOATS STILL HOLDING RODS AND A FLY IN THE WATER. NO DOUBT THEY WOULD BEEN DOBBED IN IF A FISH WAS NETTED.

IT WAS NOW TIME FOR TIDY UP AND REST .GETTING READY FOR THE BBQ AND SOME DRINKS. WE HEARD STORIES OF HOW I MISSED THIS ONE BECAUSE I WAS TOO BUSY TALKING AND MISSED THE STRIKE. THE BARBY TURNED OUT ABSOLUTELY GREAT WITH EVERYBODY CONTRIBUTING, BRINGING SAL, DESSERTS ETC, AND THE CLUB SUPPLIED THE MEAT. THE EVENING WENT ON WITH JOVILITY AND LOTS OF JOKES. THE WAY WE OFTEN DO WITH A CLUB OUTING, HAVING A SUPERB SOCIAL GATHERING. BREAKFAST WAS HILARIOUS AS THE LEFT OVERS WENT BACK ON THE BARBY, EGGS & BACON.

SOMEONE HAD BOUGHT BLACK PUDDING. THEN SHALL WE EAT UPSTAIRS BECAUSE ALL THE KITCHEN STUFF WAS THERE, NO I'LL GO AND BRING THE PLATES DOWN AND CUPS. THEN SOMEONE ELSE SAID WHAT ABOUT THE EATING UTENSILS, I'LL GET THEM SOMEONE SAID, THEN SOMEONE ELSE, BUT ALL OF THE CHAIRS WERE UPSTAIRS, THEN SOMEONE SAID WE MAY AS WELL EAT UP STAIRS THEN WHY DON,T WE HEAT THE OVEN UP AND PUT ALL THE COOKING IN THERE. THEN SOMEONE SAID WHAT TIME IS IT ANYWAY. ITS GETTING ON FOR LUNCH I AM NOT TOO SURE HOW OR HOW IT ALL ENDED UP AGREEING WHERE WE ALL SHOULD EAT. I KNOW WE ALL FINISHED UP EACH HOLDING OUR PLATE, WAITING FOR OUR E&B, BY THEN SOME MAY HAVE FOUND IT NOT SO HOT AS PERHAPS OTHERS GOT AND FINALLY ALL OF US EATING UPSTAIRS, BECAUSE REALLYAFTER ALL THE KITCHEN SINK'S THERE. I WILL LEAVE COMPS REPORT AND WINNING COMPETITORS RESULTS TO ANOTHER PAGE AND TAKE THE OPPORUNITY TO THANK DAVID HODGE, FOR DIRECTING THIS VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT AND ALL THE HARD WORK HE HAS PUT IN TO ALL THE DETAILS. COMPLIMENTS TO NEAL HAWES ,WEIGHMASTER AND A VERY SPECIAL THANKYOU TO GLENN BALINGER AS YOURS TRULY MINE HOST AT THE BALLINGER LODGE.

CHEERS WOODY

Schedule of Events – June 2011

<u>2nd</u>	New Moon
<u>13th</u>	Flytying 7pm. (Shaun Wyatt)
<u>14th</u>	Committee meeting 7 pm.
<u>16th</u>	Full Moon
<u>17th</u>	Mid Winter Xmas Potluck Dinner at Clubrooms all welcome
<u>18th</u>	Working Bee at Clubrooms. (Woody)
<u>20th</u>	Newsletter cut off.
<u>24th</u>	Bring and Buy (Neville Robinson ph 3456683)
<u>Friday Nights</u>	Club nights 5pm– 7pm. All welcome

!! LOOK CLUB EVENTS COMING UP !!

A **CLUB WORKING BEE** is scheduled for Saturday morning **June 18th** at the club rooms, bring paint brushes, cleaning gear, step ladders. Windows need cleaning and general maintenance etc. morning tea to be provided from Friday nights pot luck left over's, [hopefully]
See you all there, cheers Woody.

17th June Potluck theme is Christmas Dinner

With the cold weather well and truly upon us what better way to warm up than to have a Christmas dinner mid-winter. Your social committee will do their best to give a Christmas atmosphere to the Clubrooms. All we need is fellowship and a contribution to the feast from the rest of you. Search out those forgotten Christmas puddings left over from last Christmas. They will be somewhere in your pantry, I'm sure.

For those of us who have never celebrated Christmas in the colder climates of the world, let's make this one to remember! I am sure you have many one pot dishes for just such an occasion. It is always exciting to see what wonderful dishes our club members and/or partners can prepare. The smells and looks of these dishes are amazing. Well done to those of you who contribute, without you these dinner evenings would not be the same. Ladies, don't forget your Christmas earrings. We look forward to seeing you all at this dinner. If you have never been to one of our potluck evenings before we look forward to seeing you there. Remember, if you bring guests make sure your contribution includes them.

Social Committee

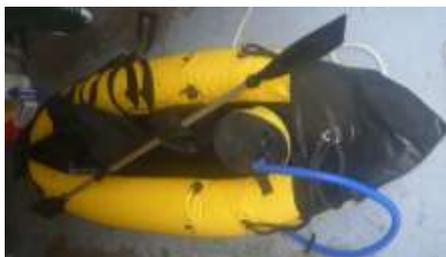
For Sale

Inflatable canoe, complete with keels, paddle, back rest, gear bag and pump. In very good condition and ideal for fishing on the lakes or river adventures. **\$500**

3 metre aluminium dinghy complete with centre board, keel, mast, and oars. (unfortunately no sail.) Can be used without sailing gear as a small fishing dinghy with outboard **\$500**

These craft belonged to the late Tony Rawlings and his wife Colleen would like them to go to good homes rather than not being used and deteriorating.

Contact Colleen Rawlings, phone number 07 347 8069



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Check out the website for details of the Fish of the month competition !

REPORT ON EASTERN REGION FISH & GAME COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND
MEETING 13 APRIL 2011

The last two meetings have been preceded by workshops dealing with a review of the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan, this review being required of all F&G regions every 10 years. This review is ongoing, and will likely result in some modifications to the Plan.

Of interest to anglers, the Council meeting proper considered:

Water quality and Quantity: A major development on engineering options for lake remediation is the progress of destratifying machines in L. Rotoehu. These are large underwater tubes through which air is pumped in, mixing the upper and lower water layers in an attempt to prevent anoxic conditions developing in the lower layers, so nutrients are not released from the sediments. If successful, this process may be used in L. Rotorua. The Land & Water Forum have completed their public meetings and will report on these soon.

Access: Timberlands have announced that they will now be charging an annual \$50 fee for a permit to drive in the forest. However there is no change to the policy of only opening the forest during times of low fire risk, and then on weekends only. Generally negative feedback has been received, and Council is to pursue better options for anglers. Rob Pitkethley reported that Fish & Game have informed Timberlands that users are not happy with the permit fees and that he had again offered Fish & Game's services to manage the issuing of permits to licence holders and would continue to pursue this.

F&G staff are gathering information about reported and suspected cases of "exclusive capture", for commercial gain, of angling waters within the Eastern region. It is clear that there is a wide range of issues involved. The NZ Council is gathering information on the feasibility of closing waters subject to exclusive capture, and this option to combat the problem might soon be available.

Development of the 2011-12 Operational Work Plan: Discussion considered priorities, projects and performance targets for developing into the 2011-12 OWP. Access, public awareness, and water quality/quantity were among the topics of interest to anglers. Council also discussed some fishery related matters like Te Wairoa Stream spawning enhancement and aquatic weed control areas and making sure these were catered for in the OWP.

2011-12 Anglers Notice: Review of the Anglers Notice (ie the Angling Regulations for the season) is undertaken annually, and will be completed at the June Council meeting. At this stage, no major changes are contemplated, though this may change after all angler and club submissions have been considered. There was agreement by Council that the current Anglers Notice was complicated and difficult to follow and interpret. Staff noted they had attempted to create some more graphic regulation guides for the complicated areas and this was continuing.

Species Monitoring: The Rotorua Lakes 2010 opening day report was tabled. This has been reported to the public via the F&G Reel Life newsletter.

Briefly, Lakes Rotoiti and Tarawera experienced catch rates slightly less than 2009, and fish sizes significantly smaller, though the autumn released Rotoiti fish bucked this trend. Lake Okataina produced a significantly better catch rate and fish size than 2009. Matt Osborne added that he had seen improvement in the Tarawera fish over the last two months.

Management Report: The Management Report was discussed briefly and Cr Lindsay Lyons commented on concerns about the water clarity of the Rangitaiki, particularly the Otamatea Stream which has been known to be crystal clear. Rob Pitkethley advised that the problem was suspected to be a result of diffuse discharges from agricultural work on 100's of acres of land upstream. He said that the Regional Council were aware of the problem but currently their focus was on the Rotorua Lakes. Rob was due to meet with BOP Regional Council Group Managers and would raise this then.

Hatchery Operations: The Te Wairoa trap is in operation, and superior trout will again be captured and used in the hatchery breeding programme. Attempts will be made to include angler-caught fish from Tarawera, Okataina and Rotoiti in the breeding programme, as has been done in the past. The main problem is that of keeping fish alive and well while awaiting pick-up by F&G staff. I hope to be able to report further on this next month. Annual autumn releases at all the release points will be under way in early May.

Neal Hawes Councillor, ERF&G



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TROPHY MASTERS REPORT

FISH OF THE MONTH FOR May 2011 was Chris Taylor with a 3.18 kg rainbow, competition was intense this month with Pete Finlay weighing in a 3.1 kg fish, then Bryan Taylor pipped him with a 3.15 kg fish, then Chris weighed in the above to eclipse them both.

Chris 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.

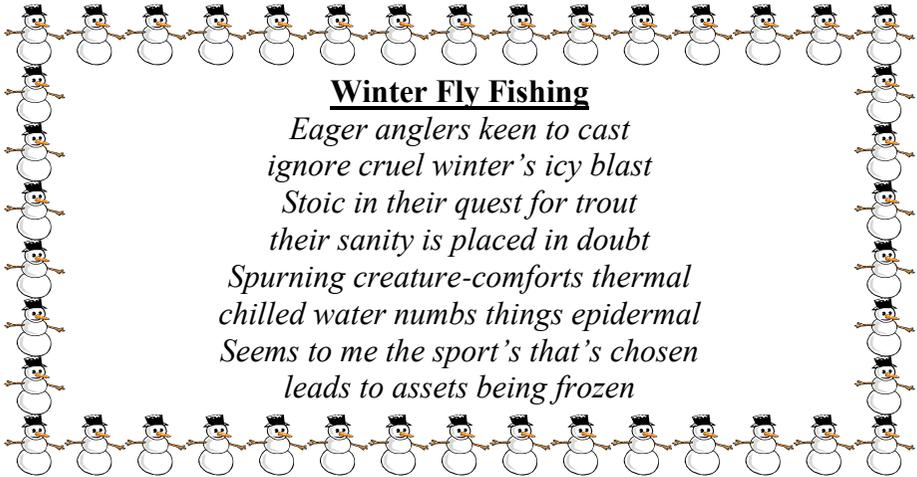
Trophymaster Bevan Lash

Get your tickets in our raffle

The Pheasant Tail Lodge has offered us a fabulous prize for a raffle. The prize includes two nights accommodation and Breakfasts. They are situated 5 minutes walk from the Whirinaki river at Galatea. The hosts have asked that the lucky winners give feedback to them and report back to the Club about their experience, this will be published in a future issue of this magazine. Their website is

www.Pheasanttaillodge.co.nz

We also have \$30 vouchers from the Great Outdoorsman to add to the prizes. This was donated by Neal Hawes who won them at the Lake Aniwhenua Challenge.



Winter Fly Fishing

*Eager anglers keen to cast
ignore cruel winter's icy blast
Stoic in their quest for trout
their sanity is placed in doubt
Spurning creature-comforts thermal
chilled water numbs things epidermal
Seems to me the sport's that's chosen
leads to assets being frozen*

Anglers in South Canterbury are mourning the loss of fellow Timaru fisherman Francis Paton Sanders, who died after the boat he was in capsized on Lake Alexandrina on Friday evening April 22nd.

"Frank was a very hardworking member of our committee for a number of years. He's going to be sorely missed," South Canterbury Anglers Club president Gerald Whiting told The Timaru Herald yesterday. "We have to support Frank's family and hope it doesn't happen again."

It was customary for club members to place their favourite flies on the coffin at members' funerals and he expected a "big presence" to farewell Mr Sanders who, along with three other men, was on board a rowboat that overturned about 5pm on Lake Alexandrina.

Tekapo police senior constable Brent Swanson said none of the people in the boat had been wearing a lifejacket.

"It's incredibly frustrating that the messages are being put out there - the Search and Rescue Council recently put out a new safety message - and people still aren't abiding," he said.

It was time for the club to review whether it would make the wearing of lifejackets compulsory for members, he said. "We have to make some good come of this."

Club rules already made it compulsory for children and anglers fishing at night to don lifejackets if they were using either of the club's two boats at Lake Alexandrina. It was believed the men had been in the water for two hours before three managed to get to shore and raise the alarm. The combination of movement on the boat, wind and the boat's old-style flat bottom could have been contributing factors to the accident, "The weather at the time was mild but a strong nor'wester was blowing across the lake." "It's probably time for everybody to start to realise that accidents happen and, with cold water, and especially at this time of year, with a lot of heavy clothing on the chances of survival are reduced."

CONCERNS GROWING OVER THE TAUPO TROUT FISHERY

DOC Media Release – 29/03/2011

As the Taupo region begins to look forward to the coming winter and the onset of tradition winter pursuits like skiing and fly fishing, there is considerable concern among anglers and angling businesses over the state of the Taupo Fishery.

In spring the lake fishing started well with large numbers of smaller fish just under the legal length, and very high catch rates. However, as summer progressed the fishing in the space of several weeks suddenly became hard, and the Department of Conservation's smelt monitoring programme also showed a lack of smelt along the lake shore. Smelt are the primary bait fish in Lake Taupo, and make up the large proportion of the diet of trout in the lake.

As a result of environmental factors the smelt numbers in the lake went through a major decline 3 years ago, and this was made obvious by the poor condition of the trout in the lake at that time. "The situation appears different this time" says Glenn Maclean, Technical Support Manager of the Department of Conservation, "as we are seeing amongst the catch some very good trout, which is a vast improvement on recent years. We are also getting reports that the good fish which are being caught have stomachs full of smelt. However there just aren't a lot of trout about and that is something of a concern. There is no escaping that the fishing has been hard work in recent months. As we expect the trout to follow the smelt in the lake either the smelt have moved out into the open waters away from where anglers fish, or alternatively become very scarce. Smelt abundance is very difficult to monitor and predict."

"We are very aware of the understandable concerns the community has over the fishery", says Dave Lumley, Area Manager for the Department of Conservation "and it would be great to be in a position to definitely say what is going on out in the lake in terms of smelt production. For now, we can't provide that advice, but we are working hard to firstly measure the smelt population using complex acoustic techniques and if there is a problem, to understand what it is.

Theories abound as to what may be happening in the great lake, but data is sketchy about the lake ecosystem. One thing that is known is there have been subtle changes in how the ecosystem of the lake functions, but the department doesn't know yet whether these changes have an effect on the smelt and trout. "Unfortunately if there is an issue as a consequence of these changes in the little animals or zooplankton that live in the lake and which feed the smelt then there is no quick fix", warns Glenn, "as there is no point releasing more trout if there is nothing to feed them.

At this point there is no obvious reason why the fishery should not be fine but the next few months will begin to provide some answers, as the spawning runs begin and the Department is able to get a better assessment of the numbers and condition of trout in the lake. However, recent improvements in the lake fishing give hope that the trout have spent the summer out in the open waters rather than disappeared all together. For more information:

Contact - Glenn Maclean - Taupo-nui-a-Tia Area Office

Caption Competition



Here is a photo taken by Woody, of Neal H trying to get into his wife's waders which he grabbed by mistake in his haste to go fishing!

The winning caption is ;

“ Legless again!!”

Submitted by Ziggy.

He wins a \$10 voucher from the Outdoorsman Headquarters.

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Magic Moments

Hubby and I popped through for a couple of days to **Lake Waikaremoana** last week. Had good rain while there which muddied everything up nicely. Packed up for home on last day and thought, give it an hour in the now greener clearing river. First cast had a decent whack.....2nd cast hooked up on the 4.6 lb (no not kg unfortunately.....one day!!!) rainbow hen.....ran, played and jumped just how I like it. Once landed cast 2x more and away went the line again. Thought he was heading back to the lake. GREAT STUFF!!! Very shifty 2.5lb jack who knew some cute tricks of his own but well set beaded green woolly bugger mean't he was home to the smoker. Thought it was worth sending it through to you as out of town fish are a change of scenery. Looking forward to mid June when I go for my annual week in there with mates from Wairoa angling club. This wee trip was a bonus for me. Don't go in as much as I would like. Magic place!!

Cheers to all.

Heather Fargher.

[see photo on opposite page](#)

Tuki Trip Crew



Canal monster:
Lake Tekapo fishing guide Barry Clark with the 25lb rainbow trout he caught in the canal near the Lake Tekapo A powerhouse



Magnificent trout caught by our guest speaker from California at L Tarawera.





A misty morning at Lake Okataina