

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED



Jude Dawson, one of the trophy prize winners from last year is at it again, with a beautiful 3.6 kg. Brown from L Rotorua
Not bad for her first fish of the season

November 2011



President Wade Fleet and Anglers Club members releasing fish into Lake Rerewhaitu, recently (see report inside)



Neal Hawes with a fish from the Ruakituri

Barry Brown with a fish caught using the Dark Art, see his story



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.
- ◆ 10% Discount 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

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
SECRETARY	Shaun Wyatt	349 6116
TREASURER	Don Stotter	345 9222
CLUB CAPTAINS	Nigel Wilkinson	349 0336
	Manuel Saiz	0274 484171
COMMITTEE	Terry Wood	345 5587
	Peter Finlay	021 2106164
	Bryan Taylor	357 2216
	Piet Otto	350 2200
WEBSITE WEBMASTER	Eddie Bowman	3485652
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Roger Bowden	348 7816
TROPHY MASTER	Nigel Wilkinson	349 0336
SUB-COMMITTEES (conveners)		
KIDS' FISHOUT	Terry Wood	345 5587
A-Z SCHOOL	Roger Bowden	348 7816
ACTIVITIES (Trips)	Nigel and Manuel	
(Flytying)	Shaun Wyatt	349 6116
SOCIAL	TBA	
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. Our email address is rotoruaanglers@gmail.com

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**



A warm welcome to the new committee. Get to see such enthusiasm already. And although those on committee do a job, I wish them all the enjoyment that such roles can bring, I know I enjoy what we do.

The recent visit by Rene Vaz I hear was well attended and although the weather didn't make the evening very easy, a great event and evening never the less.

We are now into BBQ season, with the first one held mid last month. I was so pleased to see so many helpers ensuring the work load was light for all. We are lucky enough this year to have two fine candidates vie for club captain. It was decided rather than have an election, we are to have both gentlemen share the role. This I am sure will mean we have all areas of the trips, the clubrooms and bar well covered and maybe a few more event evenings, thanks all.

Myself and three others, Terry Wood, David Keay and Colin Smart had the pleasure of assisting Mark and Lloyd on a tag, clip and liberation day. Personally something I had never been involved with in the past and a good way to give a little back to Fish and game as well as the fishery we all enjoy. I know we did apologise several times to Mark but once again we promise to clip the right- I mean the correct – left fin next time.. aye lads.

An ingenious system devised by Loyd assisted us greatly in processing the four thousand fish in far from record times. Without it I am sure we would have been there until late afternoon. Two bins enabled us to work in pairs at bench height, with scoops of netted fish, put to sleep with a magic few drops of a secret liquid, and then the left adipose fin carefully but fully removed with scissors. The fish then returned to water via a third bin that had a constant flow of water running down PVC downpipes 50 metres to the awaiting fish transport tanker- that I must say is this year fielding a smart new design and sign-writing. A great way to attract interest from the public.

Unfortunately Lloyd's jokes weren't as good as the morning tea that we where lucky enough to enjoy with the EF&G team but kept the mood light hearted.

At around lunch time we then headed out to Lake Rerewhakaaitu for the final step and as those that get The Daily Post would have seen, the weather although a bit windy, was fine enabling us to liberate our mornings work. I did stay on to try my hand at catching previous years release but after only 30 minutes was turned home with the onset of rain and strong winds.

I would like to thank Mark, Lloyd and the rest of the team for allowing us to participate in what I have to say was a thoroughly enjoyable day. Do please invite us again and we will leave “righty” to assist in the even years. :)

With longer days now we have reduced the fly tying back to monthly to enable our tiers to get a break and enjoy some long awaited fishing. Get along to ensure your fly boxes and knowledge is topped up again for new season.

We will soon have a clubrooms cleaning few hours and will be asking for volunteers to assist, all that is needed is a smile and an acceptance for getting a little wet, as well as bringing elbow grease. This is likely to be a week night to save our weekends for better things. This will be communicated via email.

One last thing, the recent tragedy in the Bay of Plenty is, I am sure, on all of our minds, and I wish the teams cleaning up as well as risking their lives, smooth seas. If you can help out as a volunteer please do put your name down. Although we are primarily a fresh water club, this is an event that will affect all areas of fishing. As I write this I am at Opotiki anticipating an oil slick to cover our beach. Daily checks so far have shown no sign but oil-covered containers at Te Kaha do not fill me with much hope Waiotahi will miss it. Although the whitebait are still running.

Well until next month, happy fishing.

Wade Fleet RAA President

Committee Meeting



October

Matters arising

TV mounted, Terry to arrange shelf to house DVD and video. Curtains to be hung to hide TV from view when TV's not in use.

Correspondence:

Emails: Invite by Fish & Game to assist with Rerewhakaaitu release.

Fish and Game councillor report: Meeting next Wednesday 19 October

Membership Report:

A warm welcome to New Members: Bob & Kay Graham and Robert McGee

Activities/Trips - Bryan Taylor

Waihou trip to be planned for November.

Building - Terry Wood—Pre Xmas working bee to be organised

Fly-tying - Shaun Wyatt—Next evening to be held 14th November.

Kids Fish-out - Terry Wood—Next (and final) KFO scheduled for November 13th.

Social Convener to be decided—BBQ this Friday night

Fish of the month: Quentin Botha. 3Kg brown from Lake Rotorua

Photo of the month: A-Z practical day by Michael Bester

General Business:

Club roles decided

Club Captain — Nigel Wilkinson and Manuel Saiz

Trips — Nigel W and Manuel S

Building — Terry Wood and Pete Otto

Kids Fish-Out — Terry Wood

Fly Tying — Shaun Wyatt

A-Z — Roger Bowden for March course. New convener to be sought for August

Trophy Master - Nigel Wilkinson

Magazine Editor — Roger Bowden

Website — Eddie Bowman

Key register to be updated. All committee have full set of keys.

2012 events calendar dates were tabled and ratified.

Rene Vaz visit. Hosts organized and TV set up for multimedia show.

Bar roster to be updated.

General—comments about the state of the boat ramp at Lake Ngapouri. Terry and

Wade to investigate

Meeting closed at 9:03pm.

Secretary Shaun Wyatt

Ruakituri and other things.

John Mc.Carron has been telling me about this river for some years so when Neal Hawes invited me to come and fish the opening weekend with him I jumped at it. Actually I think I invited myself. I flew in on the Tuesday prior and we spent a couple of days getting organized – licence etc. Off Friday to the Ruakituri.

We stopped and fished the Waioeka for an hour or so on the way without sighting any fish. Arrived at our accommodation (Shearer's quarters) to find Han already ensconced. The remainder of the group (9 of us) straggled in through the night. What a motley mix, 2 Kiwis, 2 South Africans, 1 Dutchman, 1 Malayan Chinese, 2 Aussies and 1 Tasmanian (we don't count them as Aussies). All but 2 of us NZ residents. After the usual arguments about who had to put up with sharing a room with who, or in other words first in best dressed, the lies started and got worse as the weekend progressed.

Brown's Law – The size of the lie is inversely proportional to the level in the bottle.

There was considerable doubt as to the weather as the forecast wasn't the best so we spread ourselves over various sections of the river and got into it with varying degrees of success. The fish appeared to be concentrated in some sections and not others.

I started in my usual manner, spotted a fish and managed to hook a bush with my first 2 backcasts. Inconsiderate fish got sick of waiting and sauntered off.

Saturday & Sunday were fairly frustrating for Neal and myself. I hooked and landed a fish on the first few casts both mornings, then couldn't get a fish to the net for the rest of the day. Neal didn't fare much better, spending a considerable amount of time decorating the landscape with bits and pieces of his fly gear...a bit like a dog staking out his beat.

After a frustrating weekend Monday arrived and the weather gods decided they had had enough entertainment from this part of the world, packing up their wind and clouds leaving us to blue sky and what turned out to be a blue ribbon day.

The stretch of river we fished was full of fish. I pulled 5 from 1 run or was that 1 from 5 runs, anyway Neal had a similar experience in another pool. At last a great days fishing, we deserved it!

It started raining after lunch when the gods decided it was too hard to go elsewhere, but not enough to be a problem. By that night it was getting serious and by Tuesday morning as we were leaving the river was chocolate coloured & running a banker. Can't believe how lucky we were, the gods must have taken pity on we poor souls.

Next on the program was Waikaremoana.

After some sightseeing en route we dumped our gear at the hut and went back to float tube Tau Lake. I hooked into a good fish first up and had it on the surface supposedly beaten, stupid me, when it busted me off while I was trying to work out how to unclip the net that was caught around my wading staff which was jammed inside my waders. Neal landed a couple of smaller fish but I'd done my dash.

Wednesday we walked up to Lake Waikareiti and hired a rowing boat. Neal suggested that perhaps I'd like to row for a while as I was younger so we headed off, discovering that the fish were in deep water at the bottom of the drop offs.

"Oh, haven't you got a sinking line Barry?" What a pity. Never mind, you just keep rowing and I'll catch us a few fish". So I did and he did.

As we headed home the following day I was awestruck by the scenery and still can't fathom how anyone can hunt deer in country as thick and rugged as we were driving through.

Stopped for lunch and a fish at the headwaters of the Whakatane. Neal sent me off to risk life and limb crossing and recrossing downstream to get to water which he assured me was lousy with fish, while he would just stay around and have throw in a couple of crappy, fishless pools near the car.

I returned, having seen no sign of fish, again crossing and recrossing the stream, to find a large fish which he claimed had attacked his fly in spite of his best efforts to get away from it.

On to the Whirinaki. Again sent across the river with only my wading staff separating me from disaster to fish a run that I was assured had never failed to yield fish. Guess what?

Back at Rotorua and two weary blokes still managed to struggle to the CT club chauffeured by Ailsa for a few drinks and dinner which revived us somewhat.

Friday became a Barry free day for Neal when Eddie and John took pity on him and took me for a course of instruction in the Dark Art which cannot be named

On arrival at Eddie's I was blindfolded and asked to recite " the Wallaby's are a joke" for the entire trip. We reached their secret spot on some lake that I think started with "T". When the blindfold was removed it became apparent that one or two (hundred) others also knew the secret spot.

Not being judged sufficiently skilled in this art a fully rigged rod with perfectly tied Mc.Carron flies attached was handed to me with a presentation on the use thereof.

Meticulously following instructions I was lowered to the instructed depth with goggles and net in hand as John bounced me up and down to the tune of Pink Floyd's "Sheep" coming from the CD. it has for a number of years fascinated both myself and brother Geoff as to how happy the Kiwi male is when they are singing or listening to songs about sheep.

Anyway, lo and behold, I caught a fish. Then another. And another.

At this point my instructor began to get quite agitated and I was hoisted out of the water and back on board as he had yet to get a strike. To placate him I suggested that his lack of success was due to the time he was spending positioning me at the right depth.

After I caught the sixth fish John (still fishless) sent a text message to Hawsey and my brother Geoff in Aus. warning them that I was about to become even more insufferable. Neal suggested that they throw me back overboard without an attachment, Geoff that they burn my passport.

I finished up with a limit of 8 magnificent fish while Eddie, in his usual serene manner, quietly caught his share. John eventually salvaged his pride by tossing Eddie overboard as well.

Saturday was a much needed rest day as Sunday we were off with Cliff on his boat Snapper fishing.

Another great day. Thoroughly outfished by all others on board, I caught all the tiddlers.

We moved inshore to chase Kawahai on the fly rods and that's when the fun started, with two or three of us hooked up at once. Chaos. A first for me, I'll be spending some time chasing them at home after this.

Neal drove over 1,000k in the time we were away, insisting that I look at the scenery as he'd seen it all before. Or maybe he just didn't trust my driving.

I'm writing notes on the plane on my way home and still can't believe what an incredible time I've had.

The amazing hospitality, Ailsa and Neal have totally disrupted their lives for the past two weeks to ensure that I had a great time.

John, Eddie and Cliff, who put themselves out to take me fishing and gave me the best shot at catching them.

I can't really find the words to express my gratitude to these friends.

Barry Brown.

(With additional sarcastic comments from Geoff)



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - NOVEMBER 2011

<u>8th</u>	Committee meeting 7 pm.
<u>11th</u>	Full Moon
<u>13th</u>	Last Kids fishout at Fish and Game Hatchery (T Wood)
<u>14th</u>	Fly Tying (Shaun Wyatt)
<u>18th</u>	BBQ at Clubrooms. All welcome.
<u>20th</u>	Newsletter cut off.
<u>25th</u>	New Moon
<u>27th</u>	Lake Rotorua club Day trip (Bevan Lash)
<u>Friday Nights</u>	Club nights 5pm- 7pm. All welcome

TV FOR SALE

The club has a 19 inch Panasonic TV that is now surplus to requirements. It is in new condition as it has been used only very occasionally. Comes complete with remote and rabbits ears. Would be ideal for the bedroom or Kids room.

Only \$50 to the first applicant

Ring Shaun Wyatt on 3496116 (evenings)

XMAS RAFFLE TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

The very good prize is illustrated below, this has been generously donated by our members. It features a TCA. 9 foot # 8 weight 2 piece fly rod, complete with a fully lined rod tube. It is teamed up with a TCA. wide arbour, disc drag reel spooled with a Scientific anglers # 9 weight floating fly line and a neoprene reel bag. There is also a crafted wooden net to complete this classy outfit, which is ideal for the Rotorua area. 2nd and 3rd prizes are meat packs.

The tickets will be available at the clubrooms on Friday nights. Also if you can help with selling books please contact organiser Roger Bowden on 348 7816.



NEWSLETTER ON WEBSITE

Your newsletter editor (Roger Bowden) and website master (Eddie Bowman) have been working to put the Club's Newsletter in PDF format and an example of this is currently on the club's website www.rotoruaanglers.org.nz . If you wish to receive your future copies by email please indicate to the club's email address at rotoruaanglers@gmail.com This would result in considerable savings to the Club enabling us to pass on benefits to members, not to mention saving trees/planet.



**Sierra High Grade CC3 Breathable waders (3 layer) \$249 and
Sierra Boots \$199**

**Thermodry Thermal underwear was \$69.99 now \$39.99 Top and bottom
Composite CDX wading jacket now only \$199.99**

Large new range of flies at competitive prices.

Darryn and Janine Simpson

1113 Eruera Street, Rotorua, New Zealand
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Email: okeefefishnz@xtra.co.nz

**Check out the website for details of the Fish of the month competition !
10% RAA member discount with membership card.**

Trade Me Motors > Boats & marine > Motorboats

Cheap Boat

Asking price: \$1 | Listed: Wed 12 Oct, 12:56pm | Item # 414771343

Type: Steel
 Length: 230 Metres (774 Feet)
 Year: 1990
 Engine: 8500 HP, Inboard
 Engine year: 1990
 Engine hours: 74856hrs

We've had heaps of fun with this boat, but now find we don't really need it anymore. Moored at Tauranga. Its a good solid boat that can handle up to a 5 metre swell without breaking up. Tends to ride with one side a bit low, but we found that if you put something really heavy on the other side its fine. HEAPS of storage room for fishing gear etc. 25 toilets. There's a whole range of electronic gadgetry up at the helm, but we never really use those so I can't really say how good they are. One had a noisy buzzer and flashing red light last time, so we unplugged it. Also, there might be something a bit funny with the propeller, because when we put it in gear and rev the motor up she doesn't seem to go forward. I'm sure its nothing too serious, maybe just needs the bolt tightening. Leaks a little bit of oil so you have to keep an eye on the level. Apart from that, she's a sweet boat. There's a few bottles of wine on board which we'll leave for you if you're real quick. Container ship here




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Last Kids Fishout Sunday November 13th

Doesn't time fly, it's the last children's fish out programme for the year already and, as usual, it is out at the Fish and Game hatchery, situated at Paradise Valley, Ngongotaha.. We are calling for all volunteers to help out with this very worthwhile and satisfying club activity.

We request helpers turn up around 8.30 am. This children's pursuit is a very popular event, and our own community, along with visitors to Rotorua, enjoy this fly fishing experience. If you can spare the time to be there for the two sessions, or just either the morning or afternoon session, we would be very pleased to see you.

The programme involves teaching children the art of casting and fly fishing to catch their very own trout. The club needs up to 30 helpers with a variety of jobs to do. Key stations to cover are ; helping with the B B Q, selling children's licences, guides to officiate and give directions to the children through the various stations, and of course, helping the children catch their trout. We also need volunteers to help with the weighing, plus folk to help in the kitchen. Do come along even if you are not sure what to do. Everyone will be made thoroughly welcome.

Lunch will be served between noon and 1.pm. Soup and bread etc. thanks to our sponsors and Fish and Game who kindly support the club with on going generosity.

If anyone would like further information , please give me a call on 07 345 5587
 cheers,
 Woody, Club convenor.



Lake fills to gills with trout

Each year more than 100,000 trout are released into Rotorua's lakes and in the last few days it was the turn of Lake Rerewhakaaitu to be stocked up.

Rotorua anglers did their bit for the re-stock, helping Eastern Region Fish and Game officers with a major trout release into one of their favourite fishing lakes on Wednesday.

Fish and Game officer Mark Sherburn said local anglers and his staff had released about 4000 1-year-old rainbow trout into Lake Rerewhakaaitu.

Rotorua Anglers Association members had been a great help, clipping fins for identification at the Paradise Valley Road trout hatchery and helping staff release them into local lakes, Mr Sherburn said. "It's a labour-intensive process as all 100,000 fish liberated by the Eastern Region annually need to be either fin-clipped or tagged," he said.

"It's great to get the fishing club members involved as they've had a long-standing relationship with Fish and Game, contributing a lot over the years to our work. We value their contribution and want to see it continue."

Local anglers were also the backbone of their kids' "fish out" days, when veterans taught youngsters to fish.

It was appropriate that anglers had helped with the fish for Rerewhakaaitu because it was a popular spot for them, he said.

So far this spring, 35,000 trout had been released into Rotorua's lakes. The trout were transported in a purpose-built "trout truck", sign-written to make people aware of its important role.

See photo inside front cover!

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TROPHY MASTERS REPORT

FISH OF THE MONTH FOR September was Quentin Botha with a 3kg. Brown Hen from L Rotorua, c/f 47.75 Quentin 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 Nigel Wilkinson

Fishing licence draw

Winner of the free Adult full season fishing licence, drawn from the list of people who weighed fish in last year was ; **Judy Dawson**, congratulations Jude. Be sure to support the competition this year and you will be eligible for this great prize to be drawn at next year's prizegiving.

There was a total of 42 fish weighed in, being 33 Senior men, 4 ladies and 5 Juniors. There were 4 fish of over 4 kgs. of which 2 were Browns and 2 Rainbows.

Tight lines and stretched scales!!!

It would be great to have more entries this season. A free senior licence will be drawn from all entries received. Hopefully this might encourage more entries. In addition to this, the prizegiving night is a popular and enjoyable night, with entertainment provided. The list of trophies available for entry will be regularly featured in future issues along with the monthly trophymasters report. The list of weighmasters is inside the front cover.

Alternatively members can bring their scales to the club and get them calibrated correctly and witnessed by a committee member, then they can use them to weigh their fish - all they have to do is get someone to witness the weigh-in - they can even weigh the fish in a scale-net or plastic bag, and release the fish if they wish to. So you see there is a wide range of options for weighing in your fish and the fun of winning some worthwhile prizes and a great night out to boot.

We will also be running a "Fish of the Month" competition for the best fish weighed in each month, the prize will be a \$10 voucher from Hamills.

All this **must** encourage you members to weigh in your fish. Go for it !!!

Nigel Wilkinson Trophymaster.



Sponsors of 'Trout of the Month'

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Kilwell. NZ made S.A.S rods #5 #6 #7 #8 Free mid section (light, heavy)
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Lake Rotoehu Fishing Trip Report: 16 October 2011

Sunday the 16th dawned with heavy rain but this cleared by 8:30 am to produce a fine and sunny day. Four boats and eight anglers turned up and all had an enjoyable days fishing and camaraderie.

The level of Rotoehu is very high at present, as are all our Rotorua lakes and this did create one small problem in that that there was no beach available for the lunchtime picnic! However, on Saturday, whilst out on the lake I did a quick cruise around and found a grassy area on one of the farms and so we had a place to meet and eat!

The high level does seem to have one positive in that it allows large populations of smelt to breed and shelter in the cover of the plants around the edge of the lake. Fly fishers enjoyed the experience of catching fish right under their feet amongst the teetree bushes and rushes. This is exciting fishing as the trout were chasing smelt right into the shore!

It was pleasing to note that a new member to our club, Anthony, had a "ball", landing four fish harling and another two on the fly rod. Well done! It was also great to see a fishermen using the skills learned on the last trip once again gain success. Every lake has its own peculiarities and the fisherman needs to build up a repertoire of skills for different lakes and conditions.

On Sunday we had four boats and eight anglers who landed a total of eighteen fish and who dropped just as many. A number of fish broke off due to being hooked in the very shallow water at the lake's edge.

In summary, a great day was had by all with Lake Rotoehu once again living up to its reputation for producing fish.

Regards Peter West

Bigger is Best By Larry Ware

All men are conditioned to believe that Bigger is Best – Mine is Bigger than Yours – when one mans’ is bigger than the others he is looked upon with envy and respect- and if really big -with awe, boats and fish we are talking about ,what were you thinking of !!

Boat #1 was a 2.5m Southern Pacific inflatable with an 8hp Suzuki on the back . This boat was bought to scuba dive out of but it proved to be more fun when used as a submarine on the lakes. The game was to have an unsuspecting friend in the bow, honk across the lake and when coming off the back of a wave suddenly shut off the throttle, this had the amazing effect of the bow nose diving straight under water –the poor person in the bow would suddenly find water up to their chin and the boat standing on it’s nose. I would drop the back down and throttle up again and the water would drain out the back and away we would go. Lots of fun.

Boat #2 was a freebie from my Brother in Law, but I was to find out very quickly there is no such thing as a “free boat”. This was an original late 1950s 3.5m Parkercraft - flat bottomed, slab sided , 2mm aluminium, and all riveted and folded and leaking from every rivet. No problem I thought, I will drill out the rivets and replace them with brass nuts and bolts and silicone sealer. I put the boat up on trestles, filled her full of water, and replaced each leaking rivet - \$300+ worth of brass nuts ,bolts, washers and silicone sealer later there were no more leaks. Next I had to put a tow bar on the car and build a trailer – another \$600+ . Now I am not a fan of rowing, so a brand new 15hp Johnson went on the back - \$2800 worth, by now my free boat had cost at least \$4000. As the boat was so old the aluminium hull was now pretty thin from being dragged around so in went a wooden floor . To keep things dry I built a small windscreen and a large dry box went between the two seats, plus I had to put some “wings” on the side as the water came in, but they made the boat too heavy so on went a trailer winch and a home made roller system using old ringer washing machine rollers – again looked rough but worked great. On the water this boat was dangerous at speed, if you had the balance right she was fine , but get something or someone off centre and she would dig a chine in and veer sharply in that direction. The end came on a club trip to Rotoehu when we tried to ferry 4 people across the lake –it was a little windy and rough and I could not steer her straight so we abandoned that trip and boat # 3 was on the cards. #2 was sold via Bay Trader and as I was to find out later used extensively and very successfully sea fishing out of Tauranga Harbour. I did not tell the new owner that brass ,aluminium and salt water meant serious electrolysis and the boat being eaten away under you.

Boat #3 was spotted at the Auckland Boat Show, a 3.6m Sevylor Fish Hunter – another inflatable. This was used extensively on upper Flaxy Lake, Deep Creek, Upper Aniwhenua and and Ohiwa Harbour before the urge to modify it hit me. Now you cannot do much to a blow up boat so the first mods were to the trailer from #2 which I had kept. I covered the trailer in and built a lock up box into it and kept the boat blown up. For seating comfort I put two planks across her and fitted cut down warehouse plastic seats on swivel bases and carpet on the ends.

This worked brilliantly and I recommend anybody with a small tinny look at doing the same thing as the comfort factor with the full back support was great. A friend gave me a 2hp TAS outboard which I stripped down and ported and polished and turned it into a little screamer, and I finally purchased a fish finder. I had always wanted a boat more suitable for sea fishing, but definitely set up for Fly Fishing so regularly trolled the classifieds. My criteria was first and foremost that my car must be able to tow it safely as I only had an 1800cc 4 cyl. Toyota, I had been on a couple of trips where the boat controlled the tow car and it frightened the hell out of me so I concluded that a centre console would give me the size without the weight. It took another 2 years before I found one that fitted the bill -and the pocket. Off to Roger's Boat Shop in Auckland and soon a 5m Dorado Fisherman was on its way back to Rotorua. On our first family outing to Rotoiti it almost ended there and then – on the way out the wind sucked a brand new life jacket out of the console and before we could turn around and pick it up some scum bag stopped and stole it - my wife blamed me. Then to really rub it in as we were trying to tie up at the hot pools jetty my lack of time with the boat almost killed the wife – or so she claimed. It was very windy and blowing us away from the jetty so I had the wife in the bow with the rope as I nudged up to the tie off, unfortunately she did not tie us off and we started drifting back so I pushed the throttle down to bring us back and not being used to the controls I used too much throttle and we charged into and partly up onto the jetty which threw her backwards, I immediately then used too much throttle in reverse which then threw her forward and as she still had not let go the rope started dragging her forward over the bow- all the time screaming I was trying to kill her. Our family boating almost ended before it began. Fortunately she forgave me and we had plenty of fun times on Ohiwa harbour catching crabs and getting oysters.

Now Swoffa One, as my mistress was now named, was sparsely kitted out so a spending spree was in order. (Swoffa stands for salt water fly fishing angler – we go swoffing). My first sea fish caught on a fly was a snapper. Initially we fished mostly out of Tauranga and in Ohiwa harbour. To counter the beating mid day sun I had fitted a beach umbrella to the console, when we motored off we just dropped the umbrella, and front seats were again warehouse plastic chairs. These worked fine but Mistresses demand the finer things in life, no warehouse jewels for them.

So out came the wallet, and over the next 10 years almost everything was updated or modified. The trailer was extended, had new wobble rollers fitted, new mudguards, trailer coupling and jockey wheel and winch and strap. A T Top with clears, new screen, full lighting, radio, colour sounder, gps, electric capstan, new seating front and rear, new bow rail and cover and lots of other little “Larry's nick nacks”. When I had finished I reckon Swoffa One was the best kitted out centre console in the country for her size and price, I never saw another one in Trade a Boat or on Trade Me with all her features for under \$45000. After 14 years it was time to move on and just as a bigger boat was about to be purchased a new business opportunity came up and the money was used to get into this new venture.

Boat #5. As we get older some things automatically get smaller, so boat #5 follows this trend and I am back to an inflatable, this time a 3m pontoon float boat. This hasn't escaped the modification madness I suffer from and it too has had changes made, it is now fitted with an electric outboard with a foot operated steering system and a remote mounted speed controller fitted under the new swivel seat system.

Boats are an incurable disease, and just like health insurance, you keep paying forever and it never seems to get cheaper so please take pity on those of us afflicted with this terrible affliction because we will take it to our grave – and I bet I will modify my coffin as well.

Happy boating Larry.

The 20% rule

I make it a rule never to weigh or measure a fish I've caught, but simply to estimate it's dimensions as accurately as possible, and then, when telling about it, to improve those figures by roughly a fifth, or 20 per cent. I do this mainly because most people believe all fishermen exaggerate by at least 20 per cent, and so I allow for the discounting my audience is almost certain to apply!



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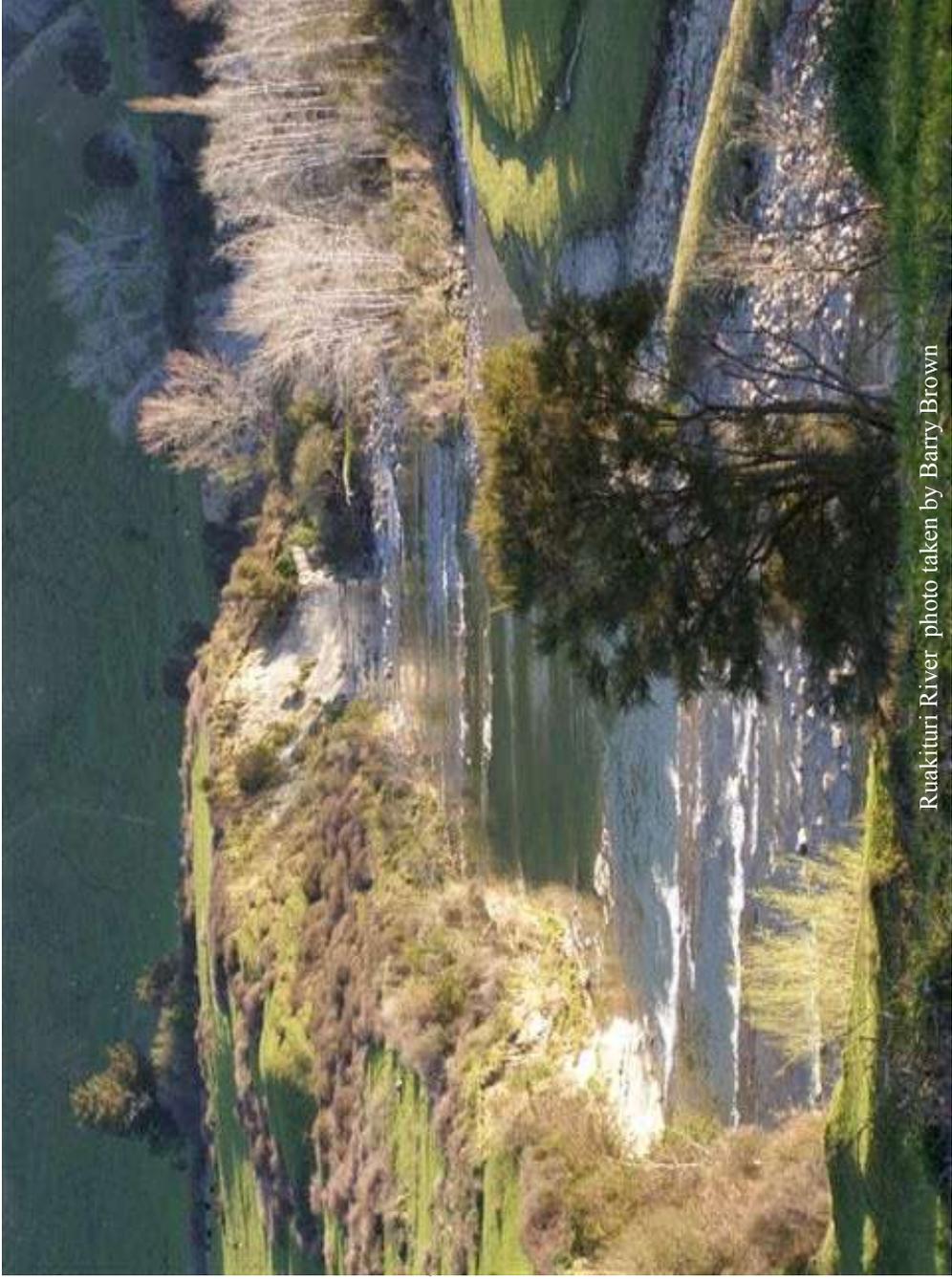
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Ruakituri River photo taken by Barry Brown