



# ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

*February 2025*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have started 2025 on a positive note. The club rooms have reopened for the Friday night get together and we have completed the first club outing of the year with a day at Hamurana. On top of this there was a successful working bee to repaint the exterior of the club rooms. Many thanks to all those who made these events a success.

This week I was able to take a couple of my grandchildren out to catch their first trout. It was wonderful to share my love of these lakes and fishing with a new generation. The club continues to foster this with our A to Z courses, helping new anglers to enjoy our lakes, rivers and streams.

I wish you all health and prosperity for the coming year.

## Club Fishing Trip February

**WHEN.** February 21st—23rd.

**Where.** Lake Aniwhenua Glen Ballinger Fishing Lodge.

**Accommodation.** 4 single beds,, share two rooms, One double bed.,seperate room.

**Cost .** \$35.00 per person per night. Day trippers, and campers welcome

**Bookings,** Contact Gavin 0212263978

**February 1st. Stream Team**

**February 3rd Fly Tying 7pm**

**February 7th Club Night**

**February 12th. Beginners Fly Tying 7pm**

**February 14th Club Night**

**February 21st Club Night**

**February 21st Committee meeting**

**February 21st—23rd . Club weekend at Lake**

**Aniwhenua**

**February 28th Club Night BBQ**



The Rotorua Angler's Association is one of a very few freshwater fishing clubs in New Zealand that own their clubrooms. Most clubs either rent or share facilities with other clubs or organizations. Of course, the privilege of ownership brings with it the responsibility of maintaining the building, and the clubrooms in Pererika Street were overdue for a wash down and a coat of paint.

An excellent research job by our club secretary David, resulted in all the paint we required being donated by Resene Paints. The only stipulation being that we could have any colour we liked as long as it was the bluey-green that they had put aside for charitable causes such as ours. As it happens, the tint was quite pleasing, and the club rooms are now looking refreshed. The front of the club building is yet to be finished. The current thinking is that it should only require a wash down.

It was very rewarding to see a good number of volunteers turn up for the project. Many hands make light work, and the painting was completed by midday.

A big thank you to all those who were able to contribute to a very necessary project.





## CLUB DAY AT HAMURANA

The Club Day at Hamurana marks the opening of the 2025 club calendar. Over 20 people turned up for our first outing of 2025. The weather was fine and warm but a bit windy.

Pete Corson hit the water early and was rewarded with 2 excellent brownies. I believe one other fish was caught but I did not witness it.

David and Marie put on a BBQ for lunch which was appreciated by all and then David handed out a few prizes – heaviest fish, best dressed, and a spot prize.

Surprisingly, (due to the lack of fish) most hit the water again after lunch and we were all gone by 3.30. I certainly enjoyed the day and it was a great start to the New Year for the club.

I posted plenty of photos on the club FB page, taken either by myself or Marie. If you want any, just download them directly off FacebookB by right clicking on the image and selecting “save image as” or contacting me directly.

Cheers Larry.



# THE FLY TYER'S DESK

## The woolly worm

The woolly worm preceded the woolly bugger and was first tied by Izaak Walton. He penned the *Complete Angler* in 1653 which is now a collector's item. If you have a few hundred thousand dollars spare, you could bid for a first-edition.

American anglers caught on to this pattern some three hundred and seventy years later and added a marabou tail. Thus the famous woolly bugger was born.



Take a hook size is your choice. We suggest a 12.

Tie the thread to the rear of the hook leaving room at the head for the hackle

Tie in a tail of red wool or glo bug material.

Tie in copper wire

Tie in chenille and advance to the front of the hook.

Tie in the hackle, take a couple of turns around the front, and work back up the hook in open turns.

Secure your wire and counter wrap to the front tie-off and whip finish.

If you have long enough hackles you can bring the hackle forward from the rear of the hook. This will double the hackle and will make a very strong fly

Note the evolution from the woolly worm too the woolly bugger now carried in the fly box of virtually every trout fisherman.



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## Your newsletter needs your contributions

This online newsletter represents a new direction for your club as we seek to develop a more efficient means of communicating with members.

**Think about contributing photographs, articles, recipes, quotations, jokes, letters to the editor.**

Send your contributions to Gavin Corbett  
[corbettgavin@gmail.com](mailto:corbettgavin@gmail.com)



# EURO NYMPHING TUITION

## Richard Pryce

In early December 2024 I attended a clinic on Euro Nymphing held at Te Waihou Blue Springs, Putaruru by Ollie Bassett.

Ollie is a member of the NZ fly fishing team which will be participating in the World Championships in the Czech Republic in May 2025. Although only in his early 20s, Ollie finished in the top 10 at the previous World Championships. So, it is fair to say that despite his youth, he is already an expert. The purpose of the clinic was to assist him with fundraising for the World Championships.

A year or so back, I had bought an entry level Euro set up but used it on a limited basis. Therefore, I was keen to learn more of the basics in the hope that I could achieve somewhere near the success my fishing mate, Gordon Caldwell recently had with his Euro rod on the Tongariro ( 16 fish in 2 hours is not bad by any standard!).

The day started at 9 am with a very desirable limited number of only 5 participants. Ollie stated from the outset that no question was a dumb or a bad question (not that I needed any encouragement on that front!). The intimate size of the group enabled a free exchange of information and for any burning issues anyone had to be dealt with. Ollie was very knowledgeable and able to explain some of the intricacies of Euro in a clear and simple manner.

The morning session involved Ollie explaining the theory of Euro, the way a rod should be set up, the lines to use and the nymphs he recommended. This was followed by a wonderful lunch provided by Ollie's mum, including some great venison sausages. After lunch we put theory into practice. Ollie gave us a demonstration of his skills on the Waihou River. It was like Mozart play the violin! A fish seemed to be caught every 2 or 3 casts, with Ollie constantly changing nymphs and the depth he was fishing at if he did not get an early success. That was the greatest impression left with me from the day. I suspect I am not alone in confessing that I probably do not vary my approach frequently enough if I do not have early success.

After Ollie's demo we shifted location to the Waimakariri River on the State Highway where there was no one else around to disrupt our fishing endeavours. Ollie spent time with each participant assisting on a practical level, for example, how techniques could be improved.

All in all it was an excellent day split evenly between theory and practice. And to answer your burning question – yes, I did manage to catch a fish !

Tips conveyed by Ollie included:

- Use the water to help load the backcast and to change direction
- Focus on being in contact with flies as they hit the water as lots of takes occur on the drop
- Try to see rather than feel the take (easily said by a young gun with sharp eyes)
- Keep your leader as thin as you can manage well
- Vary the length of the tippet to the first fly based on the depth
- Keep the tippet a bit thinner than the leader to increase the sink rate of your nymphs and to get a more natural depth
- Put the flies about 60 cm apart (when hanging vertical) with the top fly on a tag of around 15 cm.
- Use a rod in the 10-11 foot, 2-4 weight range.

Was the \$300 cost of the day worth it? Very much so. The more I have fished the more I have become to realise that you can waste significant time and money in not learning from the experts.





# OUT THERE DOING IT



Marie Hutchison

## **It all began in a land far, far away**

What a privilege to love and support them  
For they don't remember a moment ago  
But yesteryear is very dear  
Remember as they share the good times  
Some look into the distance  
Others keen to have fun  
We guided, we nurtured, we supported their endeavours  
What a beautiful day to behold  
Safe in the tranquillity of the hatchery grounds  
A Christmas outing for all.

A few thoughts on a wonderful day's collaboration between members of the Rotorua Anglers Association, the Eastern Fish and Game Hatchery and residents and staff of the Te Puke Elderly Care residents and staff. It was pure magic. The sun came out to play and so did our guests from the retirement village.

Truly heartwarming

Everyone enjoyed the vibes and the excitement of catching a fish. A great day had by all.





# EASY AS KAHAWAI CEVICHE

There seems to be a common belief among kiwi anglers that kahawai is a pest fish, best used for bait or discarded completely. Certainly not a fish that you would want to take home for the kitchen. I believe this to be a misconception. Apart from being an excellent game fish on light tackle, kahawai, if looked after properly from the time they are landed, can be baked, grilled, BBQ ed, smoked or even served as a kokoda or ceviche dish.

The decisive factor is how you look after your kahawai. The priority is to bleed the fish. It is a messy but vital factor in getting the best from your catch. With a sharp knife make a slit from the soft tissue section under the chin toward where the gills meet. You will know when you get this right. Blood will start pumping out. Be mindful of your surroundings. You don't want to be making a mess on your mate's boat. The next important task is to chill the fish down as quickly as possible. A slurry of saltwater ice and sea water is the best solution for this.

When it comes time to fillet the kahawai, the rule is “keep it cold, keep it clean.” Trim off the dark flesh and then rinse the fillets with sea water. Keep the fillets chilled until you are ready to cook them. Kahawai is at its best within twenty-four hours of catching.



## Ingredients

500gms [approx.] of freshly caught kahawai fillets

6 lemons or limes, freshly squeezed

1 400ml tin of coconut cream, well shaken

Seasonal salad vegetables, for example, cherry tomatoes, red or yellow capsicum, red onion, cucumber, celery stalks..., chopped

Fresh coriander or mint.

## Method

- Fillet and bone the fish, remove all the dark meat.
- Slice into very small cubes. As a guide, anything above 2cm would be too large.
- Place the fish cubes in a large glass or ceramic bowl
- Cover the fish cubes with freshly squeezed lemon or lime juice
- Place in the refrigerator for up to twelve hours, stirring occasionally
- The visual clue to look for is the fish cubes becoming white as the marinade “cooks” them
- Drain off the citrus juice
- Add one 400ml tin of coconut cream
- Add your choice of chopped salad vegetables Combine all the ingredients and garnish with fresh coriander or mint.
- Serve chilled in small bowls.





# CLUB DAY, LAKE REREWHAKAAITU

Marie Hutchison

On a clear day, look around you and you'll see who you are. On a clear day, how it will astound you that the glow of your being outshines every star.

It was a glorious day for a club outing to Lake Rerewhakaaitu, with blue skies and a warm breeze rolling in. Fishers had their waders on, their lines were in the water, and they tried gentle but targeted casts. Unfortunately, no amount of cajoling created interest for our fishy friends. But hey, the relaxed conversation, good food, great company, and a spectacular day more than made up for it. As they say, 'Your vibe attracts your tribe.' Be sure to join our next club outing!



The new club pergola on display



Colin Cox and Gavin Corbett



Barbeque lunch



Fishing Solo

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Graeme Dawber.

There are a number of RAA freshwater anglers who also enjoy fishing for saltwater species whether that be from a boat or from the shore. Below is a suggestion for a regular get-together for those who like fishing from the shore.

1. Suggesting that a set weekend each month be in the RAA program to cater for those fishers who enjoy shore fishing for saltwater species, e.g., 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of the month.
2. This being primarily a social weekend with no competition or prizes or fees.
3. There would be no rules regarding fishing methods. It could be surfcasting, drone fishing, kontiki, canon, net ...
4. It could be from Friday to Sunday (2 nights).
5. The locations could be camping facilities close by, whether this be a motor camp, DOC camp, free-camping area for those who wish to stay overnight. Note that day trippers are also welcome.
6. Each month the location could be a different one preferably within a couple of hours drive from Rotorua. Each month's location could be decided either by those attending the previous month's fish, or could be pre-programmed in advance.
7. Locations could be Waihi area, Papamoa, Maketu, Little Waihi, Pikowai, Murphys (Matata), Matata DOC, Thornton, Ohope, Ohiwa, Opotiki, East Coast plus others.
8. Maybe join together for meals and/or social hour each day.
9. Members could invite friends and family to be part of such a weekend, maybe with view to encourage them to join the RAA.
10. Nothing formal – Fish, Food, Fellowship

*Editor's comment: feedback from club members would be appreciated.*

