



ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

December 2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we move into the warmer months it has been pleasing to see increased numbers turning out for our Friday night gathering at the club house, and especially pleasing to see our new members. These gatherings are a great way to keep up with where the fish are active, and to share your own success stories. Don't forget to make a note of the upcoming events later in this newsletter, and note the dates on your calendar. Club outings are a great way for our new members to practice their skills, as well as for members to share knowledge. Along with our regular monthly fly tying there will also be a regular monthly beginners fly tying class for those looking to learn the basic techniques and skills. Many thanks to Pete for taking this on.

At the last committee meeting we heard that the Whakatāne club has once again had to cease operating. The Whakatāne club were due to host the inter club fishing contest next year, and it was agreed that the Rotorua Anglers would step in to host it in order to ensure that it goes ahead.

hope you have been able to get out fishing, and look forward to hearing about it on Friday.

The summer months mean low stream levels and that will give the best opportunity to the team from the Anglers club to improve access to some of the better fishing spots on the stream. Thank you for your help this past year. I

Thank you for your help this past year, and I look forward to the year to come.



The fourth and final kids fish out for 2024 proved to be a success.

The weather gods smiled, the fish were co-operative, and the children arrived in steady and manageable numbers. A good turnout of volunteers ensured that the day ran smoothly.

It was most encouraging to see some of the newer members of the club arrive, keen to help in any way they could.

There is nothing guaranteed about fishing, even when you have a pond stocked with hundreds of fish.

A brief period of strong gusty winds made casting difficult, and there were occasional frustrations with line and leader set up, but nothing that an experienced angler could not quickly rectify.

In contrast to the previous months event, the day passed smoothly. Having enough volunteers to staff the twenty-eight positions, and a more modest number of bookings, seemed to be the key.

The queue of eager children waiting their turn to fish was always manageable. This reduced the stress level of anglers on the pond and ensured that there was ample time for rest breaks.

COMING EVENTS

December 2nd Fly tying 7pm clubrooms

December 6 Club Night

December 11 Fly tying for beginners

December 13 Club Night . Committee meeting .

December 15 Club Fishing at Lake Rerewhakaiaitu

December 20. End of year function. Christmas theme .Secret Santa.

January 10 Club night

AITUTAKI ADVENTURE

On a recent trip to Aitutaki, we discovered an opportunity to experience a type of fishing both rare and unique.

Faced with extremely windy southeast conditions which lasted for the duration of our stay, the fishing opportunities were somewhat limited with bone fishing proving hard to impossible. GT (Giant Trevally) fishing became the preferred option.

Roger caught the only bonefish, an 8 ½ lb beauty on the first day before conditions deteriorated. We soon found the GT's were reasonably prolific and aggressive within the lagoon and had some great battles on our 24kg rods and Shimano Stella reels. Quite a few got down under the coral bommies through either our inexperience, or not having enough drag set on our reels. We soon ran out of poppers and stick baits and had to beg, borrow and cadge some more. Another highlight was hooking a 70 kg, 6 foot Barracuda on a popper.

When it exploded out of the water with a six foot leap in the air, our guide immediately said, that is the Barra that was attacking the wind surfers boards, chasing them, and biting the backs of the boards. It was the only fish killed as the guide didn't want it preying on windsurfers (or bonefish) and it would feed a few families.

In the second week we tracked down a couple of locals who venture outside the reef at night to scoop net flying fish attracted to their head mounted spotlights. They both readily agreed to take us out to fish for the

Giant Trevally which are attracted to the flying fish illuminated in the spotlights. The wind was consistently strong from the South East but the main island provided a small area of shelter. We met our guide at the harbour at 8pm and zoomed out to beyond the reef in his 5m boat, The wind was consistently strong from the South East but the main island provided a small area of shelter.

The fishing began with the guide shining his spotlight over the water. Almost immediately the flying fish started soaring in all directions and our skipper was ducking and darting, scooping them up and dumping them into the boat. The sight and sound of scores of flying fish soaring through the air and then splashing down on the surface was all that was needed to too attract the Giant Trevally in search of an easy meal. Casting a popper in the light beam evoked massive splashing strikes and with your mate hanging onto the back of your belt harness and the skipper on to him the battle was on. We hooked GT's until our arms ached, some were landed, some got back to the reef with 100 metre runs and broke off in the coral. We witnessed one attacked and demolished by five sharks before our skipper could boat it.

A couple of nights later we went out with another local and did the same again. We had exhausted our supply of poppers so we trolled flying fish from the boat at enough speed to have the bait bouncing on the surface. This worked well with many explosive hookups and monumental battles.

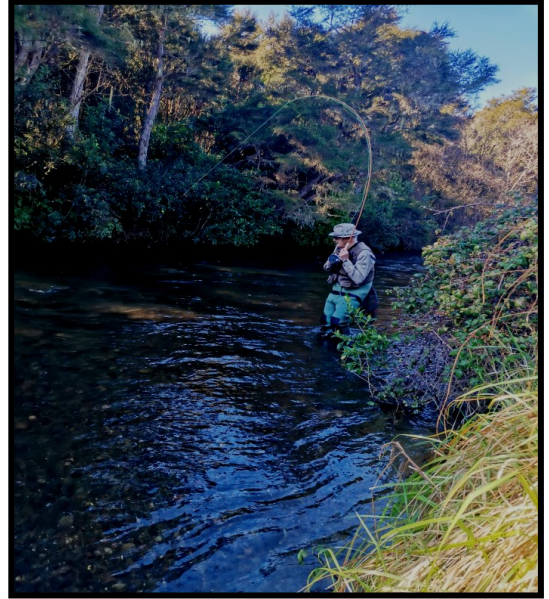
A fitting finale to a memorable fishing adventure.

Photo.1Roger Bambury with his catch, 81/2 lb bone fish **Photo 2** Roger Bowden with his catch, a Giant Trevally



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I have had a couple of winter trips to Turangi/ Taupo to catch fish coming up the rivers to spawn, a bit like salmon fishing with a lot of the fish caught on egg patterns. I have not been a follower of the trend but someone pointed out that the eggs are a food for the fish just as nymphs or dry flies are so I have used that argument to justify my using bright blobs of colour. This photo is taken on one of the smaller rivers which run into Lake Taupo

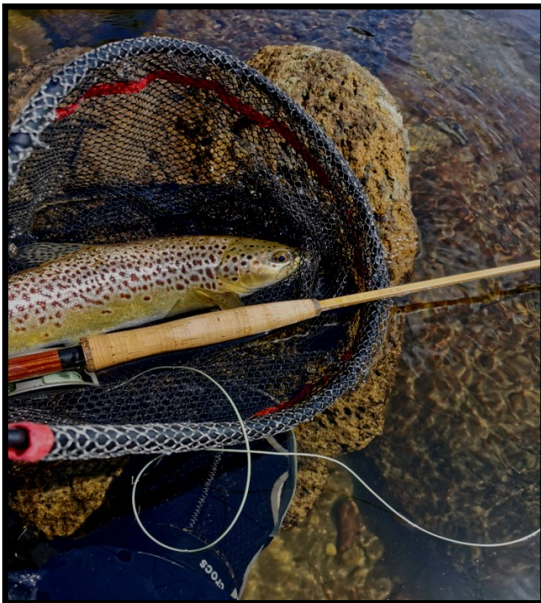


I have also been building quad cane rods. The first was a beauty, 7ft 3in for a #5 line. It was a remarkable casting rod and a friend remarked it turned him from an average caster into an expert. The next, a softer rod, was a series of disasters with glueing, painting etc, and everything that could go wrong, did so. However, yesterday I got it finished and decided to try it out. Our season has only just started and the fish are co-operative but not rising at all yet until the temperatures warm up. This was my very first fish on the 4wt, the rod was very nice to use but didn't have the accuracy of the first rod which could thread a needle if necessary.

Our local club has an annual competition with a South Island club each year at Turangi. We had a comfortable win with numbers and I managed to get a certificate for the largest fish (625mm). A saga to land as I hooked it at the top of a long rapid with heavy water, if it had gone down I would have lost it so I waded out and chased it upstream along with several other fish into the pool above where I was able to play and land it. It wasn't a huge fish but quite good condition and enough to win the trophy.

Of interest, another possibly longer fish was caught,. A brown that was more similar to a barracuda or even a thick piece of rope. That was returned to the water without any ceremony.

I got a much larger fish as well but as I was trying to photograph it while in the net, I held up its head, it gave a wriggle and flipped back into the river, still attached to the leader and taking my rod with it. Imagine seeing my new rod heading down the river! I managed to retrieve the handle but my second attempt at netting wasn't good with the hook eventually pulling out, so no photo. As my wife says, the red mist descends and I panic instead of taking my time with the fish. It has been a continuing story with the big strong Taupo rainbows and I have lost more than I have landed, mostly at the net or close to the end of the battle.



I did manage to have five fish on the new rod ,only two of which were land- ed, it was a magic day. Our local club is hosting a cane rod builder on

Monday night to give a presentation on cane rods and rod building. He is staying with us and is planning on doing a few days salt water fly. Although we live only about 30minutes drive from the harbour, I don't really enjoy fishing in the sea but I guess that will change as opportunities to fish for trout becomes more difficult. I am very fortunate to have access to the stream that I currently fish.

I have a friend who is a keen salt water fly fishing enthusiast. He fishes every day of the year that is possible, either in the sea or for trout in rivers and lakes. He has had two close shaves with cancer and says it is only fishing that has kept him alive and looks forward to each day. He records his trips every day and has an amazing story of the decline of the local sea fishery. He has captured and released over 200 yellow tail kingfish all caught on a fly rod and mostly wading from the shore in the harbour. One of the reasons for the decline is an enormous increase in Canada geese which have eaten the seagrass beds which are home to smaller species of fish and crustaceans. No food equals no fish. I am looking forward to the coming season. We have had inches of rain over the winter but spring has arrived with the rivers looking in good condition. We are planning a trip to the South Island in early December, with luck there will be a trout stream on the way.

Regards , Owen Poad

Fishing Lake Otamangakau

I had taken the week off work and was anxiously waiting for Heidi to finish work on the Friday so we could hit the road. The weather was good with clear skies, promising ideal fishing conditions and we were soon on our way to Lake Otamangakau

We arrived at the Tongariro River Motel where Roy and Margaret were waiting for us. What a wonderful welcome! We were booked into a double room altogether and spent the evening laughing and chatting away.



Christo, Roy, Neil and Margaret enjoy a cuppa at Lake Otamangakau

It was good food for the soul!

Sadly, a teachers work is never quite finished, and Heidi had to catch up on marking exam papers while the rest of us relaxed for the evening.

Lake Otamangakau is a small high altitude lake near Turangi and is reached by taking a scenic drive through the hilly terrain. Both sides of the road are infested with bright yellow broom (not our favorite plant, but visually stunning). The broom gave way to what used to be forest but is now just a wasteland – all the trees were ripped up and snapped like twigs by hurricane Gabrielle. It was incredible to see that this had also only happened on one side of the road. The opposite side was still forested.

Our morning on the lake was quite cold, with winds picking up and slacking off during the day. Roy, Neil and I launched the boat and set off for our day of fishing. We had been drifting around for about an hour during which Roy gave me tips and tricks on casting and which flies to use. Roy decided to cast his line with a dragon nymph on the point fly and a damsel nymph on the top fly. His line had only just hit the water when a huge rainbow hen snapped up his dragon nymph and the battle started. Landed, this fish weighed in at 2.2kg and 54.9cm (about 1.8 ft) long.

Once we had found the spot where the fish were, I managed to catch two rainbows and Neil three – all before lunch. I was very grateful to have these two great fishers, with their wealth of knowledge prepared to spend their time coaching me. We decided to take a break and have something to eat back at the boat ramp where Margaret and Heidi had arrived for a short visit with extra snacks and drinks. The temperature was dropping so we decided it was time to pack up and head home.

When we reached the motel, the ladies had the heaters going and we were able to warm up while Heidi finished her marking, and Margaret made a delicious potato salad. We then headed for Neil's home where he and Elsa had prepared

EASY AS FISH CURRY

A simple but flavourful dish that can be ready to serve in under thirty minutes. The key to success is gentle heat that allows the flavour and aroma of the dish to develop.

Ingredients.

500g fish fillet cut into cubes

1tbsp Cooking oil

1tsp Minced garlic

1tbsp Curry powder

1tsp Cayenne pepper

1\2 Cup coconut milk

1\2 tsp salt

1\4 tsp Pepper

1\4 cup fresh coriander or parsley

Method

Rinse scaled and boned fillets and pat dry

In a heavy base pan, over a medium heat, add the oil and garlic. Sauté for thirty seconds, then add the curry powder, cayenne pepper, and sauté for a further thirty seconds. Keep the heat low, or the garlic and spices will burn.

Add the coconut milk and bring to a gentle boil. Season with salt and pepper and add the chopped coriander

Cover and cook for on a further five minutes.

Add the fish pieces and cook for a further five minutes, or so, dependent on the thickness of the pieces

Serve in individual bowls with steamed rice.



STREAM TEAM

This cluster of Cabbage trees, thrusting their way skyward, epitomizes the focus of the stream teams efforts this past year.

The area photographed is known to the team as "Cabbage tree flat" Only a few short years ago, it boasted a respectable number of mature trees, relishing the wetland conditions.

Sadly, a flood event necessitated bringing in a digger and many of the trees were knocked over and buried during the remedial work. The buried trunks have taken root, and the regeneration is visible for all to see.

Everywhere you look, you see examples of the natural regeneration that is taking place without the interference of well-meaning helpers. It is as if the bushland that has been planted over the last twenty years is now saying, "we've got this." Step off the well-worn tracks and take a close look at the under growth. Wherever you look, there are signs of new growth naturally occurring.

Consequently, the focus of the team has been on the maintenance and improvement of the existing tracks. New steps have been constructed, timber edging has been installed in areas of high erosion, drainage has been improved, and regular weed control has been undertaken.

Looking ahead to the coming year and the work plan will be the same. There will always be small pockets of the track that will need clearing and planting, out , but that will not take place until late Autumn,

Thank you for your help throughout this past year.



PUT THESE EVENTS INTO YOUR DIARY

Sunday 15th December .

Club fish out at Lake Rerewhakaiutu. 9am until 4pm

Note. There are three D.O.C. campsites on the shores of lake Rerewhakaiutu. We will be meeting at the Ash Pit road camp site. This is a large and open lake front, ideal for beginners . Lots of casting room, and if the Gods are smiling, maybe a fish or two.

A bbq lunch will be provided. It would be appreciated if you could contribute something extra to complement the bbq.



Friday 20th December

The last club evening for the year will be a pot luck meal, but with a Christmas theme.

A Christmas ham will be provided . It would be appreciated if your contribution could follow the Christmas theme.

A secret santa is proposed. It is optional, but if you could contribute a small but thoughtful gift, it would would add to the festivities of the evening.



Friday 10h January

First club night of 2025.

Sunday 12th January.

Club fish out and BBQ lunch at Hamurana stream mouth, Lake Rotorua. 9a.m until 4pm.



THE FLY TYERS DESK

Synthetic grey ghost

Fix a 2x long shank hook, in size 8 or 10 into the vice. Using a white or grey thread create a thread base along the shank and come back to behind the eye.

Tie in a single strand of red wool along the shank and extending out $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a shank-length behind the bend of the hook. Other tail material can be used such as flashabou or tinsel.

Take a pinch of synthetic Neer hair (grey colour) about 4-5 cm long. Before snipping the hair manipulate the fibres by pinching the middle to top and pulling them gently to form a long ovate shape. Tie this along the shank, extending about 2.5 cm rear of the hook.

Tie in a long piece of mylar along the shank of the hook, extending over the back of the hook.

Tie in a strand of white wool, front to back, along the shank of the hook. Wind the thread back to behind the eye and then wind the wool forward and tie off behind the eye.

Wind the mylar strand up along the body, with 50% overlap on each wrap. Tie off 2-3mm behind the eye.

Take a second pinch of Neer hair, just slightly longer than the first piece, to extend just behind the first piece at the rear. Manipulate the shape as for the first pinch. Tie the Neer hair behind the eye.

Tie in a strand or two of flashabou, tinsel or crystal flash along each side.

Form a large head with the white/grey thread, whip finish and snip off. With a red thread form a hot-spot about $\frac{1}{3}$ the width of the head, at the back of the formed head. Whip finish and snip off.

With a UV resin or tacky head cement cover the head then stick on holographic eyes on each side. Manipulate the eyes with a pin or toothpick. Cover the head and eyes with another coat of cement/resin.



OUT THERE DOING IT



Top Left. David and Marie took advantage of a run of Kahawai. Casting a paddle tail soft bait into the feeding school proved to be successful

Top Right. Bryce with his catch of the day .3.4kg rainbow

Centre. Fishing at Aitutaki , Roger had a real battle with a 70kg , 6 foot long Barracuda

Bottom left. David with a nice trevally caught on soft bait in the surf;

Bottom right. Gavin proved that you can fish for snapper by casting of the beach with soft bait.

