



Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

May 2021 Newsletter

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Club activities

Date	Event	Coordinator
Monday 24 May	Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Annual General Meeting	Michael
Monday 14 June	Fly Tying workshop	Gordon
Monday 28 June	KFFC Club night	
June TBC	Hawkes Bay area	Pete
June dates TBC	Whanganui and Whakapapa	Malcolm

'Club members will be notified by email confirming the dates of planned club trips.'

*You are invited to the next KFFC Club Night and our AGM on
Monday 24 May*

Guest speaker will be Phil Teal – Fish & Game Review

Meeting starts at 7:30pm looking forward to seeing you there

This month's cover photo: was taken a few weeks ago by Rachel Tate of Jacob sitting at the dining table tying flies.

Remembering the youngest member of our club Jacob Tate by Malcolm Francis



It is with a sad heart that I learnt that our youngest member of our club 11-year-old Jacob Tate passed away in his sleep, my first thoughts were for his wonderful mum Rachel and family.

I remembered the first night that Rachel brought young Jacob along to his first club meeting, Rachel stated that he was not interested in 'boys sport' he was only interested in learning how to fly fish.

We organised a day so that Rachel and Jacob could call in at home and pick up one of the clubs fly rods and gain an insight into casting a fly line. We started off the session with one of those practices fly casting rods and after some minor guidance it did not take young Jacob long before he could flick out a nice straight line.

Next step was the real thing, with a big smile and a ton of enthusiasm he grab hold of a rod and began to put into practice what he had learnt, I can still see that smile on his face as the line shot out across our front lawn.

I experienced another side of Jacob when he came along to his first Fly-tying workshop, when he arrived, I suggested he should sit next to Gordon so that he could see what Gordon was doing as he went through each step of tying the fly. After Jacob completed his first fly, he started tying up his second one. Gordon spotted that Jacob was not doing it the same way as before, when he pointed it out to Jacob, he simply said "I am doing it an innovative way."

My time spent with Jacob as he began his journey into fly fishing was an enjoyable experience, to see a young lad with some much enthusiasm and energy was a joy.

My thought go to his wonderful mum Rachel, his dad Andy and two brothers Joshua and Charlie, thank you for sharing part of Jacob life with me and the members of the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club, we will miss seeing Jacob and enjoying his bubble enthusiasm.

From us all with love and god bless.

Presidents report

Hi Fellow Fisho's

Normally my Musing's start with a stutter then just flow off the keyboard however I can say that this, my last, is proving difficult. How do I put into words the sadness that we all feel for Rachel and Andy Tate and their family for the loss of her beloved Jacob who was not only our youngest member but arguably the keenest. Jacob's fly-tying talent was amazing, and he had only recently hooked his first trout and was so excited. Kia Kaha Rachel and Andy and family.

This is my final report for the year, and what a strange and sometimes a sad year it has been for many of us in many ways.

The Government review of Fish & Game has been completed with a major overhaul planned. It certainly looks like changes will occur, not just in the Fish & Game management area but in the whole Aotearoa/NZ trout fishing experience with trout farming back on the table and more Iwi involvement. I encourage all members to read at least a summary of the review and your new committee will keep you updated

To make our AGM more interesting we are lucky to have Phil Teal, from Fish & Game come along and give us a talk at the AGM on Monday night 24th May

So, there will be plenty for your new committee to be involved in along with the normal more fun things we do — LIKE FISHING!

Talking of fishing I recently did three one day mid-week trips to the Manawatu which certainly broke my recent drought of being able to hook fish. No, I did not land them all, but some came to the net and put a big smile back on my face. My fishing buddies did really well, and I was lucky enough to spend a day with two of our Levin compatriots Hamish McDonald and Dan Brizzle. Talk about keen anglers. These guys don't stop fishing for anything, and it was a great lesson that more time on the water results in more fish. Thanks, guys, for your company

Those trips reminded me that it is much easier to hook trout in rivers with reasonable numbers of fish and how low the fish count is in our Kapiti rivers at present.

The long spell of good weather has certainly broken, and a number of the rivers have been given a good flush.

I have been blown away at the keenness of those prepared to stand for the committee and with the fresh input from the new candidates teamed up with those who have put themselves up for re-election ensure you will be well supported in the coming year

I will be stepping back into the Past Presidents role and will remain on the committee.

See you all at the AGM on Monday

Tight lines

Michael

Fly Casting Tuition by Gordon Baker

Club member Gordon Baker is available for one-on-one casting tuition. Gordon is a casting instructor with Flyfishers International (USA). He is available to help beginners get off to a good start and to assist more experienced members improve their distance casting skills. Although not yet an approved two-handed casting instructor Gordon is a keen learner willing to share new skills.

Email Gordon kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com or phone 0274946487 to arrange a suitable time for a lesson. There is no charge.

Mid-Week Fishing trips by Hugh

For those members who are lucky enough to be able to fish mid-week during the forthcoming season please confirm your desire to be included in the mid-week fishers email list to: hugh.driver.nz@gmail.com

The emails are often sent out only giving very short notice to take advantage of the prevailing conditions and members availability, as an example the afternoon of day before the proposed trip.

What Tane Moleta been up to lately?



A Hapuka (Groper) caught in just over 1/4 of a kilometre deep water, being a bit of a fool with 15kg mainline really. I also caught a 1.4 metre Tope (Shark), but that was too scary to bring home.

Fly Pattern of the Month –Rabbit Flies by Gordon Baker

Rabbit Flies



The Rabbit is a deadly fly. The fur gives that all important life like movement that trout cannot resist. It's available in many colours, the Black Rabbit being an excellent night fly for large browns. The Orange and Yellow rabbits are good to use on rainbows as they migrate the rivers, while the Green Rabbit can be good for resident fish. The paler colours are good for smelting fish or white bait.

Hook	TMC 5262 size 4-10
Thread	Black 3/0 or 6/0
Tail	Red or orange hackle fibres
Rib	Oval silver tinsel
Body	Black, green, yellow, red, white chenille, or flat silver tinsel.
Wing	Rabbit fur strip to suit body colour
Hackle	Red, orange, grey, black, or white.

Please note that the next flytying meeting will be at the Waikanae Boating Club at 7.30pm **Monday 14th June**. Please bring your club membership card. If you haven't received yours yet you may do so at either the club or fly tying meeting.

Feather Merchants (NZ) sponsor our fly-tying group. Go to their website www.flyshop.co.nz to see their wide range of top-quality tying materials, tools and flyfishing accessories.



May Fly Tying Evening – The Hare and Copper by Nick and Cathie Weldon

The 10th May was Hare and Copper night. No, not the pub, the fly!

Five intrepid tyers sat down at the Waikanae Boat Club for a few hours of instruction, banter, and serious fly tying. They were, from left to right, Malcolm Francis, Michael Murphy, Gordon Baker, Kras Angelov and Steve Taylor. Cathie provided support services and photography. Tane, we missed you!!



Here they all are in deep concentration and not a little dexterity...



Gordon 'The Guru' Baker led the group and here he is having a bit of a Zen moment ...

The end results... superb flies...



Note that at least one of the group favours pink and purple beads, let alone blue!
This next one is the closest we got to an action photo!



And many thanks for the gift of three flies to Nick, they will be put to good use very soon...



Tight lines one and all.

Taupo anglers horror at damage to trout from ingested rubbish by Rachel Canning



This Lake Taupō trout was tangled up in unravelled thread from an item of clothing or a cushion.

Who would have thought chucking a piece of clothing in the lake would result in a trout's tongue being nearly cut in half?

The net result of pollution was posted on social media this week by Taupō Fishing Club president Shirley Fraser, who is keen to promote the message of keeping our waterways clean.

Shirley caught the trout in Lake Taupō and could see the trout was in poor condition.

But she was horrified to find it was due to a piece of thread running through the trout's mouth and gills, nearly cutting the trout's tongue in half, and slicing through its body.

"The trout would have been suffering and struggling to eat."

At first Shirley thought the piece of thread was fishing nylon and says it is the first time she has seen a fish damaged by pollution. Shirley googled the brand tag attached to the thread and concluded it was originally from clothing or an outdoor cushion.



A long piece of thread was swallowed by this trout and the trailing end of thread sliced into the tongue and went out through the gills.

Shirley says Taupō Fishing Club environmental co-ordinator Janet Oldfield has been actively encouraging members and anglers to remove rubbish from the side of fishing banks, along with the predator trapping work club members carry out at Mapara Stream.

"They make the damage of rubbish real."

Department of Conservation fisheries team community ranger James Barnett said trout health is a serious issue, with anglers travelling from all around New Zealand and around the world to sample the quality of fishing in the Taupō District.



A result of pollution in Lake Taupō. Taupō Fishing Club president Shirley Fraser says we need to keep our waterways clean.

"We were saddened to see the photographs of the unfortunate trout."

"This case underlines the importance of taking rubbish home or disposing of it safely in rubbish bins."

Fly-fishing: Knowing your bugs, made easy by John Juracek

The need-to-know essentials of mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, and midges.



A March Brown (*Rithrogena germanica*) mayfly

Insects are the root of flyfishing. Without them, there is no basis for our sport. This fact alone is justification enough—to my way of thinking, at least—for possessing a working knowledge of insects and their behaviour. Practically speaking, a knowledge of insects helps us predict where and when the best fishing is likely to occur, greatly increases our chances of finding feeding fish when we do get on the water and informs our choice of fly pattern in any given situation. Personally, I think entomology is such an important aspect of the sport that I never go fishing anywhere, ever, without giving the local insects due consideration in advance.

But I also understand that for many reasons—time, energy, perceived complexity, other interests—many of us bypass learning the intricacies of insect identification, habits, and behaviour. For those anglers, I thought it might be helpful to put together a brief list of some important characteristics of the major insect groups. I daresay that if you never learn much beyond what's on this list, you'll still be in pretty good standing to take advantage of the opportunities the major groups of insects provide.

Mayfly

- There are a great number of mayfly species and they can be extremely abundant in any given water. Taken together, the various species have long seasonal emergence spans; in most parts of the country, you can find mayflies hatching from early spring through late autumn.
- Mayflies are widely available to trout as nymphs, emergers, duns and spinners (not every phase is equally important in every species). Mayfly duns typically ride the water for a period of time after emerging, providing great feeding opportunities for the trout.
- Mayflies generally emerge at the most pleasant time of the day for the season. Think early to mid-afternoon on a chilly September day, early morning, and late evening on a hot February day.
- The most prolific mayfly emergences take place in overcast, cool, moist weather. Light rain are perfect conditions for mayfly hatches.
- Mayfly spinners fall best on warm, calm mornings and evenings. Spinners are practically never passed over as a meal by trout; they seem to relish them.



Caddis

Caddis

- One of the favourite foods of trout. Given a choice between eating caddis and other types of insects, trout will most often choose caddis. Should you find yourself in a hatch of multiple kinds of flies, caddis included, start out by fishing a caddis pattern.
- Caddis are available to the trout as pupae, emergers, adults and egg laying adults.
- Caddis emergences can be notoriously difficult to recognize, because the adults do not linger on the water like mayfly duns. The two strongest clues to a caddis emergence are small fish leaping from the water, and fish rising with no apparent insects on the water.
- Egg laying activity is usually somewhat sporadic; only in a few species is it as concentrated as mayfly spinner falls. Mornings and evenings are the likely times.



The golden stonefly ([Hesperoperla pacifica)

Stonefly

- Stoneflies crawl out of the water to emerge, with the nymphs of many species migrating en masse to the shoreline before emerging. Fishing nymphs at such times can be an especially deadly tactic.
- Adult stoneflies are generally available to the trout only when they return to the river to lay their eggs. Egg laying flights typically take place in the afternoons and early evenings.



Midges fly

Midges

- Midges are extremely abundant in almost all trout streams and lakes. Midges can range in size from roughly size 10 to 26 and come in all colours. Small species are more common than large.
- Trout like eating small insects like midges. Never be afraid of fishing tiny imitations.
- All phases of midges—pupae, emerger, adult—are fed upon avidly by trout.

Editor's note: You will find all four of these fly's on our local rivers with the Stone fly being one of the less common unless you are fishing in the headwaters of the Otaki and Waikanae rivers. A couple of years ago Michael and I were fishing the Waikanae and the trout kept refusing our flies, I dipped my bug net in the flow of river, and it was full of small black Midges. After tying up a few size 18 black Midges I went back and managed to land a couple of nice trout, you will always find a Midge pattern in my fly box.

Can anglers continue to ignore climate change? by Todd Tanner



Yosemite National Park under a smoke-filled haze

If you ask a dozen fly fishers to describe the major threats to our angling, you'll find a fair amount of agreement. You'll hear their concerns about public lands, and habitat loss, and pollution, and over-fishing, and poor management practices, and invasive species. You may even have an angler mention our kids' addiction to video games. There's a fair amount of consensus regarding all those issues across the outdoor community.

What you won't find, though, is agreement on the single largest threat to our fishing: human-caused climate change. Which is a shame, especially since climate is the only issue that impacts all of us regardless of where we live or which species we pursue.

Climate is the proverbial 800 lb. gorilla in the room. Everyone with a pulse and an internet connection has heard that it's a massive problem — and, conversely, that it's not. Some people will tell you that climate change is as obvious as the nose on your face, while others will claim it's a hoax. Some point to the overwhelming scientific consensus, others deny that a consensus exists. Some say that our planet is warming because we're burning fossil fuels, while others believe any warming is natural. There's no such thing as unanimity on climate change, at least among sportsmen and women, and that's because the discussion has become so incredibly polarized and partisan.

Unless we address climate change, the places we fish will eventually become unrecognisable.

If you share which political party you support, and which media outlets you follow, I can predict with a fair amount of accuracy your views on climate. Which, truth be told, is disturbing. Science is science and it really shouldn't matter where you get your information from. As Daniel Patrick Moynihan once noted, "You are entitled to your opinion, but you are not entitled to your own facts."

Yet here we sit, debating whether climate change is a "thing" — and if it is, whether it's human-caused or natural, and if it is human-caused, whether it's a problem or not, and if it's a problem,

whether we should address it or just live with it, and if we should address it, why not kick the can down the road until we've squeezed another 20 or 30 years of profit and convenience from fossil fuels?

And then there's the related question of whether we should focus on the issue. To use a Shakespearean term, is climate 'germane' to our fishing or is it completely irrelevant? Where do we even start?

At the risk of ruffling a few feathers, let's begin with some actual scientific facts. Climate change is real, it's human-caused, and it's impacting us right now. To quote the most respected scientific organization on the planet, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS): "Climate change is one of the defining issues of our time. It is now more certain than ever, based on many lines of evidence, that humans are changing Earth's climate."

The world's largest general scientific society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), concurs, saying: "The overwhelming evidence of human-caused climate change documents both current impacts with significant costs and extraordinary future risks to society and natural systems."

The scientists at NASA report: "The planet's average surface temperature has risen about 2.12 degrees Fahrenheit (1.18 degrees Celsius) since the late 19th century, a change driven largely by increased carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere and other human activities."

Or if you prefer empirical evidence — information acquired through direct observation — over other forms of data, you might appreciate what I learned a while back from the members of a Montana hunting & fishing club.

"Runoff in Montana starts far earlier now than it did 30 or 40 years ago, and it also ends far earlier. Consequently, the rivers and creeks are lower and warmer during the summer, with fewer fish. At the same time, Montana's heavy winter snows come later — when they come at all — and the elk and mule deer have an easier time staying high in the mountains, and safe from sportsmen, until the hunting season is over. Ponds that folks have fished all their lives, the same ponds where they hunt ducks and geese, are drying up and disappearing. Forest fires are increasing, as are the diseases and insects that kill trees."

It's sad to say, but the mountain of empirical evidence continues to grow. I've personally experienced an entire litany of climate-related impacts here in Montana, including warmer winters, earlier run-off, hotter summers, longer droughts, unprecedented insect infestations, dead and dying forests, extended fire seasons, larger and more extreme wildfires, massive amounts of noxious smoke, warmer rivers, and heat-related fishing closures.

The climate impacts are different back east, of course, but they're still obvious. Friends from Maine to Florida share stories about increased precipitation, hotter temperatures, higher humidity levels, stronger storms, coastal inundation, growing numbers of ticks and mosquitoes, unprecedented flooding, sea level rise, and a steady northward march of invasive species.

When the changes right out our front doors match up exactly with the dire warnings from our scientists, and when the only people who disagree insist on quoting chapter & verse from the industry that's responsible for the lion's share of the warming ... well, call me crazy but I tend to

trust what I see with my own eyes. It's obvious that climate change is already impacting our fisheries.

Which leaves us with little choice but to confront the issue head-on. There are millions and millions of sportsmen and women in the United States — approximately 40 million, by the most recent USFWS count — and we have to decide whether or not we have a moral obligation to protect our landscapes and waters from the ravages of climate change. Here are some relevant questions we should all ask ourselves — along with my personal responses.

Are we really seeing changes to our climate?

Yes, as a long-time Montanan, I've seen the northern Rockies grow noticeably warmer and drier over the last 30+ years.

Are those changes making things better or worse?

Worse. Larger wildfires, dying forests, warmer rivers, and clouds of noxious smoke are bad for our landscapes and waters, our fish & game populations, and sportsmen and women in general.

Are our observations confirmed by science?

Yes, absolutely. There is an overwhelming consensus in the scientific community that our CO2 emissions are warming the planet and putting our future at risk.

If we do not address human-caused climate change, will the future generations of anglers suffer the consequences?

There's no doubt about that. If we don't step up now, we'll leave our kids and grandkids a world damaged and diminished by our inaction.

Can one person make a difference?

No, not really. Climate change is a huge global problem that won't get better without U.S. leadership. One person can't do much. Working together, though, 40 million American sportsmen and women can have a serious impact.

Is there a downside to acting on climate?

Our scientists tell us we have to act, and our economists assure us that switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy will save us money and improve our economy. So, while there's always a downside — look at the wagon makers who went out of business with the rise of the automobile — climate action far, far outweighs inaction.

So where does that leave us? Well, we need moral and ethical clarity to tackle a massive issue like climate. Which is why I find myself turning to the Golden Rule. We should treat others the way we'd like to be treated.

The bottom line is that we all love to fish. Our kids and grandkids deserve to inherit clean waters and healthy landscapes, while future generations should benefit from the same opportunities we enjoy right now. And that's on us. We are responsible. Unless we address climate change while there's still time, the places we fish will eventually become unrecognizable. We can't allow that to

happen. When it comes to the great outdoors, we have a responsibility to leave it better than we found it. Contact Congress and tell them to act on climate.

Editor's note: I went through and answered the same set of questions while reflecting on our local rivers such as the Waikanae river and came up with very similar answers – one question that did stick out was 'Can one person make a differences?' My answer was no but collectively as a group of people interested in fly fishing; we can make a difference.

3 Reasons you should be using the loop knots by Colin Breck

Loop knots have an integral place in the way most experienced anglers rig their flies. Despite common misconception, there are a great many loop knots that are exceedingly simple to tie. Sure, there are loop knots that are cumbersome or even difficult to tie, but some of the best loop knots are easy to learn and to tie streamside. But the main reason that most experienced anglers readily use loop knots is that, in a great many scenarios, loop knots provide significant advantages over knots that are fixed to the fly's hook eye.

Following are a few reasons why, if you're not already regularly using loop knots in your fishing, you should be. Even beginner anglers will likely be familiar with the most common of these reasons, but the others may be new information even to some of you who've been at it for a while.

Better and more natural fly movement

This is the justification for loop knots that most anglers learn first and usually in the context of streamers or flies like the Woolly Bugger. Flies that are supposed to represent larger, swimming insects in the water have a significantly more natural movement when attached to your leader or tippet with a loop knot. Instead of being attached with a rigid, fixed connection that restricts the fly's movement, a fly on a loop knot can slide and float more freely, producing a more natural action.

But this doesn't apply to only streamers. I often encounter anglers that have worked loop knots into their repertoire when fishing streamers but limit their use to those scenarios. The same principle that applies with streamers also applies to wet flies and most certainly applies to dead drifting nymphs.

A more natural movement of the fly results in a greater number of takes and that results in a higher catch rate. Simple.

Sink your fly faster

in his book, *Fly Fish Better: Practical Advice on Tackle, Methods, and Flies*, noted angler and author Art Scheck highlights a lesser-known reason for choosing a loop knot for your terminal connection: faster fly sink rates. The logic behind Scheck's contention is that a weighted fly (tungsten bead head, lead bead chain eyes, etc) can adopt a nose-down position and sink faster when its connection to the leader or tippet is a flexible one. According to Scheck, though this

effect is more noticeable in still water it also offers an advantage when using a strip-pause retrieve, allowing the fly to sink more readily during the pause.

Though the advantages loop knots offer to flies that need to get deep may not be pronounced, it offers anglers another reason to choose a loop knot when rigging their flies especially when considering that many of the situations described above in which the angler is seeking freer, more natural movement for their flies are also situations during which the angler is hoping to get their fly down deep, often quickly.

Break fewer knots

While all specific claims about knot strength and breakage rates should be taken with an enormous grain of salt, it is valuable to consider that some loop knots are widely held to be stronger than their fixed-connection counterparts. My personal favourite loop knot, the Non-slip Mono Loop knot, is considered by many anglers to have 100% knot strength. While remembering what I just said about treating strength rate claims and such as considerably dubious, keep in mind that means many experienced anglers are suggesting that tying the non-slip loop will in no way degrade the strength of your leader or tippet. You'll have a hard time finding people to make that claim about fixed knots such as the clinch knot, improved clinch knot or even the Orvis knot.

This link will take you to an animated demonstration of the Perfection Loop knot.

[Perfection Loop Knot | How to tie a Perfection Loop Knot using Step-by-Step Animations | Animated Knots by Grog](#)

DOC's 'legislative blocks' slammed by Hugh Stringleman



Giant kokopu at three years of age and ready for spawning

The release of giant kokopu breeding fish in restored waterways in northern districts is being frustrated by the Department of Conservation (DOC) on advice from its own freshwater ecologist.

Deer farmer Shelley Trotter, near Warkworth, wants to release 1000 three-year-old fish to restock a stretch of Duck Creek in her farm, a tributary of the Mahurangi River. Juvenile kokopu are one of the species which contribute to endemic whitebait and are classified by the department as “at risk, declining.”

Giant kokopu are bred in captivity by the Mangakura fish hatchery in the Kaipara district only 20km cross-country from Solway deer farm, which has won awards for environmental achievements, including waterway restoration.

The licenced fish farm owner Jerry Rees-Webbe says he is frustrated by the delays in processing and the reasons given by DOC for declining release permission. The Ministry for Primary Industries, which must also approve a transfer and release of captive fish, and Fish & Game have supported the planned release.

Similar releases of fish from captivity were made two years ago in the Nukumea Stream in the Auckland district of Orewa and giant kokopu have also been released in the Tawharanui Regional Park, both approved by the department.

Rees-Webbe says the department should be harnessing the concerns of New Zealanders over native flora and fauna and encouraging landowners who are making ecological efforts. "Farmers are restoring waterways at considerable cost and effort and we are trying to restock these with native endangered fish," Rees-Webbe said.

"DOC appears to put legislative blocks in our way, which seem to be nonsense and outdated."

He says it seemed the Duck Creek planned release seemed to be welcomed by the department until advice was sought from its in-house freshwater ecologist Marine Richardson.

In an email to the applicants, Lynette Trewavas of the permissions group in Waikato, says an application to release indigenous fish was not as straightforward as it looks initially. Richardson had advised that release of captive animals carried the potential for introducing diseases, pathogens and parasites not present in the wild.

Conversely, the immune systems of aquaculture fish might not be adapted to pathogens in the natural environment. She says the release of 1000 giant kokopu in one creek could destabilise the food web in that location.

Without an estimate of the fish population in the location, there was no indication if the freshwater system was suitable for that number of fish. Native fish were largely diadromous – using marine waters in their life cycle – and could naturally repopulate the Mahurangi/Duck Creek system.

Rees-Webbe says DOC now required an Environmental Impact Assessment, which could be very costly on top of the \$2300 fee the department charged, plus the requirement to advertise the planned release in local media. "Introduced captive fish are being released all the time by Fish & Game and our indigenous kokopu have been kept in pristine disease-free conditions and have already been conditioned for life in the wild," he said.

He says the fish need acclimatisation before spawning in late winter and release should ideally occur before mid-April.

In a recent freshwater fish study done for the Auckland Council, it was stated that the Nukumea and Tawharanui waterways were the only two in the mainland region containing giant kokopu, and that was because of restocking.

Trotter has written to the Minister for Conservation Kiri Allan asking her to intervene.

Mid-week club trip on – Manawatu river by Wayne Cameron

The Plan was to fish the middle reaches of the Rangitikei river, but rain over night rendered that option a no starter, so Hugh sent an early email/text to the 7 keen anglers with plan b – to fish the Manawatu river instead. (as a passing observation – is not interesting that the majority of participants were able to read that email by 5 am!) - 6 of us were able to confirm support for plan b and with Michael, Hamish, and Dan in one car and Hugh, Aussie and Wayne in another the 2 cars set off for rendezvous at the Black stump café at 9 am.

A coffee and muffin later with some advice from a mystery participant the 2 carloads set off for different parts of the river with all the enthusiasm of novices.

Before discussing how well the trip went, I feel I should observe that the Manawatu river has, over the last hundred years, been an exceptional trout river with good fish rising freely to the fly. In fact, it rated as good as its famous cousin in the south – the Mataura. But alas a combination of abstraction and changed farming practices has seen the river slip down in the ratings. Added to that the river is prone to flushes that increase the turbidity to the point that only blind fish would snag themselves in one's fly!!

So, it was with some trepidation that we arrived at the riverbank knowing that there had been a small flush to the river in the previous 24 hours. As it happens that flush lifted the river marginally but allowed it to remain clear enough for successful use of fly both in nymph form and streamer.

First look at the water (10.00 am) showed little fly life but a few nice pools and runs to fish. Some small hatches were observed later in the day, but one would hardly get excited by them. Just enough to confirm that there was fly available to trout as was snail in the weed beds and the plentiful bully.

So how did we fare? Pretty well actually.



Good fish were found in water with some pace to it. While the slower pools did yield trout, it was generally harder fishing. Some break offs occurred but both Hugh and Wayne managed to land fish in the 6 lb. range and another each in the 4 lb. plus range. Michael, Hamish, and Dan landed a number of fish between them but tended to be in the 2 to 2.5lb range.



Almost all anglers caught trout of varying sizes and from all accounts had a great time all round with plenty of laughs thrown in.

As a passing comment I should acknowledge that at least 3 of the fish I landed were on Aussie's barbless hooks won at the last club night raffle! So, there you go. Get some of Aussies flies. They do catch fish!

Trout in troubled waters by Grace Prior



Ruamahanga River

Masterton deputy mayor Graham McClymont says he is fed up with Greater Wellington Regional Council and Fish and Game after his submission to the Ruamahanga Whaitua Committee regarding trout issues appears to have disappeared.

In his 2018 submission, McClymont said there seemed to be a conflict between protecting and restoring the trout fishery and protecting habitats for indigenous fish populations. McClymont felt his submission was not “too far out to dismiss”, and unless it had been too outlandish or defamatory, it should have been read by the committee.

He said local government was supposed to be open.



He said the implementation plan mentioned exotic fish with statements such as “removal of pest fish” and “maintaining exotic fish at a level not restricting the vitality of indigenous fish populations.”

According to Fish and Game, Brown trout were introduced to New Zealand more than 150 years ago from British stock that had been established in Tasmania only three years earlier.

McClymont said Torrentfish appeared to be used as an indicator species with a desire to maintain 90 per cent of habitat space, the riffles, and rapids that trout also favoured. He said the Torrentfish was on the 2014 International Union for Conservation of Nature red list.



Torrentfish have distinctive stripes and an underslung jaw

The fish were marked as vulnerable and needed protection. All the while, both brown and rainbow trout were protected by the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 as a schedule one sports fish, McClymont said.

He said there was evidence of trout predation on indigenous fish in the Ruamahanga catchment, “It is harming the species.” “If we are serious about restoring the values of the Ruamahanga catchment, I would ask that GWRC investigate repealing the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 – and actively remove all exotic fish, especially trout, from the entire catchment.”

He said if community members such as farming operations and businesses that relied on water for their livelihood were asked to make changes, then sports fishers also needed to play their part.

“Unless exotic fish are removed, it will be hard to assess the impact that other changes are having on indigenous fish populations.” He said it could be that trout populations had a corresponding increase and devoured more Torrentfish.

Regional council general manager of environment management Al Cross confirmed the regional council had received McClymont’s submission, notified him at the time, and gave it “detailed and respectful consideration.”

Cross said the regional council was interested in the views of stakeholders, and the Whaitua process was designed to encourage them to engage. “We received the submission in 2018 in the context of the Ruamahanga Whaitua Committee completing its report, at which point it asked for and received comments on a draft,” he said.

Cross said the process wasn’t intended to be formal but was regarded as a “valuable way of gathering information towards the end of the Whaitua committee’s tenure.” He said comments had been received verbally and in writing at Whaitua committee meetings, with no hearings scheduled.

“The approach of the Whaitua committee was to consider feedback by topic rather than by submitter; hence we didn’t respond directly to submissions.” On the topic of trout, Cross said the issue was considered by the Whaitua committee several times, including during the preparation of the report.

He said there had been considerable support for the same view expressed by McClymont, although it was not universal. This led the committee, among other things, to use Torrentfish as the indicator to set minimum flows, Cross said.

The result was tension in the Whaitua report and the Resource Management Act, he said.

“The committee and GWRC were bound by the legislation that it worked within; this included the status of trout in the Resource Management Act.” Cross said that other legislation, although not considered by the Whaitua committee, supported the current status of trout.

Included were parts of the Conservation Act regarding Fish and Game Councils and Freshwater Fisheries Regulations.

Although neither the Whaitua committee nor the regional council could change these, Cross said the status of trout in the RMA was an issue at a national level. “The Government is reviewing the

structure and role of Fish and Game Councils at present. Change in these areas is likely, although the outcome is not clear at present.”

Cross said McClymont’s submission was insightful and valuable.

The committee made changes as a result and then finalised its report. The regional council then accepted the report, he said.

Fish and Game Review released



A report outlining recommendations to strengthen the governance and good management practices within NZ Fish & Game has been released by Acting Minister of Conservation, Ayesha Verrall.

Fish & Game manages sport fishing and game bird hunting across NZ and has had an unaltered structure since it was set up in 1990. The report is the result of a ministerial review initiated last year by former Minister, Eugenie Sage in order to ensure Fish & Game’s governance and structure were “fit for purpose” today.

The independent review, undertaken by Belinda Clark and John Mills, found Fish & Game plays an important role in environmental advocacy and stewardship. It also identified significant opportunities to strengthen governance and management good practices.

“These opportunities to strengthen governance and good practice are something Fish & Game can proceed with immediately – in fact, some of these actions are already underway,” Dr Verrall said.

“A second group of recommendations would require legislative change. As Acting Minister, I am seeking further advice from the Department of Conservation on these, as they require careful consideration by the Government, given policy and legislative implications.

“In the meantime, Fish & Game has sufficient work to do on implementing best practice. The review gives them good guidance.”

“An implementation steering group will also be established to monitor progress. It will be chaired by Fish & Game national chairman Ray Grubb and supported by senior staff from Fish & Game and the Department of Conservation.

Dr Verrall thanked the reviewers for doing a thorough job, engaging widely with stakeholders, and proposing solutions to some long-standing issues.

“I am now looking forward to Fish & Game adopting changes which will make it a much more fit-for-purpose organisation in terms of serving its core stakeholders, enabling Māori expression of rangatiratanga and in protecting the freshwater and other values so precious to all New Zealanders.”

[FINAL Report – Review of Fish and Game New Zealand 2020.pdf](#)

Government makes 16th Power grab of Fish and Game by Tony Orman

Way, way back in 1974 I wrote to the Labour government and in particular the Minister of Internal Affairs Henry May about a government proposal to reorganise acclimatisation societies the predecessor of today's Fish and Game councils.

The proposal was a thinly disguised attempt to impose state control on the politically independent acclimatisation society structure of its democratically elected councils. Most concerning was the proposal for a national executive which would see sportsmen's representatives in a minority to government appointees.

Politely but firmly, I made my opposition clear. I was not alone. Many trout anglers and duck shooters were concerned too.

The reply from Henry May was startling.

In a three-page typed letter he ranted back about how great his department's scheme was and then berated me as being “ignorant, emotionally obsessed and loose with the facts.”

I consulted my friend John B Henderson, president of the NZ Deerstalkers Association about the three-page tirade. His response was to laugh. “You've hit a raw nerve, lad” he exclaimed. “If you hadn't, they would've brushed you off with polite thank-you-for-your- views reply.”

My friends reaction to minister Henry May's tirade was that it was “appalling for a public servant”, “What happened to democracy and the people's viewpoint” to “what a plonker”, “a bad joke” plus one or two friends laughing as they suggested May had correctly psycho-analysed me.

PM Loses Plot

I then sought an interview with Prime Minister Bill Rowling in Picton which came into his electorate. Ted Bason, good friend, and fellow Marlborough Acclimatisation Society councillor came with me. On the arranged time, Ted and I stepped into the interview room at the Oxley hotel on Picton's waterfront. I introduced myself and before I could introduce Ted, the Prime Minister erupted.

“I know who you are!” he shouted. “You took a swing at my minister!”

He continued to shout. Ted and I stood there rather bemused. PM Rowling recovered somewhat and spluttered “Ahem, well what do you want to see me about?” It was all very bizarre and unreal, but it was happening.

Seriously though, even back then, the imposition of state control of acclimatisation societies was nothing new. Some attempts have been more subtle and not so blatant but nevertheless they have occurred.

State bullies

This year's attempt by the Ardern-led Labour government via the Department of Conservation is probably the 15th or 16th as far as I can ascertain. And like State Bully Boy Henry May's scheme, the proposals would see government appointees – or state puppets – on not only the National Council but regional Fish and Game councils too.

New Zealand governments have been trying to grab control of the democratically elected Fish and Game organisation for decades. Of course, it wasn't always known as Fish and Game. The first European settlers set up Acclimatisation Societies. New Zealand's first acclimatisation society was probably in Auckland, around 1861. Many others soon followed.

Fish and Game New Zealand is the collective brand name of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and 12 regional Fish and Game Councils, established in 1990 to represent the interests of anglers and hunters, and provide coordination of the management, enhancement, and maintenance of sports fish and game set up under Section 26B of the Conservation Act 1987.

Clear intent

Over the decades, governments were clearly intent to impose state control on acclimatisation societies. One of the boldest attempts was the Hunn Commission of 1968 which contained the admission that it was the 10th investigation in 14 years.

In 1961 it was Leon Gotz, National's Minister of Internal Affairs who made the play. It failed but then in 1968, the biggest attack came from the Hunn Commission.

John B Henderson had been highly critical of the dictatorial manner of the government's Hunn Commission. In an editorial in NZDA's magazine he said "Without warning or consultation — with the Acclimatisation Society movement — the government arranged — for the Committee of Inquiry and to quite arbitrarily define the terms of reference —and setting up a hopeless time schedule.

Still government's persisted with attempts. Whereas in the 1930s and 1940s, Labour's Minister of Internal Affairs William Parry and then in the 1960s Labour's Henry May had spear headed takeover attempts in the 1980s, Dr Peter Tapsell as minister attempted another but ran into spirited opposition.

Twisted Formula

A statement by Acclimatisation Society during one of the confrontations probably sums up the style of the attempted coups. "Few sportsmen will swallow his familiar twisted formula of conquest by division, takeover and disinheritance."

It very arguably applies to this year's attempted coup.

Current Fish and Game NZ chairman Rainford (Ray) Grubb seems to have backed the fish and game review's conclusions with statements on Radio NZ.

“The minister (Environment Minister David Parker) has endorsed that approach by recognising that I will continue as chair of Fish and Game, that Fish and Game will actually put in place the report itself rather than have it directed by the Department of Conservation, under whose Act we are set up. That will give us the confidence to be able to implement the review as well.”

No Consultation?

But where is the consultation and the democratic structure and system of Fish and Game?

Fish and Game councillors are in essence public servants elected by the fishing and hunting public. The chairman, deputy chairman and councillors of Fish and Game NZ are duty bound to consult long and hard with the licence holding public and without prejudice, to listen.

A major blunder was made by the Acclimatisation Society National Council when the Act setting up Fish and Game councils was passed. Throughout the law book, Fish and Game New Zealand is responsible “directly to the Minister of Conservation—providing advice to the Minister of Conservation” etc., Tied to DOC’s apron strings.

Past arguments when I have raised the folly of this statutory obligation was that government would have closed Fish and Game down by taking over. Yet governments have made 15 or 16 attempts in the past and each time, been repelled.

This year’s state takeover attempt should be – and can be – repelled too.

Hypocrisy

To me any government conceited enough to think it can do a better job of managing the public’s fish and game and associated environmental advocacy reeks of hypocrisy and arrogance. It is bizarre the Department of Conservation (DOC) has instigated and implemented the review.

Perhaps the Ministers of Conservation and Environment should be told that their “experts” have a sorry track record.

- DOC just does not understand basic food chains and population dynamics and species characteristics. It drops toxins haphazardly against the manufacturer’s recommendations relative to removing poisoned carcasses and waterways, ignoring research as to disastrous effects on the ecosystem and not understanding as studies show that 1080 stimulates population explosions in rats and stoats.
- DOC seems unaware of any awareness of declining native bird numbers such as kingfishers, shining cuckoos and others, evident to observant anglers and shooters.
- DOC seems oblivious of the rampant spread of Old Man’s Beard, smothering native vegetation in many places.
- DOC dodges native fish management such as whitebait and eels simply because of commercial pressures.

- DOC has failed time and time again to back Fish and Game submissions for Water Conservation Orders (WCOs) on rivers – the very habitat of native fish, which the department has a statutory obligation to protect.

In a few words, DOC cannot even meet its own lawful requirements.

DOC's dogma

DOC's "anti-exotic wild animal phobia" is a hypocritical dogma that diminishes the bureaucracy's integrity and ability to see wildlife situations in an objective manner. Undeniably the list of DOC failures go on beyond these.

Notwithstanding there are some fine people in DOC particularly in the field, but Head Office bureaucracy and policies too often submerge them.

It is very likely appointees to the national Fish and Game council as envisaged by the review and on some regions will be bureaucrats with no appreciation or knowledge of the ethos of outdoor sports.

What guarantee is there that government appointments as the review pushes strongly for, understand the aspirations and ethics of the fishing and hunting public?

The policies required to sustain the large and socially important sports of fishing and hunting cannot be understood by some back room bureaucratic boffin who has never held a rod, gun, or rifle in his or her life.

The chairman as per the review, is to be a government appointment, thus completing the virtual stranglehold on the discussions and decision making of the National Fish and Game Council.

It's said in the corporate world of companies a 25% shareholding is sufficient to control decision making. The review panel's recommendation far exceed the crucial 25% mark.

The question is how will the 200,000 trout and salmon anglers and duck shooters react?

Editor's note: At this month's Club night and AGM we will have Phil Teal, Chief Executive Wellington Fish and Game attending the meeting and providing members his insight into the outcomes of the review of Fish and Game. All Fish & Game license holders need to take the time to read through the outcome from the review, there are major consequences to our sport if all 38 recommendations go through.



River and Rain by Domenick Swentosky

Tap, tap, ta-tap, tap, tap-a-tap.

The rain is steady. And thick limbs on the hemlock above me are soaked. Even the bark on what was the dry side of the tree trunk is dark and wet now. But the hanging boughs collect raindrops and provide a canopied shelter for me. Water slides down thin stems, joining with other tiny streams from sister stems, until those streams merge on thicker, parent branches.

Just above my seat at the base of the oldest tree in the valley, the stream of water flowing along a hemlock branch stops at a knot in the wood. Most of it diverts to the junction with the tree trunk, but some of it splits from the stream and falls in thick drops that travel thirty feet, straight down to find the grey nylon hood of my wading jacket.

Tap, ta-tap, tap, tap-tippy-tap, tap.

The rhythm lands in time with a Beatles song. And for the next few minutes, Strawberry Fields fills my head. I hum a few bars and lightly sing the chorus under my breath. That's enough to earn the attention of River, my five-month-old Aussie pup. And his wet nose pokes under my shady hood to press against my cheek for a moment. He leans in hard with his wet body, and I cradle an arm around my friend for a long hug.



River

It's good to be fishing with a dog again. I remember sitting through hard rain like this with my Border Collie, Dylan, so many years ago. He loved the woods too, and something about a storm engaged his senses. While I'd take up shelter under an evergreen, Dylan would tear off through the woods at full tilt. He'd make laps around an imaginary perimeter, with his head held high, staring into the rain with a smile that only friends of a dog can understand.

But River is different from Dylan. He's a mirror. Whatever I do, he does, and at five months, that's not so unexpected from a shepherd. I wonder what he'll be like five years from now. Surely, we'll sit in the rain many more mornings together, so I'll find out.

Drip, drip, drip.

A Blue Winged Olive hovers and flutters next to River's face for a moment, and he sees it. (River doesn't miss much.) Tilting his head, he's just about to lunge for the mayfly when a large raindrop knocks the hapless Olive from the air — more confusion in the life of a puppy. I chuckle, and River relaxes while I start to tell him a story ...

Dad and I camped in tents early on. And I remember those dark nights, lying awake on low beds and breathing the cleanest, coldest air I'd ever felt. I wanted never to fall asleep, but to lie there content, awake and soaking it all in. It rained often on those spring trips. I heard songs in the raindrop patterns then too. And music accompanied the sleep when it came.

Tap, ta-tap, tap, tap-tippy-tap, tap.

I'm thankful for rain again. I've been through enough decades in these woods to see a little of everything, but the extended drought this summer was different. I never worried for the trout because this limestone spring-fed region holds its baseflow well. But I grew tired of the fishing routine, as our trout seemed stuck inside of summer until these last few rain events finally bumped the flows.

I love it here for the constant changes. Four seasons. We have it all. There are weekly and daily amendments to the habits of trout, inspired by fluctuations in the flows and the rise or fall of temperatures. I'm thankful for that.

River stirs. He leaves my side and walks to a fallen log carpeted with dripping green moss. He places two paws on the log and lifts his nose into the rain, taking in colourful scents that I can't even imagine. He lingers there, and for a moment I see everything that he will become. It feels good to be fishing with a dog again.

When he finally leaves the log, River returns to me and repeats the wet-nose-to-the-cheek routine before settling under my arm for a second time. So, I finish my story ...

The tent always had a leak somewhere, and while the music of the rain was welcome, the invasive water brought with it a wearisome chill by the morning. Somewhere, always, cold rain made its way to the interior of my clothes. And now, under this tree, it seems that the slightest trickle of water is running down the back of my neck.

I'm unsure if my jacket has failed or the water traveling along my spine is what was gathered in my hood before I finally flipped it up a half hour ago.

I watch the hard rain land on River. Most of the drops bounce off his thick coat, but plenty make it through. He's soaked, no matter how often he shakes his body to shed the rain and start anew. River doesn't care. But my nature is to be concerned about the water on my back. It's early in the day. Will I be wet and uncomfortable in forty degrees and gusty winds? Hopefully, I'll warm up when I get back to fishing.

I stare at River and admire his abilities. He lives each moment. Every event stands alone. With no thoughts or burdens of time, the next raindrop isn't even a notion in River's mind. His senses are pure, without concern for the future.

I can learn a lot from that.

Fish hard, friends.

A promotional poster for a Kiwi Night Encounter at Ngā Manu Nature Reserve. The background is dark with a central image of a kiwi bird illuminated by a spotlight. At the top, the logo for Ngā Manu Nature Reserve features a stylized kiwi head. The title 'KIWI NIGHT ENCOUNTER' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. A circular call-to-action bubble on the right says 'CALL 04 2934131 TO BOOK'. At the bottom, there is a green banner with white and yellow text detailing the experience and pricing.

Ngā Manu
NATURE RESERVE

**KIWI NIGHT
ENCOUNTER**

**CALL
04 2934131
TO
BOOK**

Share in the magical
night world of kiwi !
\$5 Discount for
Friends of Ngā Manu

1 ½ hour experience:

- Adult (Age 16+) - \$35
- Child (Age 7 -15) - \$25
- Row of 5 seats - \$150

If you have never seen a Kiwi in its natural environment (near natural) then I would recommend the Kiwi Night Encounter at Nga Manu, you will need to book as it is limited to 10 people each night.

*Newsletter copy to be received by
Second Monday of each month; your
contribution is welcome just send it to:*

malcolm1@xtra.co.nz

Purpose:

To promote the art and sport of Fly Fishing.

To respect the ownership of land adjoining waterways.

To promote the protection of fish and wildlife habitat.

To promote friendship and goodwill between members.

To promote and encourage the exchange of information between members.

Club meetings

You are invited to attend our club meetings that are held on the **Fourth Monday** of each month.

The venue is the **Turf Pavilion Sport Grounds**, Scaife Street, Paraparaumu,

Our **meetings start at 7:30pm** with fellowship followed by speakers of activities.

Club Committee meetings are held on the first Monday of each month and the meetings are held at various member's homes and start at 7:30pm.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please remember that the club has two Five Weight 8'6" fly rods that members are welcome to use, just contact Malcolm Francis

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