

Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

June 2017 Newsletter



PRESIDENT REPORT

One of the reason I joined the Kapiti Fly Fishing club many years ago was for selfish reason, I wanted to 'poach' other angler's knowledge and gain a better insight into fishing our local rivers. As my knowledge has developed I now find that I am in a position where I can share what I have learnt and encourage members to value what our local rivers offer an angler. The more you learn about the river and the life within the river the more success and enjoyment you will achieve by spending time on the water.

The enjoyment gain from the sport of fly fishing has encouraged me to become a lot more aware of how we take things for granted when it comes to clean waterways. I want my great grandchildren to be able to have the same opportunities I have had since first holding a fly rod in my hand in 1972, yes, I have two great grandchildren.

I would like to thank the members of the new Committee, Hugh Driver, Pete Haakman, Peter Kettle, Rob McMillan, Kras Angelov and a special thank you to Craig Gutry our Past President. Over the past two years Craig has made a wonderful contribution to the club with both his time and energy, and not forgetting those tempting tasty treats at our club nights.

As you will see from Michael's article I ventured north to Turangi to spend the weekend fishing Lake Otamangakau, I have to say I have not spent a great deal of time fishing lakes, in fact I have tried to avoid them and after the latest experience this may continue. To say the weather was against us is an understatement, we experienced gale force winds, rain, snow and icy roads and COLD. Still I did learn a few things by watching Leon's technique and the fun we had trying to net a fish that was none too happy with the hook in its mouth. Excellent weekend even if I did not have the pleasure of hooking a fish, the second trip in a row when I 'blanked' and the fish won the day.

At our next meeting, we will have Peter Wilson from Fish and Game talk about the work he has done at Fish and Game and the success in challenging peoples thinking on the importance of our environment. I look forward to my role as your President and spending time on the water with you over the coming months.

Take care and tight lines Malcolm

Front cover: Otaki River at Pukehina photo by Leon Smith

Any newsletters success is influenced by the contribution of others so please pass on any truthful or Imaginative stories otherwise you may find 'yourself' as part of future tales from the river bank. malcolmi@xtra.co.nz

***You are invited to the next KFFC Club Night on
Monday 26 June 2017 – Guest speaker is Peter
Wilson Fish and Game***

FROM THE TYRE'S BENCH AT SCHOOL ROAD –THE GREY GHOST

We are planning to start a series of Fly Tying workshops over the winter months, if you are interested can you please email Malcolm at malcolmi@xtra.co.nz or Michael Murphy at mnkmurf@gmail.com.

These workshops will suit both the beginner and experienced fly tyers, there will be people on hand to help you develop the skills to tie effective flies that catch fish.

SPECIAL REPORT: WILL CLIMATE CHANGE KILL OFF NZ'S RIVERS? BY TONY WRIGHT

In part one and two of our special investigation into the health of New Zealand's rivers, Newshub examined what exactly is polluting our waterways, and what is being done to try to protect and save them.

In part three we look at what effects climate change could have on the health of our rivers, and analyse if we've already reached the tipping point for overall decline in waterway health. One of the biggest problems facing our rivers, especially those in areas of New Zealand facing drought such as the Canterbury plains, or a noticeable rise in temperature such as Waikato and Northland, is keeping the water flow cool.

As we examined in part two of Newshub's report, Kiwi dairy farmers are undertaking a massive planting operation alongside the area of land immediately adjacent to waterways on their farms, known as the riparian area - and one of the many reasons these plants are important is because they help shade the water, keeping them cool.

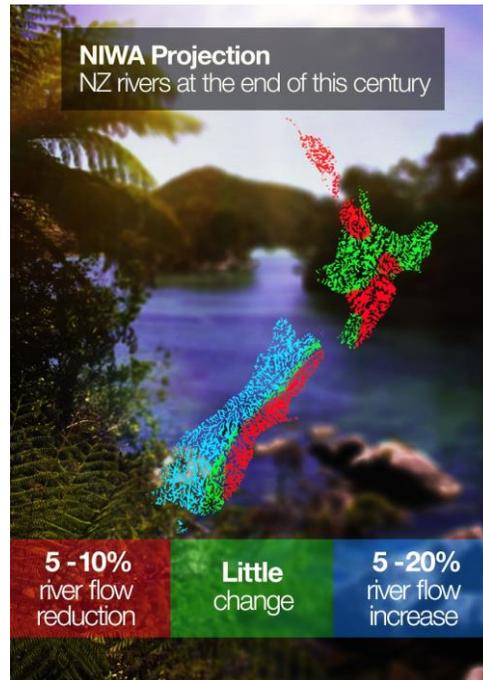


NIWA has worked with the dairy industry on best practice to protect rivers from getting warmer, and chief scientist of freshwater and estuaries Dr John Quinn says riparian planting is a key weapon in fighting to keep our rivers from heating up.

"If we get riparian shade around small streams now it's one thing we can do to mitigate some of that impact by reducing the heating that's going to occur.

"But that's just the reality that if we carry on the way we are with climate change we're going to see less water in those areas that will have big impacts in both the agricultural system and on the stream system, it certainly exacerbates the problems we have with purification in both lakes and in rivers."

NIWA has predicted what river flow in New Zealand could look like by the end of this century, using data from current climate change projections.



As you can see, rivers on the east coast of the South Island, Wairarapa, Hawke's Bay, Waikato, Auckland and Northland all face the possibility of having a 5 - 10 percent reduction in river flow by 2090.

Alpine rivers however, especially those in the Southern Alps of the South Island, are projected to have a drastic increase in flow.



A dry river bed in the Southern Alps - these catchments will likely see much more rain due to climate change. (Getty)

On the projection, NIWA says: "In a warmer world New Zealand is exposed to more westerly airflow from the Tasman, and few easterlies. This would bring more precipitation to the Southern Alps in particular, resulting in higher river flows in rivers with alpine sources. This is seen quite vividly as Canterbury's major rivers become wetter on average while their shorter nearby rivers tend to dry. The largest decline, in percentage terms, centres on parts of Hawke's Bay."

NIWA say there is a 20 - 100 percent projection of decreased river flow in some areas of Hawke's Bay and Banks Peninsula in Canterbury. There are obviously thousands of agriculture businesses in those areas expected to see a reduction in river flow - not just dairy farming, but beef, lamb and a myriad of other land based industries.

Warmer temperatures will kill off vital insect populations

DairyNZ water scientist Dr Tom Stephens told Newshub he believes one of the biggest threats to our waterways is rising temperatures.

"The biggest way of removing oxygen from our waterways is simply by heating them up. And if you raise the water temperature of a waterway on top of removing the oxygen carrying capacity, it actually directly impacts on our high value insect species, the stonefly and the mayfly. "If a stream rises above 20 degrees, those species will disappear. They undergo mortality, what we call extinction, and yet those species are critical sources of food for our fish, and they're also critical to grazing algae and keeping that under control."

The larger the waterway - the harder it is to cool

NIWA's Dr John Quinn says that while riparian planting can help protect smaller streams from heating up, the problem becomes more complicated the larger the waterway gets. "So clearly, if you can shade out the stream you reduce the temperature which is one of the things that is making algal blooms grow more quickly, and the light which makes them grow.

"We've done experiments on different scales that show that that really does work, but once streams get bigger - beyond 10 to 15 metres - it becomes more and more challenging to shade, to use shade to control."

Dr Stephens agrees that protecting these larger waterways from the heat of the sun is incredibly important. New Zealand's longest river, the Waikato, is also one our widest, and in certain areas has seen a stark decline in health. He puts this down to insect populations, which are incredibly important to river health.



The Waikato River near Huntly has seen a marked decline in health. (Getty)

"One of the biggest reasons why we don't have the insect diversity we need and we want in our community in the Waikato waterways is that they're too hot.

"Algal growth can be important to insect health, particularly in shallow streams, when we're talking about a deep river or a hydro lake it's slightly different, because the algal growth isn't attached to the bed, it's the free-floating

stuff, it's what we call phytoplankton. "Because you can't shade the lake, or a river that's larger than five metres wide, you just can't get enough shade on it to control for that algae. "

So, climate change looks set to have a drastic impact on the health of our waterways, and it would appear science can only do so much to protect them. Discussions need to be happening now about how best to tackle this problem before it spirals beyond control and the rivers on the Canterbury Plains and Hawke's Bay dry up for good.



The Selwyn River in Canterbury has all but stopped flowing. (Newshub)

The Selwyn River in Canterbury looks to have almost dried up already - and a major investigation needs to be done to find out why. If too much water has been taken out of the Selwyn to irrigate agricultural-based industries, which has been suggested, then surely the Government must get involved to stop this from happening to other rivers.

So, have we reached a tipping point for overall river decline in New Zealand?

Dr Mike Joy teaches environmental sustainability at Massey University and says the shocking state of the Selwyn River in particular should be a wake-up call for all New Zealanders. "There's certainly some basket cases like the Selwyn. It's a bad example of just decades of putting the wrong things in the wrong place and now, it's coming home to haunt us.

"If you take the whole country then nearly all of our rivers are in perfect condition where they start off, in a conservation state they're fantastic pristine rivers as good as anywhere in the world, but it's the bottom ends that are the problem."

It could take generations for our rivers to recover

Dr Kevin Simon teaches freshwater ecology at Auckland University. He believes we've not reached the tipping point yet, but we are very close. "Could it be saved? Sure. It certainly could be made better. It will take a long time and a very large amount of effort.

"So, I think that one of the big questions is how much effort are we going to require to repair some of these systems to make them better and how long should we be thinking about in terms of timeframe for recovery.

"It could be very well in order of talking about decades or generations."

Is 'polluter pays' part of the answer?

Dr Joy shares Dr Simon's views but is perhaps less optimistic of a positive outcome for our rivers.

"The majority of our rivers are in decline, they're getting worse, they're not even stable. "They're all of the rivers that are in pastoral catchment, nearly all of them are getting worse and so there's no sign, we're doing nothing that's going to reduce it unless we get some kind of a handle on reducing intensification and we have to do something about polluter pays.

"So, until we do that, until we actually start making some change and not just talking about it then we're just going to have continuing decline of our water quality. "We have to face up to the fact that we've made a mess and actually do something about it."

Dr Stephens paints a far more positive picture.

"I wouldn't say that the rivers are getting worse as such. If you look at the latest trend reporting by NIWA and the Waikato Regional Council, indicators for sediment are improving, indicators for phosphorus are improving, indicators for algae in our hydro lakes are improving.

"There isn't a hydro lake where the algal growth is worsening, not in the last 10 to 20 years."

REPORT FROM OUT TURANGI CORRESPONDENT - NOEL THOMAS

Winter season has started well with good conditioned fish being caught from all rivers. Tongariro and Hine seem the most consistent with their controlled flows. The T/T and other smaller tributaries fish better after a fresh so keep an eye on the weather. Mid-week is best if you can make it as we are starting to get busy. Some good river mouth fishing if that is your thing.

New licence and new regulations apply from 1st July so make sure you are up to date.

Put the 12th August in your diary for Sporting Life and Manic Tackles Fly Fest here at Turangi. Scott, Sage and Simms plus other manufacturers on site with demonstrations, specials and giveaways also free food. A chance to try before you buy as rods will be available for you to try.

Hope to see you there, Tight lines Noel

THIS SEASON WILL SEE A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE TAUPO FISHERY



photo-credit-Peter Wilton

Catch bag limits have increased: Anglers are now able to catch **6 fish per day**.

Minimum length has decreased: The minimum allowable 'keep' length is now **350mm**.

Stream and River mouth: restrictions for Fly Fishing only have decreased from 300 metres to **200 metres**.

They have amended the definition of fly fishing to give guidance on leader's length and fly weight.

Fly fishing methods have evolved as new techniques are explored. To help anglers, we are amending the definition of fly fishing 'to include a maximum leader length of 6 meters, minimum fly line length to 3 meters and the purpose of specifically introduced weight can only facilitate sinking for a fly-fishing set up.'

Licence pricing and new categories as at 1 July 2017

For the first time in six years there has been a modest pricing increase across most categories has been introduced, child licence fees have not changed.

24 Hour licence:

- **Adult** **\$20.00**
- **Child** **\$4.50**

Week licence

- **Adult** **\$42.00**
- **Non-resident** **\$65.00**

Whole season licence

- **Adult** **\$99.00**
- **Senior** **\$90.00**
- **Non-resident** **\$129.00**
- **Family** **\$149.00**
- **Child** **\$12.50**

To learn more on these changes please go to www.doc.govt.nz-fishtaupo

Contact fishlicence@doc.govt.nz.

LONGFIN EEL GET A FOOT HOLD ON SLIPPERY SLOPE TO EXTINCTION BY DELWYN DICKY



Paul Decker: Solutions to high eel mortality from hydro dams and water pollution must also be found

The decision by the Minister for Primary Industries Nathan Guy to fully separate longfin eels from the more common shortfin eel in quota management has been welcomed by eel advocates. "I am encouraged by this decision" Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Dr Jan Wright says. "The way is now open to review how many longfin eels can be caught each year from our rivers and lakes. "

The decision by MPI comes after a 2012 report by the commissioner which found the species is heading for extinction and called for an independent review of their management under the quota management system. Separating longfin eels completely under the quota management system should lead to better understanding of numbers and better management.

The independent review panel criticised the limited set of information used by the Ministry for Primary Industries in setting eel catch limits. But Mahurangi Technical Institute Warkworth aquaculture and research manager Paul Decker remains sceptical the split will stop the eels slide. "The quota is negligible compared to the environmental impacts of hydro dams and water pollution on eel populations," he says.

Growing up to two metres long, longfin eels are one of the biggest eels in the world. Unlike shortfin eel, they are only found in New Zealand. Classified as threatened and declining, they can live to 100 years. Eel fishing in New Zealand was unregulated until over-fishing concerns saw both species clumped together and put under the quota management system in the South Island in 2000. Management in the North Island followed four years later but separated the species.

Levels of juvenile recruitment (young fish in the streams) was considered to be the most important indicator of stock well-being. But current records for young stock have been deemed inadequate, and only small numbers of juvenile longfin eels are being found in both North and South Island rivers. There have been calls for years from fresh water scientists and environmentalists to stop harvesting the eels commercially while there is so much uncertainty over population numbers.

Getting accurate numbers for the rare longfin eel is an important first step in management, Dr Wright says. "I would like to see a suspension of commercial fishing of longfin eels until there is clear evidence they are recovering," Dr Wright says. Domestic farming to take pressure off wild stock might seem an obvious choice but the life-cycle of eels make them difficult to manage commercially. They only breed once - at the end of their life and travel thousands of kilometres to tropical waters near Tonga, where they spawn and then die. The resulting young "glass" eels are then swept back to the New Zealand coast by ocean currents, taking 18 months to get here. They then head up fresh water streams.

Eels in Europe and the east coast of the United States travel thousands of kilometres to the Sargasso Sea in the Atlantic Ocean to breed. No food source for this part of their life-cycle has yet been developed and is one reason all eels being farmed commercially world-wide come from young eels (glass eels) caught in the wild. These are then grown-on, Decker says. Decker has been involved in trying to develop a system to commercially farm the fish in a closed loop for some years. Unlike the Institutes whitebait breeding success, it has so far eluded him. Ninety-five percent of eels consumed globally are farm grown with New Zealand contributing to the remaining five percent of adults caught in the wild, he says.

Eels are in a perilous state in Britain and Europe after a decline of 95 percent in the last 45 years. Restrictions were brought in across Europe in 2010. This has seen a black-market spring up with 20 tonnes of live glass eels from Europe turn up on farms across Asia. This is more than the legitimate European take. Young New Zealand eels aren't subject to this type of poaching as it is illegal to take any elvers from the wild here, Decker says, and they would have to go through biosecurity to get them out of the country.

Shortfin eels tend to stick to lowland freshwater streams and wetlands while longfin eels head further inland which puts them more in harm's way including from hydro dams. North Island dams haven't impacted longfin eel numbers as much as South Island dams which have severely restricted eel access. The Commissioners report estimates dams have locked the eels out of stream and river systems reducing possible numbers by over a third. But that's not the only problem.

"When the eels now trying to return to the sea to migrate first ventured far up the streams there were no hydro dams," Decker says. "Now when they try to get past the dams on the way down downstream they are chopped up in the turbines if they are more than one metre long, which of course they will be."

The type of turbine used in the dams affects the survival rate of migrating eels but almost all the females, which are bigger than the males, die. Migration usually happens over about four weeks, and while a couple of dams do turn their turbines off for about an hour at dusk during the migration, the vast majority don't, says Decker. This allows the bulk of migrating eels in those lakes to migrate but it costs the power company money to do that, he says.

Small number of elvers are transferred up into the dam lakes at most of the big dams now, but even so only 10 percent of pre-dam eel numbers exist above the dams. While Decker says polluted rivers and streams particularly from pastoral farming runoff will also be having a serious impact on eel numbers but this wasn't included in the research parameters of the commissioner's report. Pollution in streams and rivers is much harder on smaller glass eels Decker says as it tends to kill off smaller animals like zoo plankton. This leads to fewer of the small fish that feed on the plankton. This in turn leads to fewer elvers which eat the small fish, contributing to a domino effect going up the food chain, he says.



GROUND BREAKING FRESHWATER RESCUE PLAN LAUNCHED.

Leaders from major tourism, science, health, recreation and environmental organisations have come together to launch an unprecedented plan for solving the country's freshwater crisis.

The Freshwater Plan is the brainchild of Choose Clean Water, Tourism Export Council of New Zealand, Fish & Game New Zealand, Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Inc., Greenpeace New Zealand, and Ora Taiao – New Zealand Climate & Health Council. The plan presents seven steps that the organisations say political parties forming the next government should commit to if they are serious about saving New Zealand's rivers and lakes.

The first step outlined in the Freshwater Rescue Plan is to protect New Zealanders' health and their waterways by setting strict and enforceable water quality standards based on human health and ecosystems health limits.

The plan comes four months after the government released its Clean Water Package, which was widely condemned for lacking urgency and for weakening protection of rivers and lakes.



The Freshwater Rescue Plan also calls for an end to public funding of irrigation schemes, and as step three redirecting that funding to support the transition of the agricultural sector towards more sustainable practices.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment has found that even with best practice mitigation, we can't have both dairy expansion and healthy waterways. Therefore, step four of the plan is the immediate implementation of strategies to decrease the number of cows nationally.

The organisations maintain that it is vital for the steps to be adopted together. Strict water quality standards can only be effective alongside an integrated approach. Each step in the Freshwater Rescue Plan supports and reinforces the others.

The final step in the plan is adopting the OECD recommendation to establish a whole-of-government, multi-stakeholder process to develop a long-term vision for the transition of New Zealand to a low-carbon, greener economy as step seven of the plan. In recent months, three independent reports have provided overwhelming evidence that our rivers and lakes are in serious trouble.

The government has the power to stop the contamination of freshwater and protect New Zealand rivers and lakes. While the organisations acknowledge that the process will take time, they stress that politicians must start now.

The organisations insist New Zealand has the steps needed to deal with the freshwater crisis – all that's missing is the political will to do so.

Seven steps of the Freshwater Rescue Plan:

1. Prioritise the health of people and their waterways by setting strict and enforceable water quality standards, based on human and ecosystem health limits.
2. Withdraw all public subsidies of irrigation schemes, as they increase pressure on waterways.
3. Invest in an Agricultural Transition Fund, to support the country's shift away from environmentally-damaging farming methods by redirecting \$480 million of public money earmarked for irrigation.
4. Implement strategies to decrease cow numbers immediately.
5. Reduce freshwater contamination by instigating polluter pays systems nationally.
6. Address the performance of regional council's on improving water quality through quarterly reports from the Ministry for the Environment on enforcement, breaches and monitoring.
7. Adopt OECD recommendation to establish a "whole-of-government, multi-stakeholder process to develop a long-term vision for the transition of New Zealand to a low-carbon, greener economy".

The Freshwater Rescue Plan has been welcomed by the Green Party, which hailed it as a "wake-up call". "The National Government has been in denial about the poor state of Aotearoa New Zealand's waterways, so this plan should be a wake-up call," says Green Party water spokesperson Catherine Delahunty.

“The seven-point Freshwater Rescue Plan is a bold plan that includes many of the things we have been calling on the government to do in order to clean up and protect our waterways, such as ending subsidies for large-scale irrigation, decreasing the number of cows on our farms, bringing in higher standards for clean water, and moving to less intensive forms of farming.

“The Green Party will wind up Crown Irrigation Investments Ltd and end Crown subsidies for irrigation schemes, such as Central Plains Water that has enabled intensive dairy farming in an area already suffering from too much nitrogen pollution”. “In the last Budget, fresh water clean-up work got only \$1 million of new funding, while more than \$90 million has been budgeted for irrigation schemes that will pollute our waterways”.

“All the best practice mitigation measures like fencing stock from waterways and planting riparian strips aren’t going to prevent further pollution from dairy farms entering our rivers – we need to reduce the number of cows so that there is less pollution in the first place,” Delahunty says.

For more information – www.freshwaterrescueplan.org.nz

KAPITI FLY FISHING CLUB TRIP TO LAKE OTAMANGAKAU – 19 TO 22 MAY BY MICHAEL MURPHY



Photo of Lake Otamangakau by Malcolm Francis

Only four keen (well, maybe slightly mad) fisho’s ignored the bad weather forecast and headed to Turangi on the Friday for the Lake Otamangakau trip. Leon, Malcolm and I arrived in Turangi early afternoon with Fred arriving early evening. The weather was not great so no one headed out for a fish.

The howling southerly wind and persistent horizontal rain did not deter Fred from heading out to fish the Tongariro River while the rest of us joined Motuoapa based club member Noel Thomas on his morning task of clearing rodent traps. We headed up over the Saddle Road to Lake Rotopounamu, our task was to check 50 rodent traps, we all found this extremely interesting and informative and we came across a number of the less common New Zealand native birds. After the two hour walk we were certainly ‘warmed up’ and I have to say the first section of our walk got my heart rate up and my lungs pumping in the freezing air. Thank you Noel for both answering our many questions as well as allowing us to accompany you. I had not done this lake walk before and if you the reader have not done so I can recommend it.

Later Saturday afternoon Malcolm, Leon and I headed out to the Blue Pool in an effort to find a sheltered spot to cast a line in hope of at least hooking a fish. For once I was the only one to land a fish which was a nice 4lb Rainbow caught on the tweaked Hare and Copper Bomb. By late afternoon we were frozen so took ourselves back to sit around the fire at Leon’s Bach and tell a few lies.

Early evening saw us meeting Noel at the local pub for a few ales and to eat and watch the Hurricanes demolish their opposition. Fred arrived not after us after a whole days fishing at various spots but without a great deal of success of landing the 'big one'. I have to say I could not have survived fishing for that long in such cold and wind. I have just been reading up about a damselfly which has glycol in its blood so it can hibernate totally frozen all winter then come to life again in spring and have since been wondering if Fred also has glycol in his blood. Well done Fred, you are a legend.

Sunday found Lake Otamangakau calm but freezing, so the four of us split between Fred and Leon's boats and we spent endless hours practicing drift fishing until mid-afternoon, by then it was just too COLD. I was lucky enough to fish from the stern of Fred's very cool aluminium pontoon boat which in my opinion is pretty much perfect for Lake O. Leon caught three nice fish and I landed one with both Malcolm and Fred finding out how hard the lake fishing can be. There were no trophies for any of us. The snail patterns were the only ones catching fish despite lots of other patterns be tried.

Another great club trip for all of us despite the weather and poor fishing. Thank you, Fred, for sharing your boat and for delivering me safely home, thanks to both Leon and Malcolm, who like Fred proved to be great company.

Michael

KAPITI FLY FISHING CLUBS SUBMISSION TO THE GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL RESOURCES CONSENT.

The following is a copy of the club's submission regarding the GWRC application for flood management a gravel extractions from both the Waikanae and Otaki Rivers. Hugh Driver and Michael with input from Peter Wilson at Fish and Game spent numerous hours putting our submission together on behalf of you and the wider community who enjoy this great resource at our doorstep. A big thank you to both Hugh and Michael, we have indicated that we would like to speak to our submission at the hearing.

Greater Wellington Regional Council Resource Consents

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Notification of applications for resource consent WGN130303 and WGN140054 under section 95(A) of the Resource Management Act 1991

INTRODUCTION

1. This is a submission on notified resource consents, WGN130303 (Waikanae) and WGN140054 (Otaki) for flood control activities on the western rivers of the Wellington region, specifically the Waikanae, and Otaki Rivers from the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Inc. We understand our fellow clubs as well as Fish and Game are also submitting on the other rivers namely the Hutt and Wainuiomata Rivers.
2. The Kapiti Fly Fishing Club and its members have a long-term interest in the rivers of the region including the Waikanae and Otaki rivers not only for the purpose of our club but in a wider sense to improve the biodiversity and ecology of our rivers
3. The Kapiti Fly Fishing Club constitution aims and objects are:
 - a. To promote and enhance the art and sport of fly fishing
 - b. To respect the ownership of land adjoining waterways
 - c. To promote the protection of fish and wildlife habitat
 - d. To promote and support access to all rivers, streams and lakes

- e. To promote friendship and goodwill between members
 - f. To promote and encourage the exchange of information between members
4. Kapiti Fly Fishing Club members have a wealth of practical knowledge of the Waikanae and Otaki Rivers and are keen to provide input to ensure the best outcome for the biodiversity and ecology of our rivers.
 5. Kapiti Fly Fishing Club wishes to be heard at any hearing convened for these consents.

RELIEF SOUGHT

General:

6. The Kapiti Fly Fishing Club recognises the need for flood control activities to continue on these rivers, and understands the level of complexity involved in balancing and managing rivers with multiple and often competing values – to prevent significant flooding, to maintain and enhance natural character and amenity, to continue to provide life-supporting capacity for aquatic ecosystems and species, including trout, at the same time as ensuring community support for those activities. Kapiti Fly Fishing Club is willing to work proactively, practically, and positively with the Greater Wellington Regional Council on river management.
7. There is also an inherent tension between engineering approaches and ecological approaches which often causes tension with any flood control activities. Sometimes it is possible to reconcile these approaches, whilst at other times it is not, and mitigation and restoration are required following engineering interventions. Adaptive management within limits and restrictions is supported, provided that adaptive management is subject to community consultation and a willingness to take input on board.
8. There is also often a disconnect between the requirements of a consent and the practical operation of the consent on the ground, given the many different layers in the chain from consent officer through to the excavator operator in the river. This disconnect is the cause of most conflict associated with flood control and river management activities. Kapiti Fly Fishing Club is supportive of and proposes a system of annual planning, consultation, and practical on-site visits through a river advisory committee in order to alleviate this disconnect, to improve relationships between river users and the Council, and most importantly, to make use of the long experience and ideas of iwi, anglers, and others in practical river design.
9. Like Fish and Game, Kapiti Fly Fishing Club's primary concern is the health of the entire ecosystem, from source to sea. What is usually healthy for trout is healthy for native fish as well, and vice versa. We have concerns that trout are seen by the Wellington Regional Council only for their recreational characteristics, rather than as indicator species for the health of the overall river. The nature of the Otaki and Waikanae Rivers are quite different in that trout spawn along the entire length of the Waikanae, whereas the braided nature of the Otaki results in most trout running upstream, beyond the dominant area of instream channel (wet riverbed) works. Kapiti Fly Fishing Club have some specific recommendations regarding the GWRC Environmental Code of Practice and Monitoring Plan for Flood Protection activities and would like to explore these at an appropriate occasion to mitigate the following ecological issues that arise from river works:

- a. Sedimentation. Sedimentation affects all downstream habitat through the smothering of benthic invertebrates, which are the primary component of much of the food chain for aquatic species, native and introduced. Benthic invertebrates can recover from sedimentation effects, either through recolonization or in-situ recovery, but this requires time and the minimisation of effects. Sedimentation also smothers spawning grounds.
 - b. Loss of natural character, such as instream character, or the natural sequence of riffles, runs, and pools that is necessary to maintain healthy habitat and fish life, and the loss of bankside or instream vegetation that is necessary to provide stability, cool water, provide rest and refuge habitat from predators (larger fish and birds) for aquatic life.
10. In order to give effect to this concept of working together and building relationships, Kapiti Fly Fishing Club proposes the following general relief. Kapiti Fly Fishing Club support for the consents is conditional on this relief being provided for:
- a. A single wrap-around consent for up to 35 years that governs the multitude of subsidiary land-use, water permit, discharge permit, and coastal permits for individual rivers in order to enable work planning (ie a 2-year horizon plan updated annually), on-site consultation, and river-specific environmental bottom-lines and precautionary periods within the overall context of adaptive management.
 - b. The single-wrap around consent would provide structure and governance for both planned and emergency works and enable the creation and operation of river advisory committees.
 - c. The formation (or continuation) of river advisory committees to provide a link between the Council and river users, to provide practical on-site advice and ideas before and after river works take place, and to generally improve relationships.
 - d. The requirement for an annual plan, with a 2-year horizon, of proposed river works to be produced. This 2-year horizon plan would identify proposed works, the periods for works, and any proposed mitigations before and after work activities. The annual plan, with a 2 year horizon, would be updated and circulated annually, or more often if amended, to the river advisory committee and affected parties including: iwi, Fish and Game, and angling clubs with the opportunity for comment and amendment – both physical aspects and timing - of works. Such an approach links well with the long term and Annual Plans within Council. The second year of the 2-year plan is promoted to ensure that there is some context of what's likely to happen next within the river.
 - e. The concept of before and after on-site meetings, upon request, between representatives of the river committee, the river engineer, and the contractor is a key part of this approach. Adaptive management works best with boots on the ground, and there is much to be gained through the sharing of knowledge and ideas.
 - f. Notifications of the potential for a site-meeting to be given to the respective river advisory committee. For planned works, this should be 15 working days, for emergency works, preferably 2 days before works begin.

- g. Each river would have a set of restrictions and precautionary periods as a reassessment of those conditions in light of the new structure proposed above.
 - h. A 10-year formal review of the consent, under section 128. This would provide for 3 or 4 reviews during the lifespan of the consent. We can be sure there will be many changes during the period of this consent.
11. The approach identified above would considerably reduce the bureaucracy and complexity of flood and river management whilst boosting linkages between river users and the Council and deploying their knowledge. It would enable easier consenting, and an overall package of consents that are considerably less complex than the current approach.
12. Based on past experiences, in our rivers, the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club will be taking a keen interest in the works that come within a one metre band from the instream channel (wet riverbed) and works that involve the loss of habitat associated with loss of bankside or instream vegetation that overhangs or is immediately adjacent to the instream channel. We have assumed the relief sought in respect of the river advisory committees will be granted as the mechanism for our input.

Specific relief sought:

13. Relief necessary to create an over-arching global consent to provide for the proposed operating structure.
14. Relief necessary to create two river advisory committee and a structure for appointments to that committee:
- a. The Waikanae River advisory committee;
 - b. The Otaki River advisory committee;
15. Relief necessary to provide for the production and publication of annual works plans, with a 2 year horizon, under the global consent or more often if the works plan is amended. Include a provision for a period of commenting and review on this works plan by the respective river committee (up to 30 working days)
16. The requirement for notification of works - 15 days for planned works, 2 days for emergency works to the respective river committee.
17. Relief necessary for the provision for before and after on-site meetings on request.
18. Restricted and precautionary periods for each river, as below:

Waikanae River

No more than 250 metres length of the instream channel (wet riverbed) to be disturbed in any 12 month period, with a maximum of 100 metres length of continuous disturbance.

A precaution on instream channel works from 1 April to 30 September to avoid affecting migrating fish and spawning grounds.

Otaki River

No more than 500 metres length of the instream channel (wet riverbed) to be disturbed in any 12 month period with a maximum of 200 metres length of continuous disturbance.

A precaution on instream works from 1 March to 30 July to avoid affecting migrating fish.

19. Thank you for the opportunity to submit.

Yours faithfully,



1085

Hugh Driver

(Treasurer)

On behalf of Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

The club has indicated that we would like to represent our submission at the hearing, this is a great opportunity for us show our 'strength and influence' as a club by having as many members as possible attend the hearing. Once we know the dates and time you will receive an email with the details, so please consider joining us at the hearing.

The Editor: Malcolm

SPORTING LIFE HOST FLYFEST 12 AUGUST 2017

Hi Malcolm.

Called in to see Graham at Sporting Life today to arrange our ongoing sponsorship. He is keen for our members to support his FlyFest weekend on the 12th August in conjunction with Manic Tackle. I have posted Manic Tackle Facebook page with the details <https://www.facebook.com/manictackle>. They ran it last year for the first time and this year will be an improvement with B.B.Q. fly casting demos. Reps from Simms, Sage and Scott on hand and plenty of bargains and giveaways.

Will start at lunch time on Sat so time for fishing in the morning and Sunday. He is keen for our members to support the event so can you please put it in the newsletter for the next couple of months.

Thanks Noel

Editor: I would like to thank Graham and the team at Sporting Life for the continued sponsorship that they have provided the club over many years, please make your self-known as a member of the club when shopping at Sporting Life as Graham has always been generous with his discounts.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE – CONGRATULATIONS PETER WOODWARD KIWIBANK LOCAL HERO AWARDS



The Kiwibank Local Hero Awards recognise and reward ordinary people making extraordinary changes in their communities. The recipients of New Zealand's premier community award are identified for their stellar contribution and commitment in bringing about positive differences in their region.

Coastguard New Zealand is fortunate to have 2,240 professional volunteers dedicating their time to help make New Zealand waterways safer for their communities. This year, we would like to congratulate five of our volunteers whose hard work and dedication has been recognised by being awarded a Kiwibank Local Hero of the Year medal.

"These awards are a great way of highlighting the work done by these individuals who play instrumental roles in their local communities. These recipients represent the high calibre of our volunteers who are so much more than just keen boaties; their love for the ocean extends further as they work towards keeping New Zealand waterways safe for all kiwis." said Coastguard New Zealand CEO, Patrick Holmes.

The Coastguard volunteer recipients of the Kiwibank Local Hero Awards are:

Peter Woodward - Coastguard Kapiti Coast Pete joined Coastguard Kapiti Coast in February 2006. As well as being involved in Search and Rescue Incidents, he has become a key fundraiser for the unit and the fundraising team has raised over \$120,000. Pete has been an effective committee member and is regularly coming up with innovative ideas to support Coastguard Kapiti Coast.

Lynn Stuart - Coastguard Wanaka Lakes Lynn is Coastguard Wanaka Lakes Principle Skipper, a Unit Instructor, Safety Officer and Board Member. His personal contribution to the unit exceeds 175 hours this year. His many hours of service exemplify his dedication and professionalism and he has been instrumental in the development of Coastguard Wanaka Lakes. Lynn has developed an outstanding relationship with every member and is the "go to" person for the unit.

Dave Johnson - Coastguard Waimakariri-Ashley Dave is a rescue vessel Master and has been President of Coastguard Waimakariri-Ashley for seven years. After the unit's building was damaged by earthquakes in 2010 Dave lead the team to secure a temporary operations base, moving back into the damaged building and then to another permeant base for the duration of the rebuild. He has ended up project managing the rebuild, dedicating countless hours in addition to his other roles.

Coastguard is a not-for-profit organisation and is fortunate to have dedicated and hardworking volunteers donating over 300,000 hours each year to help save lives at sea. The work undertaken by these individuals is invaluable for their local units as well as the organisation. We are grateful for their efforts in keeping the waters safe for our communities.



Swimming at the Oroua river in Awhuri I the Manawatu

Most of New Zealand's native freshwater species are at risk of extinction as water quality faces "serious pressures", a Government report says. Threats to native species were one particularly concerning aspect amid an overall decline in freshwater quality, determined in a joint report by the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand. The report added to mounting evidence that freshwater quality will get worse unless fundamental changes are made.

The report, titled *Our fresh water environment 2017*, found nearly three quarters of native freshwater fish species are threatened by or at risk of extinction, as well as a third of native freshwater invertebrates and a third of native freshwater plants. The report, part of the State of the Environment reporting series, measured water quality, quantity, biodiversity and cultural health. It found problems in all categories. It found nitrogen levels were worsening at more than half of the measured sites. Nitrogen levels were worst at urban sites, but were declining significantly in pastoral areas.

The decline in pastoral areas coincided with an increase intensive agriculture. Nitrogen leaching from agriculture had increased by 29 per cent since 1990, it said. The main source was livestock urine. Urban waterways had the worst overall water quality, degraded by storm water and wastewater. About a quarter of wastewater assets are more than 50 years old. Water quality overall was a mixed picture, but it was clear some trends were going the wrong way.

"Urban water is the most polluted, but the trends are worse in pastoral areas," said Secretary for the Environment Vicky Robertson. "Very high levels of nitrogen can be a problem as they can make water toxic for species and unsafe for drinking. "We aren't seeing this playing out yet, but as nitrogen levels are trending the wrong way, this is something we need to address."

While urban areas had the worst water quality, they covered less than 1 per cent of land but were home to 87 per cent of the population. Pastoral areas covered 40 per cent of land use. While it was difficult to make an overall assessment due to variation between areas, it was clear there were fairly widespread freshwater issues. "

[Thursday's] report confirms our fresh water environment faces a number of serious challenges," Government statistician Liz MacPherson said. Like other recent freshwater reports, it concluded changes would need to be made if freshwater was to improve. "New Zealand's population and agriculture-based economy are growing, and it is expected that high-intensity agriculture and urbanisation will continue to expand to new areas, potentially affecting water quality in more water bodies," the report said.

Swimmability and Biodiversity

The report found between 65 and 70 per cent of rivers would be deemed swimmable under proposed Government standards. The risk of getting sick from a river deemed swimmable under those standards, averaged

across time, was between 1 and 3.5 per cent. While much of the water quality debate had been around swimmability, the report highlighted serious issues around the health of native species. They faced serious threats, largely due to humans. They included degraded habitat through contaminated water, altered flows, and introduced predators.



The longfin eel is at risk of extinction

"Recently there has been a strong focus on how swimmable our waterways are, but that is just part of the story. The implications for our freshwater species are really critical," Robertson said. "Many of our species are found nowhere else in the world so it is even more crucial we don't lose any under our watch. We need to consider the resilience of all species in any decisions we make that affect the environment." The report said 72 per cent of native freshwater fish were threatened by or at risk of extinction, including four whitebait species, lamprey, and longfin eels.

One species, the once-common grayling, is already extinct. A third of native freshwater invertebrates were in the same category; 10 per cent were in the highest threat category, nationally critical. "A lot of our native species are endemic, so if we lose them they're gone forever," Robertson said.

The report also looked at the cultural health indicators of rivers and lakes, as determined by local Maori. The results were mixed: about half of sites measured for cultural health were rated moderate, with similar numbers rated good and poor. Mahinga kai, however, was deemed poor or very poor at 71 per cent of sites.

Water Flows

The report looked at water quantity and found data gaps and uncertainty about how water usage affected waterway health. Most of the water extracted was used for irrigation, the majority of which (64 per cent) is used in Canterbury. It was not clear how much of that water was actually used. Using Canterbury as a case study, the report found some consented irrigators used less than their allowance, but some used more. A "large proportion" of consents had no records at all, meaning there was no data to assess. That data was from 2013 and many more users now have water meters.

Based on consented water takes (not actual water taken), the report said irrigation had "the highest potential to cause widespread reductions in downstream river flows, compared with other water uses." It was particularly true in Canterbury and Hawke's Bay, where many takes were from groundwater. "Our reliance on irrigation, especially in drier regions, to support our economy, has the greatest potential of all uses to cause altered flows downstream," the report said. Climate change would exacerbate water quantity problems, with lower rainfall expected in already dry parts of the country.

Data gaps and the Future

The data for measuring water quality was imperfect, with several noticeable gaps. Among them were data on long term flow levels, how much water was being used, and information on the relationship between land use and water quality. "The more studies there are, the better we understand the impact people have on fresh water,"

MacPherson said. "However, we can't wait for perfect data to act. This report identifies some key issues we can focus on for actions." The report showed phosphorous concentrations were decreasing in some waterways, indicating improved erosion and fertiliser management, and over time there had been better addressing of point-source pollution.

"We must explore more ways to effectively improve our most vulnerable waterways," Robertson said. "Past experience shows where we focus our energy, we can make a difference." The report's conclusions were welcomed by scientists and environment and industry groups, however the gaps in the data proved a matter of contention.

Forest & Bird said the report largely drew from data more than three years old. "Unfortunately, the report doesn't show us up to date trends, which we'd hoped for and which we think the country needs," said freshwater advocate Annabeth Cohen. The group welcomed the data around freshwater species, and urged the Government to act. "Large numbers of our freshwater plants and animals are at risk of extinction - their habitat is being developed or degraded at an alarming rate."

Irrigation NZ said the report was based on "limited data" which made it difficult to track progress. "We know that where farmers and growers are focussing their efforts, they are making a difference. This report does reflect this to a degree, but it is very constrained due to incomplete or inconsistent data," chief executive Andrew Curtis said. Data around irrigation, particularly how much water was being used, was still incomplete. "Despite the fact that irrigators have been collecting water measurement data for a number of years, none of it was captured in this report because there is currently no standard measurement, reporting tools or consensus amongst regional councils that allow us to report actual water use data over time."

There were promising initiatives underway to find solutions to the problem, which were not highlighted in the report, said Our Land and Water science challenge director Ken Taylor. The overall conclusion, however, was welcome. "We've had a beneficial shift in thinking around water quality which means that no-one is now denying that there's a problem. "We no longer have to demonstrate there's a problem, there's plenty of information to show that there is, now we need to focus on finding the solutions to the problem."

Dr Scott Larned, freshwater research manager at NIWA, said there were several "big issues" beyond swimmability, such as wetland loss, nutrient enrichment in waterways and invasive species. The trend of greatest concern was increasing nitrogen levels, due to the legacy effect - it can take many years for nitrogen to reach groundwater, meaning the impact of current practices may not yet be clear. "It's a concern because it's very difficult to reduce nitrate levels in groundwater, and because the current trend may continue far into the future due to the legacy effect," he said.

Stuff NZ

MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURE HUGH DRIVER

The KFFC treasurer thanks those who have paid their annual subscriptions promptly following email sent on 22May17 -

For those yet to pay this is a friendly reminder that they due.

Editor - I would like to thank the following member for their contribution to this month's newsletter:

- *Hugh Driver*
- *Michael Murphy*
- *Ken McWilliams*
- *Noel Thomas*
- *Graeme Waters*

Your contribution is welcome so if you come across an interesting article then please forward to me at malcolm1@xtra.co.nz.

CLUB ACTIVITIES OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

There are numerous benefits from participating in the club trips and activities outside of the great companionships and that the opportunity to learn from other members of the club. Many members are more than willing to share their knowledge as I found out recently on the trip to Lake Otamangakau, I now have these strange looking snail flies in my box.

Date	Event	Contact person
Sunday 25 June	Hutt River	Michael
Monday 26 June	Club night guest speaker Peter Wilson from Fish and Game	Malcolm
Monday 24 July	Club night guest speaker Jim Rainey TBC	Malcolm
Weekend 29 to 30 July	Tongariro River	Michael
Saturday 12 August	Turangi Sporting Life Fly Fest	Malcolm
Weekend 19 20 August	Tukituki River TBC	Peter H
Monday 28 August	Club night How good is your knowledge? Quiz night	Malcolm

I would like to remind members that Sporting Life are our sponsor and you are encouraged to visit their website or contact them when you are next looking for a fly fishing item to purchase, Graham will give you a generous discount as a club member.



Please note: I if you have an item or items you would like to sell then please advise the editor and we can include your advertisement in the newsletter.

Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

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.

Contacts

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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.

Newsletter copy to be received by Second Monday of each month, your contribution is welcome just send it to: malcolm1@xtra.co.nz
