



Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

September Newsletter



PRESIDENTS REPORT

September is traditionally a windy month and this year is the same as always. This makes casting a challenge. One needs to cast smoothly and avoid putting too much power into the cast and adjust haul to create line speed, keep your casts short with less false casting. And to avoid additional ear piercing rotate the rod on the downwind side of your body. This is a simplistic view of the problem. There is plenty of literature on the internet on the skills you can practice to making casting in the wind more pleasant and not a chore. As a guide if they stop the Cook Strait ferry don't go fishing otherwise give it a crack.

Thank you Malcolm for the great job you did with the members fly tying nights. You have blooded some new talent and encouraged the experienced to share. Fly tying is a great part of our sport. It potentially saves money and develops a new appreciation for the bait we use to catch trout. Although I have more value in materials for fly tying than the local shop I have the ability to tie flies for a life time and develop and redevelop the killer flies to tempt the elusive brown or bows.

Last Month the club hosted Tane Moleta who entertained us with his saltwater fly fishing exploits and his take on local fishing from a kayak. If you weren't there you missed a great presentation. The next club meeting will be taken up mostly with a fly tying competition. This is a chance to practice your fly tying and see examples of other fly tiers. There is always something to gain from being part of this event. This year the competition has two divisions, novice (have not competed or less than a year fly tying experience) and open. Details later in the newsletter.

Tight Lines
From Editor

*Photo on front cover: **A stunning crisp sunrise over the river invites us to begin the day's angling by Peter Haakman***

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. Spider malcolmi@xtra.co.nz

***You are invited to the next KFFC Club Nigh on
Monday 26 September we have the Club Fly
Tying Competition.***

FROM THE TYRE'S BENCH AT SCHOOL ROAD

At this month's meeting we will be holding out clubs Fly Tying Competition which will be JUDGED BY YOU, and I would encourage all members to come along and participate as a Judge and Fly Tier.

You are welcome to tie the following the flies at home prior to the meeting and bring them along on Monday 26 September.

Club Fly Tying Competition

There will be two section to this year's Club Fly Tying Competition, one section for New Fly Tiers and one for more experienced tiers.

Experience tiers – a person with more than one years' experience at tying fly's will be required to tie the following compulsory fly's:

Nymph Princes Nymph



Materials:

- **Hook:** TMC 3761, size 12
- **Thread:** Black
- **Tail:** Brown Goose biots
- **Ribbing:** Fine Gold flat tinsel
- **Underbody:** Black Rabbit Dubbing
- **Body:** Peacock Herl
- **Legs:** Brown Hen or Partridge
- **Wing:** White Goose biots

Lure Craig's Nighttime



Materials

- **Hook:** Kamasan B830 size 6
- **Thread:** Black
- **Tag:** Red Wool
- **Ribbing:** Silver tinsel
- **Body:** Black Chenille
- **Wing:** 4 or 5 Pukeko breast feathers – can substitute with black breast feathers
- **Body:** Black Chenille
- **Eye:** Optional can add Jungle Cock eye on top of the wings

Tier Choice – must represent a fly that will catch a fish

Novice Tiers – have less than 12 months’ experience at tying fly’s, the following are the compulsory fly’s:

Halfback Nymph



Materials

- **Hook:** TMC 3761 size 12
- **Thread:** Brown
- **Tail:** Cock Pheasant tail fibres
- **Ribbing:** Copper wire
- **Body:** 3 stands of Peacock herl
- **Wing case:** Cock Pheasant tail fibres
- **Thorax:** Peacock herl
- **Legs:** Tips of Cock Pheasant tail fibres of Brown Hen hackles

Lure Craig’s Nighttime



Materials

- **Hook:** Kamasan B830 size 6
- **Thread:** Black
- **Tag:** Red Wool
- **Rib:** Silver tinsel
- **Body:** Black Chenille
- **Wing:** 4 or 5 Pukeko breast feathers – can substitute with black breast feathers
- **Body:** Black Chenille

You are welcome to enter a fly of your own choice

Please feel free to contact me if you need any materials or are keen to come around one evening, my home number is 06 3642101 or mobile 027 384 6596.

REPORT FROM OUT TURANGI CORRESPONDENT – NOEL THOMAS

Another interesting month on the rivers, again timing was all important. Some days the fishing was good, other days not so much. The size of the fish being caught are also a mixed bag. A large number of good conditioned but undersize trout seem to be in the system.

My guess is the spawning runs will continue through November, although often with the late running fish the eggs have grown and taken condition off the fish.

Watch the weather and fish the increased flows and periods of low pressure.

As the weather gets warmer and the evenings longer look out for mayfly hatches.

Noel

FRANK SAWYERS KILLER BUG BY TONY ORMAN

The other day, I found a little packet of wool in my tying kit. Packed by UK Veniard, it cost me 70 cents at the time and on the package was a label that read, "Sawyers Nymph Wool 477 – Chadwick"



More on the significance of that in a few minutes.

To digress briefly, what does the sight-orientated trout fisher do when its hopeless wet and stormy during the holidays? Sure you can always head out to a lake and fish blind, but even if there's one close by to my mind that's a poor substitute for the joys of summer river stalking or placing your dry fly just above a dimpling trout in the soft summer twilight.

You can read and read, of course, and become confused by the plethora of theories, often of a complex technical nature. Some are by the true experts; others are by pseudo experts. Perhaps with the latter, reading is best avoided. There is, however, one way to fill those days and that is by fly tying.

I suppose in the long run you might save a few dollars tying flies but then really shop brought flies are ridiculously cheap at \$3.50 plus each. If you disagree, try tying up a Kakahi Queen dry fly on say a size 14 or 16 hook, let alone a size 12. Then imagine you have to tie twenty of the blasted things and you will have a good idea of how the specialist art of a professional fly tier is underpaid. Before you even start to tie up a fly, the hook alone can cost 50 cents.

But of course to justify the expenditure you have to convince your partner that fly tying will save you vast amounts of cash in not buying flies. You will have to tell a fib but the then noted US angling humourist once wrote "Fishermen are born honest but they soon get over it!" I know Ed was quite correct, judging by most of the trout anglers I know.

The thing is, after your initial expenditure of perhaps \$150.00 (the equivalent of 40 to 50 flies you won't have to buy) for a fly tying vice, bobbin holder, scissors, hackle pliers, thread and few other bits and pieces. You will need materials – and some of the better ones can be cheap, in fact some cost you nort5hing. Peacock herl, for example, is cheap to buy. But there are some materials such as possum fur and hare fur which can be obtained for northing by keeping a pair of small scissors and plastic seal-lock bags in the car or wagons glove box. When you

spy a hare or possum, preferably a clean “road kill”, you can whip out the scissors and clip the fur off. Thin copper wire can be brought or a friendly auto-electrician might have some?

As for learning fly tying, if you have an active trout fishing club in your area, join up. The best short cut to learning basic steps is to get first hand tuition. I found this back in the Hawkes Bay, in the 1060s when I floundered in my first attempts and then I stuck my neck out and asked a friend to help me out one Saturday morning. We sat side by side and did step by step at the kitchen table and at the end of an hour I could tie a rabbit lure which was good enough to take some Tukituki River Rainbows before it fell apart.

With nymphs the bizarre aspect is some of the best nymphs are so simple. A red brown hen hackle cape is worthwhile, as is peacock herl. But you can scavenge materials like hare and possum fur, a cock pheasant tail feather or two or three from a shooting friend plus a few materials from a handing sewing basket could be useful.

Frank Sawyer, the renowned UK “father” of modern nymph fishing and author of the must-have book ‘Nymph and the Trout’, used only three flies, the *Pheasant Tail*, *Grey Goose* and the *Killer Bug*.

I quote from Frank Sawyers book: - “this is of a very simple construction – give the hook a double, even covering of wire, colour of this is not important – then start at the eye end of the hook and lap in securely a length of wool.” Yes, wool and darning wool at that! Frank Sawyer cited ‘Chadwick’s and they list the colour as being 477,” exactly the ‘long ago” purchase I found in my fly tying box. I doubt if Chadwick 477 is available now but Frank Sawyer called it a “natural” shade. It is a light fawn shade with just a subtle hint of pink.

Frank Sawyer put a triple layer of that wool over a copper wire body, making a simple fuzzy, torpedo-shaped, tapered body. He devised this simple buggy nymph for grayling on England’s Avon River but it turned out to be very effective for trout.

“Though it is a very simple creation and one very easily constructed, this pattern took me several years too perfect”, wrote the great nymph fishermen. “My aim was to construct an artificial shrimp but time and time again I was beaten. Through I got the correct of the swimming nymph I failed to get the right colouring until finally I used a natural wool which changed its colour completely when wet.”

More some other time om the Pheasant Tail and Grey Goose but the Killer Bug illustrates how very rudimentary a fly pattern can be and yet prove very effective. Keep that philosophy in mind, add a few of those hen hackle whisks for a tail, incorporate hare fur with copper wire to be a Hare and Copper, Peacock herl ribbed with copper wire to be a Peacock nymph and possum fur in the style of Hare and Copper plus a simple pattern a la Sawyers Killer Bug using the most natural darning wool from the home sewing basket (or wool shop) and you have four excellent nymph patterns.



Frank Sawyers Killer Bug

POURAKINO FARMERS KEEPING THEIR ENVIRONMENT IN SHAPE

The Pourakino Catchment Group is going from strength to strength making their farms environmentally sustainable. Brittany Pickett reports.



Pourakino Catchment Group members: Ewen Matheson, Geordie Eade, Ross McKenzie, David Diprose and Geoff Baldwin with their environment award.

A group of Southland farmers are keeping their backyard healthy, not just for themselves but for the rest of the community. The Pourakino Catchment Group was formed in 2014 by a group of like-minded farmers.

Dairy farmer David Diprose formed the group after a "damning" report about the Riverton Estuary came out about the build-up of sediment. Diprose says people were starting to blame of all the dairying which was happening in the valley. That finger-pointing irked him.

"We knew that was that wasn't true because there weren't huge amounts of dairying up the valley and I was probably more annoyed about the perception of dairying. I'd had a guts full of it, so I thought we needed to unite and have a voice that's meaningful to what we are doing on our farms."



Cows on Geoff and Sarah Balwin's farm graze on crops surrounded by a buffer zone.

Instead of reacting badly to the negative attention, Diprose decided he needed a group of farmers who shared similar values and loved the Pourakino Valley too. "The valley is quite a unique environment. Most of us were attracted to the Pourakino Valley because of its natural beauty and to sort of feel that we'd wrecked it was ... it got up my nose."

One farmer in the valley doing something good was never going to cut it, but a group of farmers doing it ended up being a strong voice, Diprose says. From the outset, he did not want the group to be a dairy group. Instead, he wanted the whole agricultural community to be involved.

The group is made up of dairy, beef and sheep farmers. They're a jovial bunch as they chat about what they want for the future of their area over a cup of tea and a coffee. Diprose and his wife Joanna run 800 cows on the 197 hectares they bought in the valley in 2000, as well as a further 135ha they lease from their neighbours.

Geordie and Frances Eade run a 260ha sheep and beef farm. Geoff and Sarah Baldwin have been running a self-contained dairy farm in the valley for 15 years, with 330 cows. Ross and Donna McKenzie run 580 dairy cows. While the group's longest valley resident Ewen Matheson runs 900 cows on the farm his family has owned since 1948.

The group were the winners of the Councillors' Special Award at the Southland Community Environment Awards last month. "I think it's probably evolved into something different to what I expected. As the farmers have got together and put their heads together they've far exceeded what I could have ever imagined," Diprose says.

Since its inception the group has held several field days and workshops, and has worked with the wider community to help increase their understanding of both good farming practices and with the Environment Southland Water and Land Plan.

For Geordie Eade and other sheep and beef farmers in the catchment the group has given them the chance to meet their dairy farming neighbours and get on the same page about sustainable farming. "It's really united us. From a sheep and beef farm we never really had a lot to do with dairy farmers, other than the grazing."

The group came together with the help of Dairy NZ catchment engagement co-ordinator Julie Christie and Janet Gregory from the Landcare Trust. The farmers started to make connections and sit down with one another, but it wasn't easy to get farmers talking. Ross McKenzie describes getting Southland farmers to say something was like "getting blood out of a stone". Christie and Gregory took them by the hand and helped them to develop their goals and ideals. Then the core farmers started a phone tree and called farmers in the valley to see if they were interested.

Matheson says their initial intentions were to promote awareness and education within the wider community about farming. They wanted people to know "what's happening on farm and what the farming community in general are doing to enhance water quality".

The farmers did not want to have an "us versus them" mentality when it came to the wider community. "We wanted them to have ownership too," Diprose says.

All of their meetings are held away from the valley in Riverton, gumboots and all. The farmers in the catchment group are succeeding in their message. More than 85 per cent of the farms in the catchment have their farm plans done or in progress. The Pourakino Valley has the highest rainfall in Southland, with annual falls as high as 2500mm. "Our biggest concern is sediment run-off, whether we're sheep or dairy. We've all got to have that in mind," Eade says.

The group is focused on their waterways. The farms all have different levels of fencing off their waterways, they also fence off the bush on their properties. Some have put in buffer zones for their crops. But it goes deeper. Diprose says the group is thinking about what stock use is best suited to the valley. Sometimes it will not always be the best for the most intensive in some areas and they want to encourage farmers to be strong enough to adopt good management practices, he says.

"I don't think any farmer likes to see their paddock disappear down the river in the rain so it's no real benefit to them to stuff up their paddocks or stuff up their farms." But they're still learning and taking on new goals.

With most of the catchment engaging in farm plans, the group is now trying to set up a planting plan system. Matheson says while it's still in its infancy, most of the members of the group have done individual stuff but they want to identify critical areas to work on. But the process is steady as it goes, Diprose says.

"We don't want to pre-empt the level setting. We want to keep the values in the catchment and to enhance those." The group is also looking to enhance the biodiversity of the valley through a Possum Control Area programme., a lot of the farmers in the catchment have bush areas in their natural state.

Geoff Baldwin has already spotted a few Wetas on his property, so he thinks they must not be doing too bad a job enhancing the environment, but they have a responsibility to eradicate rats and possums.

And there's always more they can do.

BRITTANY PICKETT - FAIRFAX NZ

***Note from the Editor:** We often forget to highlight those farmers who are making a great contribution to keeping our waterways clean and fit for public use and, David Diprose and his team are doing an excellent job. A BIG THANK YOU on behalf of all New Zealanders.*

CLUB TRIP TO THE MANGATAINOKA RIVER

There is no sleep in if you want to catch trout in another region. Thanks to Hugh's organisation six keen anglers hit the road at 7am for Mangatainoka River. Friday's weather in Kapiti was wet and cold but Saturday was forecast for settled skies. The 'Mangatainoka River', back in the nineties boasted double figure browns and a bag limit of twelve. That sounds exciting.

Times have changed, now limit of 2 and max 450mm. We broke into two groups, one fishing above and below the Pahiatua town bridge the other closer to the Tui beer factory. Hugh, Peter R and Tony J cast into a short patch of mixed water with no luck in the morning. Not even the 'Tui girls' were rising from the river. (another myth dispelled) Peter learned from the experienced Hugh, river fishing skills that will no doubt be lethal when the fish finally swim past.

The water was slightly coloured and a moderate flow this made it easy to cast close without fish detecting an angler. Pete H snagged and released four small fish before lunch. I managed two oversized browns and a couple of tiddler rainbows. My wife asked for a trout dinner. I usually return with nothing as they are too small.

This time the opposite too big. A short break for lunch at the reserve to gather intelligence and share fly patterns before swapping ends. Pete drove our small band downstream, we got slightly misplaced so asked directions from a farmer who let us cross his property to the river. Access was a challenge, rotten logs and willows lined the banks. I spent several minutes flat on my back after falling through the rotting debris.

It is funny now but not at the time. It turned out to be a nice fishing spot but not lucky for Greg and I. Peter continued on from the morning with four or five small fish and a large brown distance released. Tony scored in the other group and a great time was had by all. Another river ticked off and more experience gained such is the life of a fly fisher.



The team at the Mangatainoka River plus Hugh behind the camera.

INTER-CLUB FLY-TYING COMPETITION – FROM THE SPONSOR FISHSCENE

Is there a better time than now to start or re connect with fly-tying? With the wealth of knowledge around it will never be easier, as clubs and individuals run fly-tying courses for all levels, the amount of quality books around is huge, and the videos available on the internet really is limitless.

Equipment has moved on in leaps and bounds in quality, even though the tools are designed to do the same basic job.

But it is materials that have made the biggest amount of movement in the last 30 years. What is available now is huge, and a lot different than was available – even though there are a number of cases of re-inventing the wheel. With fly-tying you do have to beware the magpie theory – I must have it because it is shiny, new, talked up etc. but almost all of it works at some stage. The price of materials hasn't changed in those 30 years either, and really is cheaper now than it has ever been in a real dollar sense when all the economists buzz words are taken into account.

I got into fly-tying because my father did it some 45 years ago and it was done primarily to allow us to tie the flies we wanted, not only what was available in stores (the first fly I ever purchase was a Parsons Glory from Bob Sullivan's in Taupo when I was 6), but we didn't have the technology available then so just using a copy of Tie a Fly by Keith Draper, and also his one on nymphs. Hand drawn pictures made it hard but learning through rote made them come out ok. They also caught fish, a lot of fish, even though they weren't classic looking. The main reason to catching fish numbers was that we were confident to use them in places that may result in losing them. Cheaper to lose a fly that we had tied ourselves, than a shop bought model. This also taught us more about fishing, as we learnt where fish would lie at different times of the day and season. It also meant that we fished water that wasn't popular and so wasn't as pressured and nor were we.

But why tie flies at all when it is just as easy to click on a website like www.FishScene.co.nz and in a few clicks have all the flies that you need to try and catch a fish, and rocks, and trees and yourself...

While initially the cost of setting yourself up in materials and tools runs from “won't scare the significant other” to “Holy Hell take out a new mortgage”, it can get expensive when you take in into the magpie effect, what it eventually runs into is confidence, and that is what this sport is all about: confidence.

Confidence to go out on the river, confidence to try new water, confidence to try new flies, and confidence to just be yourself.

People think that they have to be good with their hands to tie flies, that they want to catch fish not scare them and that their flies aren't pretty enough. Not so, again it is confidence.

It is my experience that from the start tying your own flies will see 3 definite patterns/trends (with some sub trends).

In the beginning you tie flies to give it a go and are a little bit scared of the results – just don't reach for the can of Raid, they aren't that bad (but spiders are and it is often hard to tell the difference). A day on the river or 2 and not a lot to show for it with those fancy flies that you bought from a shop, so the thinking goes what the heck might as well try one of mine. Because your confidence isn't high about catching anything you tend to put the home tied fly into areas where you wouldn't put an expensive fly. By that snag, under the willows, into the rocky rapid and low and behold you actually start catching fish. This gives you confidence in your fly tying and your fishing – people actually admire you for both of these attributes.

Then with that confidence, comes over-confidence. You start tying up a lot more flies, and to your credit they actually look good. But you start expanding your tying, and then you need new fly boxes to store them all, and a new carrying thingy for all those boxes and then spend more time trying to choose a fly than actually fishing it. All

because you thought of adding a bit of bling to that one, a different bead to that one and well it would look good on a different hook. And of course you need 10 of each one....

The third (and last) phase is when most of the boxes have gone – having been given away or more importantly put into the club auction, you tend to tie only 6 patterns and in only a couple of sizes. You may tie the odd one or 2 with differing colours in them but not that many. You go out on the river and are able to catch fish, mostly because you have confidence in your ability, confidence in your equipment and most importantly, confidence in the fly you have tied on, you know, the one you tied yourself.

So give fly tying a go. Not only is an extension of fly fishing, but it is an extension of yourself and that can only bring confidence in what **YOU** are doing and what you are able to do.

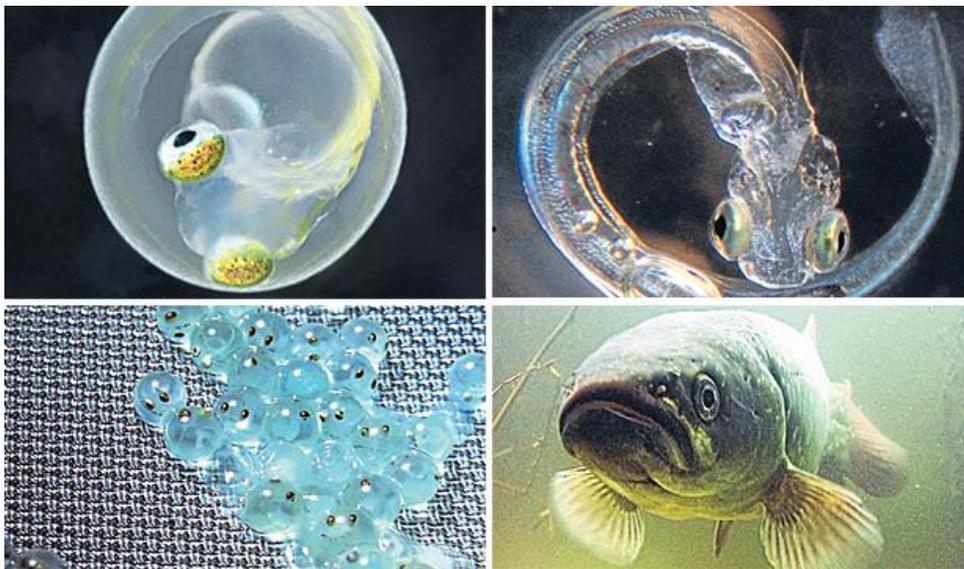
On Monday evening 14 November the Hutt Valley Angling Club will be hosting this year's FishScene Interclub Fly-tying Competition in Upper Hutt.

If you have not seen anyone assemble a fly before then here will be a chance to watch teams from Kapiti Freshwater Angling Club, Wellington Fly Fishers Club and the Hutt Valley Club competing in an annual competition sponsored by FishScene as they try to match the sample flies upon the display board. The teams will appreciate support from their fellow club members on the night. Spectators always find this to be an interesting and instructive evening.

Kapiti Fly-tying team would like to encourage all club members to come along and support the on November 14.

WHITEBAIT BREEDING PROGRAMME SUCCESS - DELWYN DICKIE REPORTS

North Island researchers say they have made a significant breakthrough in the commercial farming of Whitebait, the breakthrough could lead to export business



TOP ROW: Giant Kokopu fish egg (left) and a newly hatched giant Kokopu.

BOTTOM ROW: Giant Kokopu eggs with developing fish visible (left) and a giant Kokopu.

Whitebait lovers have good news. A fish breeding breakthrough by researchers at Warkworth, north of Auckland, is being claimed as a big step forward in farming the delicious little wrigglers - so much so that they envisage the day when whitebait could be picked up at your local supermarket, and possibly exported.

While they may not be the first to have cracked the method of breeding the giant Kokopu - one of the five native fish whose young we collectively call whitebait - researchers at Mahurangi Technical Institute have managed it on a large scale. They don't believe their breeding programme will bring an end to fishing for the little critters in the wild, but they do see it as a serious business opportunity, which will also take some pressure off the wild population. The private institution specialises in the development of freshwater fish breeding techniques for commercial and conservation purposes.

Its years of research under head scientist and eel specialist Tagried Kurwie, on the breeding of the New Zealand short-finned eel as a commercial fish stock, has seen them gain international recognition. Institute director and founder Paul Decker had always thought eel breeding research would be their big success story.

They are tantalising close to developing a technique to breed these animals in a closed life cycle, something that could also help wild eel populations, which have plummeted internationally. But so far it has eluded them.

The breakthrough in giant Kokopu breeding has taken five years of research and trials, mostly by aquatic scientist Quentin O'Brien. The magnitude of their success has left them stunned. "They're eating us out of house and home," Mr Decker says. "With one female able to produce 20,000 eggs, which only take 27 days to hatch, we've got hundreds of thousands and are running out of containers to put them all in. We've got a tsunami on our hands."

While Kokopu are only one of the fish species that make up whitebait, they are the tastiest. That makes the success of breeding them as a commercial stock so appealing, special projects manager David Cooper says.

There are two other Kokopu species in the mix - banded and shortjaw, along with Inanga and Koaro. The giant Kokopu fish are the longest-lived of the whitebait species at around 30 years. They don't develop the strong fishy taste of the other shorter-lived species until much later. So the more giant Kokopu in the mix, the better the quality. Understanding how the fish breed in the wild was a big part of their success, Mr Cooper says. That will also make it easier to supply the eggs to prospective fish farmers.

The parent fish live in gently flowing, overgrown streams, swampy lagoons and lake edges. They swim down to the lower reaches or wetlands and on a particularly high tide lay their eggs in the long grass on stream edges. These are safe from water predators like eels, but are still kept moist in the grass. The eggs hatch after a month, at the time of the next extra-high tide, and are swept out to sea.

It's thought the hatchlings stay within a few kilometres of land for about three months before heading back to shore and up streams, dodging whitebaiters and their nets as they go. The eggs' peculiarities make it easy to supply them to prospective farmers as they won't need to be shipped in water with the accompanying special handling needs and weight. Farmers will be able to order their eggs and 10 weeks later have whitebait to sell, Mr Decker says. Three fish farmers are already interested, he adds.

The conservation of freshwater native fish is at the heart of the institute's aquaculture department research. Mr Decker says that the laying of its eggs in grass helps to explain the decline of the giant Kokopu, and why fencing stock from and cleaning up waterways is important.

Massey University freshwater scientist Mike Joy says poor water quality is the main reason for the decline in native fish numbers, but is sceptical that commercial farming can help dwindling numbers in the wild and may even create problems of its own. Besides targeting water quality, Dr Joy has called for tighter restrictions on whitebaiting, and a ban on commercial fishing of the wild stock. Four out of five whitebait species are on the official Department of Conservation threatened species list.

He argues that a commercial fish farming model is not an environmental solution for the species and points to what he says are serious issues surrounding the feeding of farmed fish using meal and oils that generally come from wild fish stocks.

Mr Cooper says that many of the breeding techniques for the giant Kokopu will be transferable to the other whitebait species, and repopulating freshwater streams with Kokopu is being looked at. First up will be Tawharanui Regional Park near Warkworth, where a few hundred giant Kokopu are likely to be released in the next couple of years. Once a population has gone from a stream, young fish won't repopulate on their own, Mr Cooper says.

They need the scent of an established population in the stream before they will venture up it. Otherwise they think there must be something wrong with the area and steer clear of it. So large fish need to establish in the streams first, to draw youngsters. But for now, getting a business plan sorted is next on the list, Mr Decker says, with the institute expecting it should be able to start supplying the eggs properly by early next year.

Dr Joy hopes the prospect of commercial farming won't make people complacent about over-fishing as another whitebait season approaches, running in Southland from August 15 until November 30.

The Southland Times

THE SEVEN INVENTIONS THAT CHANGED FLY FISHING FOR EVER BY SIMON COPPER

Last week I went fishing without my Polaroid sunglasses - actually that is not precisely true - the person I was with didn't have any so I selflessly lent them mine. So, effectively 'blinded' I had plenty of time to examine life before polarized lenses and that led me (it was a slow afternoon) to ponder the other great inventions that have changed fly fishing forever.

The dry fly

Though Halford is sometimes credited with 'inventing' the dry fly he didn't really; he rather codified and collated a type of imitative pattern that was gradually gaining a foothold with the fishermen of the mid-Victorian era; until that point they had mostly been practicing across-and-downstream wet fly and dapping. But this intellectual nicety aside there can't be much doubt that he ushered into the wider world a method that has to be the crack cocaine of fly fishing.



The nymph

To some this method of fishing is still the spawn of the devil but there can be no argument that George Skues was the inventor, bringing the same imitative rigour to sub-surface patterns that Halford had done for those on the

surface. Skues didn't get much thanks in his lifetime, vilified by Halford's disciples, but it is a fair bet that across the globe that for every fish caught on a dry, twenty are caught on a nymph. Take a bow GEM Skues 1858-1949.



Polarized sunglasses

These are definitely on my list! I suppose you might argue they are desirable rather than essential but sight fishing, especially with a nymph, is so much harder without them. Ah, you might ask did that master of the nymph Frank Sawyer use them?

To be honest I don't know but I suspect he would have come in contact with them earlier than most. Polarized sunglasses, invented in 1936, were popularised by US military pilots who were given them by the Ray Ban Corporation in a masterful bit of marketing. Sawyer, river keeper to the Armed Services in the post-war era and host to a many visiting officer to Salisbury Plain, can't have been oblivious to their utility for long.



The Crazy Charlie

Saltwater fly fishing has changed everything - it has bought adventure and daring to fly fishing, much of which has rubbed off on us otherwise rather staid freshwater guys. Now I'm being a bit simplistic picking out Bob Nauheim's Crazy Charlie 1970's bonefish pattern as the defining moment but, like Sawyer's Pheasant Tail Nymph, it was the fly that leapt a generation, ushering in a thousand innovations. Generally, writer Joe Brooks and his guide Jimmy Albright are credited as the 'inventors' of saltwater fly fishing when they caught bonefish in 1946. However, even this might be wrong. Step forward English anglers who were fishing the fly for mullet along the Sussex, Hampshire and Devon coastline in the 1830's.

Rubber & nylon

It is hard to imagine a world without rubber and nylon. However, we do know what the fly fishing world was like without them - silk fly lines and horsehair leaders. If you have any idea how bad that was here is the font of all angling history, Andrew Herd, describing the regular maintenance required for a silk line:



"Boil up some linseed oil, and when it has cooled, add about 25% spar varnish, then warm the mixture up again, before working it into the line with your fingers, laying each coil of line out on newspaper as soon as it is coated. One or two coats like this is usually enough, but you must allow each coat to dry completely before applying the next one. Once the braid is covered completely, polish the line down with pumice and a soft cloth, and then refinish using talcum powder."

And after all that your line would not float for long, soon sinking with each successive cast becoming more of an intermediate line by the end of the day.

Waders

So much of fly fishing is about exploring; after all fish have an annoying habit of living in inaccessible places. Sure, you might wade or swim but fly fishing is not an endurance contest. Waders have been around longer than most people realise - they were first manufactured in the 1850's from a sort of canvas with the rubber versions first appearing in the early 1900's. It would be hard to imagine packing for most fishing trips without a pair of waders.



Simon Cooper simon@fishingbreaks.co.uk Founder & Managing Director

WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO SWIM IN OUR RIVERS BY AMELIA GEARY



The Tukituki River.

Clean drinking water is something most of us take for granted in New Zealand - or at least we did until the shocking outbreak of gastric illness in Havelock North left nearly 5,000 people ill for days. The source of the contamination and how it got into Havelock North's water supply is not yet clear, although preliminary tests showed that the campylobacter that had contaminated the water supply came from cattle, sheep or deer.

While we don't yet know how the contamination got into the water supply, we do know that the risks to the health and purity of our rivers, lakes and underground water aquifers increase with the intensification of agriculture, particularly dairying.

If you want to see the results of rapid intensification, take a look at Canterbury. The spread of irrigation in recent decades has transformed the patchwork of mixed cropping and sheep grazing on the plains into an increasingly uniform bright green swathe of dairy pasture.

Both Hawke's Bay and Canterbury are among the driest and most drought-prone areas in New Zealand and both rely largely on aquifers for drinking water. Both have braided rivers too, although those in Hawke's Bay are on a smaller scale than Canterbury.

A rush of irrigation over recent decades in Canterbury has led to significant environmental degradation, including serious contamination of some rural water supplies, loss of biodiversity and transformation of landscapes. Democracy has been damaged too, as development pressures led to the Government sacking the elected Environment Canterbury regional councillors and their replacement with appointed commissioners.

The commissioners promised to improve water quality. They have failed and water quality has continued to decline. Some rural water supplies, including Selwyn, Hinds and Hurunui, are contaminated with high levels of nitrogen and pathogens, leading to people becoming sick.

Canterbury now has the unenviable record of having the highest rate of campylobacter infections in the world, along with 17,000 notified cases of gastroenteritis a year and up to 34,000 cases of waterborne illness annually, according to Canterbury District Health Board figures.

Rates of animal sourced disease such as campylobacter are higher in areas of Canterbury with more intensive animal farming. A Canterbury District Health Board commissioned assessment of the proposed Central Plains Water Scheme found potential health risks to Cantabrians outweighed the probable financial benefits to a few people. Hawke's Bay should not make the same mistakes as Canterbury. It needs development, particularly in agriculture, that is sustainable and protects water quality and the other natural treasures that contribute so much to the region's quality of life.

The proposed Ruataniwha dam on the Makaroro River and its associated irrigation scheme will only lead to further degradation of the Tukituki River catchment. The Tukituki already has damaging levels of nitrates in some sections and the planned irrigation and agricultural intensification of more than 25,000ha of the Ruataniwha Basin can only send nitrate levels higher.

So it seems crazy to further damage the environment for a dam and irrigation scheme that doesn't appear to add up even in a narrow economic sense. Once the environmental damage is done, it will be difficult or impossible to undo.

Protecting water quality will mean protecting the native forests in upper catchments that help even out water flows - soaking up water in times of flood and steadily releasing it in times of drought. Looking after wetlands will also ensure better water quality and help protect from floods.

These natural protections will become even more important as climate change intensifies and they will help keep the region's aquifers full of good quality drinking water. The measure of the health of Hawke's Bay's rivers will be if native fish can flourish in them and native birds and other wildlife flock to them.

Whatever the origin of the Havelock North outbreak, it should be a wakeup call to take better care of our water. Healthy rivers that support nature will support the people of Hawke's Bay too.

Development in Hawke's Bay must be sustainable for the wellbeing of nature and for future generations of people. Hawke's Bay would not welcome a replay of the problems that plague Canterbury as a result of the rush to irrigation there.

We want to be able to swim in our rivers, catch fish in them and to be able to rely on safe drinking water. And we want to appreciate our rivers, streams and lakes and the native wildlife that live in and around them as our taonga.

Amelia Geary is Forest & Bird Hawke's Bay regional manager – the article appeared in the Hawkes Bay Today

EDS AND FISH AND GAME TO FILE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HORIZONS

Media Release: embargoed until 6:00 am 14 September

Editor's note: If you ever wonder what happens to the money you spend each year on your licences, then the following is a very good example of how your money is being used to better the publics and licences holders experience on our water ways.

The Environmental Defence Society and Fish & Game New Zealand are going to the Environment Court to challenge the way Horizons Regional Council is implementing its One Plan. The One Plan is designed to manage natural resources throughout the Horizons' region of Whanganui and Manawatu, with particular emphasis on tackling pollution, improving water quality and preserving environmental diversity.

While the One Plan was hailed as “precedent setting” when it was first drawn up, EDS and Fish & Game have become increasingly frustrated with how Horizons has implemented it. The two environmental groups say they are now filing proceedings in the Environment Court challenging Horizons Regional Council.

“We are concerned Horizons hasn't been implementing its regional plan lawfully, particularly when dealing with resource consent applications for intensive farming and dairy conversions,” says EDS CEO Gary Taylor.

“The One Plan sets environmental limits for freshwater and these have been thoroughly scrutinised through various hearing and appeal court processes. The expectation was that Horizons would properly implement it and, over time, that would produce improvements in freshwater quality,” says Mr Taylor.

EDS and Fish & Game have had several discussions with Horizons' staff over recent months in an effort to get the One Plan properly implemented but without success. “The discussions have traversed both the way in which Horizons is processing resource consent applications and complex issues of science and policy. In the end, there is a gulf between us on what the council's responsibilities are,” says Mr Taylor.

“The key points of difference include interpretations of the Resource Management Act, the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management and the One Plan itself. In short, we are not convinced the One Plan's freshwater quality limits will be achieved given the way the consenting regime is presently being managed.”

Fish & Game's Wellington regional manager Phil Teal is disappointed repeated attempts to get Horizons to properly implement the One Plan have failed. “It would have been better to work out a solution without having to go to court, but sadly that hasn't been possible,” says Mr Teal.

“We consider the One Plan to be nationally precedent-setting because it shows how farming can be both economically and environmentally sustainable while maintaining water quality for New Zealand's longer term future.

“It provides all regional councils with a reasonable, pragmatic and workable template on how to manage the environment, and we are determined to make sure it is properly implemented.”

“The One Plan was seen as key to tackling nitrogen leaching and while we didn't expect farmers to make radical overnight changes, we did want a realistic approach which produced measurable improvement over time. “Instead, all that happened was existing practices being grand parented and that just isn't acceptable,” Phil Teal says.

Gary Taylor says the discharge of nitrates and other pollutants from intensive farming, including dairy farming, is an ongoing, national issue. “The proceedings we are filing later this week are Declaration Proceedings which pose legal questions for the Environment Court to answer. We have invited Horizons to comment on the proposed questions and to participate in a co-operative way to get clarity.

“The issues are technical and complex but in the final analysis are critical to freshwater quality, so they are important,” Mr Taylor says.

For more information, contact: Gary Taylor 021 895 896 or Phil Teal 021 859 120

ENDS

My thanks to the follow members who have contribute to this month’s newsletter

Noel Thomas, Peter Haakman and Craig Gutry

Big thank you to Tony Orman and Simon Cooper for their contribution to this month’s newsletter.

If you have come across an interesting article that you think members would enjoy reading, please contact the Editor.

Date	Event	Contact person
Sunday 18 September	Fun Day at Waikanae River and BBQ	
28 September	Hutt River	Malcolm Francis
1 October	Opening Day for 2016 season	
16 October	McWilliams Shield Hutt River	TBC
28 to 30 October	Hawkes Bay expedition	Craig Gutry
19 to 20 November	Turangi	Malcolm Francis

I would like to remind members that Sporting Life are our sponsor and you are encouraged to visit their website or contact them when looking for 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 members homes and start at 7:30pm.

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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 Spider malcolmi@xtra.co.nz
