



Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

October Newsletter



PRESIDENTS REPORT

October has dawned with a mixed bag of weather. I hope you have renewed your licences to take advantage of the longer days and get on the water. On opening day, Stuart, Peter H and I spotted a couple of fish in the upper reaches of the Waikanae. None caught but a beautiful walk anyway. There are still a couple of large browns lurking down by the Otaihanga boating club, chasing white bait on the incoming tide I suspect.

Last club night we held our fly tying competition. Although short on entries, those that did tie some flies showed fantastic examples. The open winner was Malcolm Francis who tied a magnificent example of an extended body swimming nymph as his tier's choice. The novice section was won by Tane Moleta who has only been tying a few months. Thanks to Ralph Lane who organised the paperwork and a fine piece of trout art as a prize in the competition.

The McWilliams shield has been postponed as the river rose to an unfishable level. It has been rescheduled to 30 October.

Welcome to new members Kras Angelov and Michael Matthews. I hope you enjoy the comradery of this small club.

Tight lines, see you on the water.

From Editor

Photo on front cover: A waterfall makes a beautiful backdrop. As if the river wasn't already a perfect place to be... 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 24 October Fishing the Waikanae
River.***

FROM THE TYRE'S BENCH AT SCHOOL ROAD

I thought I would share with you the tying instruction for Jigging Damsel Nymph which I came across while reading Fly Life number 83, Peter Watson had an article on how to tie this fly. The pattern was designed by Dron Lee and I would recommend you have a look at his website where you will find the following instructions on how to tie this innovative fly. Its design to create the jigging movement of the natural nymph as it moves around the weed bed, and movement is the key to attracting those big Rainbows on the Big 'O'.

This is a fiddly fly to tie so take your time, I found it easier to create a number of the Extended bodies first as they can be quite time consuming as you create the segmented body.

Material List:

Hook:	Hanak H400BL or any Jig Style hook size 10
Tail:	Marabou - olive
Over Body:	Caddis Green Hareline Micro Chenille
Eyes:	Mono Eye
Legs:	Green rubber legs
Dubbing:	Dave Whitlock SLF dragon nymph olive
Tying Thread:	Olive

Step by step tying instruction:



Tie in the Velvet rope on a fine needle



Tie in the marabou



Tie down the velvet rope and the marabou, whip finished, DO NOT CUT THE THREAD



Continue tie down the velvet rope and marabou and whip finished at every section. The tail section ready.



Prepare the Jig hook and tie in the mono eye



Put in a bead as weight. or you can add lead wire if you wish



Tie in the tail section



Put in some dubbing, then turn the hook up-side-down



Tie in the 1st pair rubber leg and extend the rubber leg as the antenna



Tie in the second pair rubber legs and dub with dubbing to split the legs you should end up with six legs



You need to lightly melt the tips of the chenille and then tie in as thorax



Bring the chenille under the eyes and then over the top



Tie down the chenille and bring it over to the bottom



Tie down the velvet rope and bring it over to the bottom



You can colour the thorax with marker



Drop some UV Clear Fly Finish resin to secure the thorax section



Trim the rubber legs and mark it with marker... colour the eye...

My thanks to Peter Watson and Dron Lee, the jigging Damsel Nymph looks and moves like the real thing so I am looking forward to trying out in the very near future.

REPORT FROM OUR TURANGI CORRESPONDENT – NOEL THOMAS

Typical spring weather has kept us on our toes this month. Regularly there has been 4 seasons in one day. On the warmer, less windy days' fish have been taking off the surface so if you strike these conditions a big leggy indicator fly with a size 14 dropper hanging on about a meter of tippet will be worth a try.

A mixture of fish starting to appear now with spent fish drifting back towards the lake mixed in with those still travelling upstream. Often the recovering fish will be the first to your fly as they struggle to regain condition. When Nymphing I would be leaving Glo Bugs in the fly box and getting out the naturals, Pheasant Tail, Princes nymph spring to mind.

For wet lining it is hard to go past a beaded olive Wooley Bugger.

THE LATE RUNS OF SPRING BY WAYNE CAMERON

Desperation made us do it. We had always planned some fishing time out in October but the weather looked set to defeat us. The forecast was not looking great and besides the river levels in the Taupo catchments were trending upward. Common-sense said wait until the weather settles, but the urge to pit our wits against the elements and *Salmo Trotta* won out. In the end we packed up and went.

The call of possible late spawning runs was too strong.

Our arrival on in Turangi last Wednesday afternoon in the rain still didn't look promising. The Tonga show sufficient colour that we didn't even bother to check the TT out. But being supreme optimists we arose early Thursday morning ready to pit our skills in the mighty Tongariro. En-route Hamish checked the river flow levels of the TT on his fancy mobile and advised that the TT, being our destination of choice anyway, was showing possible signs of approachability even if not safely crossable.

So a quick decision was made and by 7 am we found that we were the only ones in the TT car park. Was this a good sign or simply confirming the obvious? It proved to signal a rare experience of having the river to ourselves on a falling river flow. The potential for a perfect day on the river existed. And so it transpired to be. One of our best 1 ½ days fishing for a very long time.



We started the day's fishing in the normal manner of a nymphophile. Plenty of casting practice and the occasional fish. All sparkling silver and in great condition. Not a slab or small one caught over the entire fishing time. But we were still not hitting our straps. We could see plenty of fish but the rewards on the nymph, despite numerous pattern changes and the loss of over a dozen nymphs due to fishing the unfishable zones of the river, were not as good as they should have been. Time to pause and have a think!

The thinking brought about a change in tactics. Let's try the sunken lure. Within 10 minutes 3 silver bullets were landed. Too easy.

Is it that particular fly (homemade pattern that rides well in the river flow and reflects a colour like a tasty piscatorial treat?)



It seems to work. Let's try something else to see if the change in success is due to the fly used. So on goes something closer to the traditional woolly bugger pattern and with a bead on. More fish are landed. So I sing out to my fishing mate that anything works at present. And so it did. You just had to be there.

In fact, it is the first time I have witnessed what others call a run of spawning fish. But I am absolutely sure we would have never caught the numbers that we finally beached had we not changed to sunken lure fishing.

So what are the takeaways from this experience: The spawning runs of the Taupo distract are definitely getting later each year - I am absolutely convinced that it was a big brownie that broke me off in the Tongariro on the Wednesday afternoon. Go when you want to and don't be put off by the weather. So long as the river is fishable give it a go. Be prepared to change fishing locations and fishing patterns to see if they might bring about an improvement in your success rate. Fish with a mate because if he (or she) is catching fish and you aren't then put the thinking cap on and make a change. (A good mate will assist you in making the right change.)

Future years may not be so kind to me but boy am I glad I was there last week to have the experience of a lifetime.

Tight lines.

Wayne

WORLD RECORD DUCKLING BROOD MAKES A SPLASH IN NELSON CREEK

A brood of 26 ducklings dwelling in a Tahunanui creek, near Nelson, may be the world's biggest.

A mallard duck and her pack of fuzzy followers were discovered by local resident Lorna Jenkins while walking near her home late last week. They have since settled on the waterway's muddy banks. Jenkins has taken on the mantle of custodian for the potentially record breaking brood giving the family regular servings of cooked rice, while keeping potential threats like seagulls at bay.



BRADEN FASTIER

Just hanging out, having a swim.

"They've all got personalities - I tell you what, they're a real time-waster," she said.

While records of this nature are largely anecdotal, according to *The Daily Mail* the largest brood reported is the 24 that hatched at in West Sussex, England in 2013.

The creek, located near the Nelson Golf Club, has become a mini-wildlife sanctuary for the street's residents in recent years and efforts have been made to ensure that both animals and humans are made to feel at home.



BRADEN FASTIER

Twenty-six ducklings living near Nelson Golf Club in Tahunanui, Nelson could be a world record.

"It's just somewhere to sit, watch and get away from it all," Jenkins said. Among the creatures who have made themselves at home there recently are white herons, kingfishers, spotted shags and a group of eels that at one point threatened to deprive the duckling brood of one member.

While no one can confirm when the ducklings hatched or how many are the mother's official offspring, the interaction between them has convinced Jenkins that there is a biological connection. "It was definitely her family - just looking at how were all huddled close together this morning," she said.

With such a large brood to nurture into adulthood, the mother duck faces almost two months of protecting her furry charges.

Laying mainly occurs from late July to September, with re-nesting, if necessary, in October or early November. In urban areas, mallards may raise two broods a year with the clutch of 10-13 pale green eggs hatching after 27-28 days of incubation. According to a report by Southland Fish and Game officer Erin Garrick, duckling survival is higher when broods are located further from sources of human impact on the environment - such as houses, sheds, roads and when broods travel shorter distances.

With people like Lorna Jenkins looking out for them and a hideaway creek to call their own, the chances of this family sticking together may beat the odds, as well as a record.

Stuff - Tim O'Connell

A MAN WHO'S HAPPIEST WHEN UP TO HIS BITS IN BOGS – BOOK REVIEW

- Simon Cooper takes a look at the world through the rose-tinted specs of a passionate Nature lover
- Chalkstreams, found mostly in Southern England, are completely unique
- Cooper sees magic in every river crawler, creeper, clinger and digger

LIFE OF A CHALK STREAM by Simon Cooper

ISBN 978-0-00-754788-3

As the poet pondered: 'What is this life if full of care / We have no time to stand and stare . . .'

What indeed? So hats off to conservationist Simon Cooper who stands and stares for much of his working life, frequently up to his bits in bogs and marshes, as he marvels at the beauty abounding in England's chalkstreams.

Cooper stares at the world of wetlands and swamps through the rose-tinted specs of a passionate Nature lover.



Simon Cooper writes about the joys of fishing, surrounded by Nature in the great British countryside

That irritating cloud of pesky midges hovering over the water that you or I swat away appear to Cooper as one of the world's wonders. For him each midge is a creature of beauty with its impressive mandible and translucent veined wings. Those tussock clump thingies along the river bank that sprout thin razor-sharp blades that cut your ankles to shreds are, for Cooper, precious refuges for insects and tiny mammals. Shake a tussock and more than 60 species fall out.

Chalkstreams, found mostly in Southern England, are unique.

They flow through chalk land, their water springing from natural reservoirs thousands of feet below ground. Cooper is a leading chalkstream conservationist and much of his book describes such daunting chores such as scything, unblocking, replanting, de-clogging, grave-refreshing, oxygen checking and so forth.



Flowers and otters are two of many sources of inspiration for author and nature-lover Simon Cooper

And talk about hazardous! Stinging wasps, hissing swans, tussocks ripping his hands, nasty chest-high nettles... Cooper braves them all. He describes rescuing an angry bat — bats carry the rabies virus, remember — from a fishing hook. The bat opens its snarling mouth, exposing a vicious jaw full of sharp incisors, and Cooper grasps the hook with forceps and deftly twists it out in one move.

Then there's the oozing mud problem. Cooper has learnt that the worst thing to do when crossing a boggy bit is to adopt a bold stride. Do that and you'll fall face down into the slime. His tip is to shuffle forward until reaching 'firm bottom' (Oh, give me firm bottom any day of the week . . .)



Simon Cooper enjoys fishing despite the pesky midges that hover over the water

Speaking of oozing mud, each step Cooper takes releases a terrible pong — part methane, part rotting vegetation. All that river-bank Nature, fermenting and decaying, is exceedingly whiffy, as are the hawthorn hedges which 'emit the most awful stench like rotting corpses'.

The bane of chalkstream restorers are the invaders. There's the dread Himalayan Balsam plant, whose rampant growth kills all native plants. He yanks it up by the root. Another invader, the American mink, arrived in 1930 having escaped from fur farms. This furry killing-machine is wiping out all our dear little mice, voles and moorhens.

Cooper sees magic in every river crawler, creeper, clinger and digger. As for eels, who knew that they make a weird slurping sound as they Hoover up insects?

Heron, otters, the mating rituals of sticklebacks, the Mayfly dance, the spawning habits of salmon, the skills of angling are all, for Cooper, a source of inspiration and wonder.

Nature might be red in tooth and claw and occasionally whiffy but Cooper's enthusiasm is so infectious that by the time you finish his book you have put tussock-shaking, hawthorn fly-stroking and eel-spotting at the very top of your Bucket List.

Editor: At present I am reading this excellent book which is hard 'to put down' as you are taken on a wonderful journey with Simon along his beloved chalkstream the River Evitt.

Chapter 5 Scar Boy is a record of Simon observations of a yearling Brown Trout, as you read you are learning about a young Trout's behaviour, what they feed on and how they avoid predators. As you might guess from the title of the chapter, Scar Boy had a close encounter with a Heron. This book is not about trout fishing it's about a man's love of the life within his local river and his passion to ensure that generations to come can enjoy the life of an English Chalkstream.

A NIGHT AT A FLY FISHING MECCA BY STEVE RADBURN

On Sunday 18th September my wife and I spent a night at Huka Lodge on the Waikato River just above Huka Falls. The lodge is a bit of a fly fishing mecca offering private fishing off the banks of the Waikato and guided fishing on Lake Taupo, with the hotels chefs cooking your catch for you. You can also book 'heli fishing trips' and several guest arrived by helicopter during our stay. Queen Elizabeth and the Queen Mother rank amongst the many rich and famous that have stayed there (NOT including my wife and me).

The lodge has been voted Best Hotel in New Zealand, amongst the World's top 20 International Hideaways and amongst the Top Three Resorts in the World.



The lodge was first established in the 1920's by an Irishman Alan Pye who realised the quality of the fishing on the Waikato River. Originally a small lodge catering just for his immediate friends it quickly became somewhat of a mecca for fly fishermen from all over the world. They were originally billeted in tents on outdoor decks, a little different to the opulent interiors of the current lodge.

The Lodge offers extreme levels of comfort and they even put hot water bottles in our bed. Naomi and I have stayed in many 'posh' hotels around the world but none has ever put hot water bottles in our bed before!

The Waikato River, between Taupo and Karapino, now has 9 hydroelectric power stations and 8 dams on its length, providing 13% of the countries power needs. Twice a day vast amounts of water is released which rushes down past the lodge and over the falls. Quite a spectacle.

On arrival the Managing Director spent around 45 minutes showing us around and generally making us feel at home. The Lodge has an outdoor pool and hot tub, tennis courts etc. and can arrange any of the events in the Taupo area. But the emphasis is very much upon the Fly Fishing in the area and there is a good collection of fly fishing memorabilia around the lodge including historical photos. One trophy is in memory of a thirty-five-pound trout caught in Lake Taupo.

A collection of rods adorns an outside log wall to the lodge for the free use by guest. There were both fly with a dry fly already tied and smaller rods for spinning with a small metal lure tied on. I tried both while waiting for dinner time with no success. Unfortunately, the spinning rod had so little line on the reel that I could only reach about a third of the way across the river. There are some beautiful spots on the banks of the Lodge and we also walked a foot path from the nearby falls back along the rivers bank on the opposite side to the lodge and that was a very enjoyable and easy walk.



Dinner was a fabulous event and we were amazed to be asked which of five locations around the lodge we would like to take dinner in. There was the Africa Room, The Library, the Wine Cellar (candle lit for the evening), outside or in the dining room. Dinner was seven courses in total, yes seven and was exquisite.

Next morning, we were again given a choice as to where we would take breakfast. We chose the Library, as that is where Queen Elizabeth and the Queen Mother had taken their breakfast. We both chose the 'full English' and this was served not on a plate but in a cast iron frying pan each. A feast in deed and the staff were so chatty and nice.



Our stay was memorable and we will certainly stay again. My wife loved in in spite of my preoccupation with the fly fishing history of the place etc. Definitely one of the most expensive resorts in the islands but in our book worth every penny.

Add it to your bucket list, you will not regret it, Steve Radburn .

POLITICIANS MUST ACT ON YOUNG GENERATION'S CALL FOR CLEAN WATER

Politicians from all parties are being urged to act decisively to improve the quality of New Zealand's rivers, lakes and streams and protect public health following today's plea to a select committee from the student-led Clean Water Campaign.

Choose Clean Water campaigners Marnie Prickett, Kyleisha Foote and Tom Kay today appeared before the Local Government and Environment select committee, calling on MPs to reject the government's controversial standard requiring freshwater to be only wadeable.

Students from **Kapiti College** also made a submission on water quality to the select committee.

Choose Clean Water says all political parties should find the courage to protect freshwater for the next generation and require all waterways to be swimmable.

Marnie Prickett told the committee the government's proposed wadeable standard is unacceptable and poses a public health risk, particularly for children. She told the select committee that wadeable means that one in every 20 people using a waterway risks falling ill from campylobacter infection.

Choose Clean Water asked the committee to refer the water quality issue to the Health Select Committee.

Fish & Game chief executive Bryce Johnson, who attended today's select committee hearing as an observer, says the message delivered to MPs was powerful and direct. "The submissions from the Choose Clean Water campaigners and the Kapiti College students were eloquent, impassioned and moving. Select committee members need to pay careful attention to what the next generation is saying as these young people have the most to lose," says Mr. Johnson.

Bryce Johnson says the MPs should take careful note of the fact that the Choose Clean Water campaign is being driven by young New Zealanders who are seriously worried about the country they will inherit.

"Young people have today bluntly told Parliament they are not happy with the legacy they are being left. They don't want water that is unsafe to swim in and is an ongoing threat to their health. Parliament has to start doing something meaningful and constructive to protect our freshwater before it is too late," he says.

"If rivers only have to be wadeable they will be lost forever as polluters will ensure our waterways will always be at that low standard. "The Havelock North water contamination debacle should be a wakeup call. Water quality is deteriorating and New Zealanders don't want their health threatened by the government's failure to act," Mr. Johnson says.

Bryce Johnson says decisive action on the issue makes economic sense. "New Zealand's wealth and health relies heavily on clean fresh water. At the very least, preserving water quality should be a straight commercial decision to protect New Zealanders' health and culture and the country's internationally unique marketing point of difference", Mr. Johnson says.

Fish & Game is also backing the Choose Clean Water Campaign's call for the water quality issue to be referred to the Health Select Committee.

"This whole debate over swimmability versus wadeability is actually a public health issue more than a simple environmental question. It is logical that people falling ill after drinking water or swimming in it should be considered by the Health Select Committee," Bryce Johnson says.

Fish & Game says present and future governments must make clean, swimmable water a national priority.

ANGLER CATCHES MORE THAN HE BARGAINS FOR AFTER HOOKING NUDIST SWIMMER'S PENIS ON THE END OF HIS LINE



A nudist swimming in a lake was left in agony after an angler managed to 'catch' him on a fishing hook - through his penis. Herbert Fendt first thought he had got stuck in some water plants, but soon realised that it was far too painful to be weeds. When he put his hands down towards his legs he felt the line and the hook and realised he had been pierced through his penis.

The incident happened at the Kaisersee, a lake in the Bavarian city of Augsburg in Germany.

The lake is a popular spot for nude recreation, which is a well-accepted pastime in Germany. Fendt was also swimming naked in the lake, when a fisherman mistakenly caught him on the end of his line. Fendt said: "I cried out to the fisherman ashore shouting do not pull, do not pull. I was terrified he was going to try to reel me in."

The unlucky swimmer quickly went ashore where the hook was found to be firmly embedded in his manhood. As the hook could not be removed, the fisherman had to cut the line. With the fishing hook still pierced through his penis, Fendt then cycled back home from where he went by car to the emergency room of the local hospital.

He said: "The doctor could understandably not suppress a small grin when he saw it."

Luckily for Fendt, the doctors were able to remove the fishing hook and took care of the wound. He is now not allowed to swim or take a shower for a full week but is expected to make a full recovery.

Fendt, who used an alias out of fear of being ridiculed, explained the fisherman had little sympathy for the situation. He said: "The fisherman told me it is not an official bathing lake and he has the right to fish at the spot, which is marked by some signs.

"I tried to explain to him that he should take into account the many swimmers who use the lake, and that I am unaware of any official prohibition to swim here but he did not care."



President of the local fishing association Sylvia Fischer admitted that at times discussions were held as to how to make the best use of the lake. While the lake officially belongs to the fishing association, it is also popular with nudists because of the many hidden areas ashore between the bushes.

She said: "We fishermen can perfectly understand the situation. We all had at times a fishing hook pierced through one of our fingers, so we can imagine the incident was quite painful.

"Of course, fishermen should pay attention to bathers, but as the lake is an official fishing lake, swimming is at own risk."

Fendt heard he was not the only victim of the local fishermen. A friend told him a dog swallowed a fish which was caught on a fishing hook. Yet Fendt will continue to swim in the lake when his injuries have fully healed. Just out of precaution, he says he will "swim in the middle of the water" in future.

By Scott Campbell

CATTLE STOMP IN CRITICALLY-ENDANGERED BIRD HABITAT 📌

Cattle have been photographed on the nesting ground of one of the world's most endangered species, the Black Stilt/Kaki, which has as little as 70 adults left in the wild.

Cattle have been spotted grazing and defecating near a breeding area for one of the world's most endangered birds. An environmental lobby group says it is a terrible look for the Mackenzie ecological area. A marauding cattle herd was photographed last month walking freely along the Hopkins river bed, near Mount Cook.



Cattle were seen grazing in the Hopkins river, near a breeding site for the critically endangered black stilt. They had unrestricted access to the river bed, which breaks the rules of the property's pastoral lease. Poo could be seen scattered amongst the otherwise untarnished landscape beneath the Southern Alps.



Poo from cattle can be seen scattered near the river bed. The area is home to the kaki/black stilt, the world's rarest wading bird. There are between 70 and 90 adult Kaki in the wild. It is one step away from extinction. Kaki breed exclusively in the braided rivers around the Mackenzie Basin.



The Kaki is said to be one step away from extinction. The photos were taken during nesting season, in which Kaki lay their eggs in nests near the river bed. "It's the only place, really, where Kaki can go and breed. There's nowhere else in the world," said Forest & Bird's Canterbury conservation manager Jen Miller.

"They're critically endangered and they're intensely managed, but their numbers are not going back up.



Black stilts, or Kaki, in the Tasman Valley in 2008.

"They don't need this grief." Unlike most other critically endangered birds, Kaki live freely in the open and do not migrate. They are particularly vulnerable to predators. Miller said allowing cattle to wander into sensitive areas was widespread in the region, with similar examples seen near the Haast River and at the North Canterbury property co-owned by businessman Hugh Fletcher and chief justice Dame Sian Elias.

"It's just no longer acceptable. There are more cattle in the high country than there used to be, so it's an increasing problem." She said the Department of Conservation (DOC), which is tasked with protecting the kaki under legislation, needed to take responsibility.

DOC operations manager Sally Jones said she visited the area on Monday and there were no cattle. She said the area was south of the area where Kaki were typically found. DOC's black stilt recovery programme has a budget of about \$200,000 per year, largely spent on its captive breeding Centre near Twizel.

The cattle were walking along a river bed, which is publicly owned and managed by Land Information New Zealand (LinZ). A LinZ spokeswoman said it had yet to confirm who owned the cattle, but the property's pastoral lease did not allow cattle to stand in the river bed.

Lease holders were responsible for keeping their cattle contained. LinZ would be speaking with the lease holder, the spokeswoman said.

THE KAKI

Kaki used to be common throughout New Zealand, and were widely seen in the North Island.

Since the introduction of predators by Europeans, the population spiralled downwards – first becoming restricted to the South Island and then to the Mackenzie Basin.

By 1981, there were 23 Kaki left.

An intervention saved the species from extinction, but there are still fewer than 100 left in the wild. They can fly long distances, but typically stay in Mackenzie, where there are fewer predators. They have been spotted in North Canterbury, and last week DOC confirmed the first ever recorded Kaki sighting on the West Coast.

Charlie Mitchel

FAIRFAX NZ

Editor: When out walking along any river I enjoy the opportunity of observing our wonderful bird life and if you have seen and heard the call of the Kaki its very distinctive and part of Mackenzie, this miss-management of stock not only has an impact on water quality but on all of nature's beings who depend on unpolluted surroundings.

MENTAL ATTITUDE IMPORTANT BY TONY ORMAN

In all sports other than fishing, mental attitude is rated so important. Fisherman and fishing books rarely - probably never - give it a mention. Yet every other sports do.

Take golf for instance. One golfing authority reckoned the mental side of golf is as much as 90 percent of the game. The great American golfer Ben Hogan knew it. Ben Hogan when playing in a tournament, mentally visualised each shot before making it and then played the shot on what is called "muscle memory".

The mind plays a big part in sport. Look at today's golfers. Look at Tiger Woods in his prime, then beset by guilt and anguish, he now struggles. Lydia Ko currently off the pace, is probably beset by just a lapse in form, due to attitude. She'll know better than anyone, she has to get to grips with it, mentally and erase the lapse.

Watch rugby players and goal kickers in particular with their concentration and focus. Watch the top tacticians on a sports field. They observe, analyse on the field and adapt.

Fishing is no different. Fishermen take pride in their gear such as a new Sage or Orvis rod or some other classy, expensive one. Good gear is important but the best rod is useless without the right approach and application from the angler.

I've been privileged to fish with some "master" fishers.

They didn't necessarily need the classiest, most expensive rod. I knew a trout fisherman who had incredible catch statistics on northern South Island rivers like the Motueka, Maruia and Buller. He would catch 300-400 trout a summer season mainly on nymph but also the wee wet fly at dusk. When I first met him he was using a blue fibreglass rod, made by Kilwell NZ Ltd, branded the Robin Hood and marketed as a "beginner's rod". Older trout fishermen may remember it?

With the "boy's rod" he had several highly successful summer seasons until, on a large 3.5 kg brown trout in the Buller River the "kid's" rod broke. He then bought a carbon graphite rod. But why shouldn't you buy and enjoy the best of gear if you wish to and can afford it?

He embodied many of the characteristics of a top fly fisherman. Aided by a science degree, he knew trout, the invertebrate nymphs and other aspects backwards. Observant, resourceful, always keen to learn despite his great skill.

I mentioned Lydia Ko's current slump in golf. I occasionally get into that doldrums with fly fishing. My casting falls away, I start to mistime tightening into the fish when it takes a nymph or dry fly and my confidence sags. You've got two options-take a break for a week or two by mowing the lawns, take the wife to lunch, polish her car, give her breakfast in bed and earn "brownie points."

What am I saying???

Well I found I go at the fishing even harder and suddenly for me things click into place and the confidence returns. I remember when living at Motueka I had a terrible run. I cast sloppily, goofed strikes, and those I hooked I lost because my timing was off. I just kept at it and then on the Riwaka Stream, I suddenly hooked into a 2 kg brown which I found attached to my nymph as I lifted for the next cast. Pure luck but it did wonders. Then a couple of pools later I spied a feeding fish, and with confidence creeping upwards, managed to deliver a good cast, sweetly timed the hook home and landed a nice 1.5 kg brown.

My mind-set was then back in a good space.

Catch-and-release is a mindset. Don't be a fish hog. Take a fish for the table but remember the old US Federation of Fly Fisherman's adage, "Don't kill your limit, limit your kill" As one Will Shakespeare said, "The quality of mercy is not strained, it falters on the earth beneath."

More in the next newsletter.



Tony Orman releases a Marlborough brown - “the quality of mercy—”

DIDYMO MAKING SOUTH ISLAND RIVER FISH SMALLER, RESEARCHERS SAY



The invasive algae didymo was first identified in South Island rivers in 2004 and has since spread.



The size of brown trout in didymo-infected rivers was reduced by up to 70 per cent, researchers found.

Didymo is making fish smaller and less abundant, new research shows. The invasive freshwater algae, commonly called "rock snot", has spread to more than 150 South Island waterways since it was first identified in rivers in 2004.

In extreme cases didymo formed extensive thick mats (or blooms) which covered the entire bed of river, smothering and changing the habitat.

The algae, *Didymosphenia geminata*, has not spread to the North Island.

New University of Canterbury (UC) research showed the algae could have a significant impact on fish in rivers and streams. Twenty South Island waterways were surveyed. The research concluded streams and rivers covered in didymo could still have numerous fish species, but the abundance and size of fish was significantly changed.

Ecologist Professor Jon Harding said fish were affected both by the changes in habitat didymo caused, and by the changes in fish food, such as small insects and invertebrates. "The size of the fish in areas where there were big didymo blooms was up to 70 per cent smaller than in areas where it wasn't present. "That is pretty concerning.

"New Zealand is famous for the huge size of our rainbow and brown trout. People come here from all over the world to fish them. The fact they are getting so much smaller could have a huge effect on our fishing tourism industry."

Harding said reducing the spread of the algae was essential. "Didymo is here is stay. We aren't going to be able to eradicate it. What we can do is try and stop it spreading to other South Island rivers and to the North Island."

"Things like the check, clean and dry campaign are really essential in raising awareness."

Fish and Game environment officer Scott Pearson said the organisation took the threat of Didymo seriously and encouraged people to stop its spread, but the algae was not his top concern. "Other contaminants, nutrient leeching and rising river temperatures are all having a much more significant effect on our rivers," he said.

He had some reservations about the conclusions reached. "We find healthy populations of fish in rivers with high levels of didymo. "There has been some decrease in the amount of big fish, but definitely nowhere near the 70 per cent size decrease this research is talking about.

"The other thing to remember is that didymo is worse in lower rivers. If too much water is being extracted, then the river finds it much more difficult to clean itself naturally."

FROM THE TREASURER

Each year the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club pays a fee to the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers who actively challenge both Government and Local Authorities on the miss management of New Zealand's waterways and public access. Each they hold an Annual General Meeting and club members are welcome to attend.

**NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF
FRESHWATER ANGLERS (INC.)**

P O Box 14 006
Kilbirnie
WELLINGTON 6241

Phone: (04) 387 7878



16 September 2016

MEMBERSHIP LEVY FOR 2016 NOW DUE

Dear Secretary

As agreed at our 2016 AGM, the levy for clubs affiliated to the Federation of Freshwater Anglers will remain at \$3.00 per financial member. This levy is now due for payment.

The Federation spends the vast majority of its time engaged in lobbying and raising publicity for the protection of our valuable freshwater fisheries and associated ecosystems which unfortunately leaves little time to communicate directly with our affiliated club members. To this end should you, or any of your club members, wish for further information on our activities we encourage you to visit our website www.nzffz.net or our facebook page www.facebook.com/NZFFA.

We would like to thank you for your past, and hopefully continued, support and very much value your membership and participation in the Federation of Freshwater Anglers.

Yours sincerely

Strato Cotsilinis
Treasurer

NZ FEDERATION OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS (INC)

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

Noel Thomas

Steve Radburn

Wayne Cameron

Hugh Driver

Big thank you to Tony Orman for his continued 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
Monday 24 October	Club meeting – fishing Waikanae River	Craig
28 to 30 October	Hawkes Bay expedition	Craig
Sunday 6 November	Fun day and B.B.Q. Otaihanga Domain	Malcolm
Monday 14 November	Inter-club Fly Tying Competition	Craig
19 to 20 November	Turangi	Malcolm
Monday 28 November	Club meeting – Tony Jacques on fine tuning your casting	
Saturday 3 December	Club Christmas Function venue TBC	Committee
Monday 27 February	Club meeting – Bug Night, what lives in our local river. Malcolm and Peter K	Craig

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 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 Spider malcolmi@xtra.co.nz
