





First Cast - April 2015

I took some of my family down to Turangi for Easter and stayed at our **Turangi Lodge**. What a gem it is, very well appointed and everyone gave it top marks. I can recommend it - and not just for the fishing. There is lots to do for all ages - even dropping out of a perfectly good aircraft as my son and I did - and what a view of the fishery we got as we parachuted down as a bonus! The river was in beautiful condition and DoC are confident that it will be a bumper winter season. I had much pleasure in showing off the river, it's well maintained tracks, the bridges and the glorious views to all - including the grand-children and the new Black Lab! We all had a most enjoyable time at the great **Tongariro National Trout Centre** a very excellent trout fishery showplace. It was the Kids Fish-out Day, a must see event very well run and fun to be at.

And while talking about bumper seasons, one of the important contributors to a great sustainable trout fishery is minimizing trout mortality. *Catch and release* is one thing, however its contribution to sustainability is minimized if fish are not handled correctly as they are returned to the water. Very knowledgeable people such as our DoC Taupo Fishery Scientist **Dr Michel Dudual**, are of the opinion that trout mortality due to *catch and release* is much lower than we would like to think it should be. He and many others, are of the opinion that the use of **barbless hooks would have a very positive contribution to increasing survival rates** when practicing *catch and release*. While barbless hooks are mandatory in competition fishing, they certainly are not for recreational fishermen. Do you use barbless hooks? **I would like to hear your opinion on the matter - drop me a note, a text or give me a call.** I would appreciate that - as would Michel and DoC.

The National Champs (SFFNZ) river fishing sections were held over Easter on the Tukituki and the Manawatu Rivers (with five of our club members competing) where an amazing 2,248 fish were landed in 12 hours of fishing by the 20 anglers competing - 112 each! A key point being that the controllers are asked to keep eyes skinned for dead fish. Very

very few were seen, testimony to the contribution of **barbless hooks** which are mandatory.

This is Fish and Game Election year. It is most important that we as anglers are heard within the **Auckland/Waikato Region of Fish and Game**. Here is a link to the web page <http://www.fishandgame.org.nz/newsitem/2015-fish-game-council-elections> I would like you to take some time and even if you do not have the time or interest to be nominated, think about who YOU would nominate as a Councillor? I don't mind when the phone goes or the emails and texts come in. Please do this - the fishery needs YOU.

As you are aware our Secretary, Brian Beamiss, is moving to Cambridge (to be closer to the fishing.). We now have a new Secretary. He is **Patrick Counihan**. He is a very keen fisherman and his family have only moved to NZ recently from South Africa so he is looking forward to meeting you all and enjoying some river fishing. Please make him welcome.

Now, let's go fishing!

Jan Rodger
President.



cover: Neil at Awahou

This month:

The First Cast

Speaker

Whanganui trip photos

Tales from the riverbank

• **The club meets on the second Monday of every month (except January) at 7.30pm at Panmure Yacht & Boating Club, Kings Road, Panmure.**

• **Turangi Club Lodge: 3 Te Hei Place, Turangi. Bookings & enquiries: Robyn Arrowsmith**

• **Puniu Club Hut: Newman Road, off Bayley Road, south of Te Awamutu Bookings & enquiries: Robyn Arrowsmith**

• **General inquiries to: The Secretary, Auckland Freshwater Anglers Club, PO Box 63016, Manukau City 2241. Ph 278 1528**

Classified Ads

Members who wish to buy or sell any fishing-related equipment can place an ad in Riffles. There will be no charge for members provided it is limited to 25 words or less. All ads should be placed in electronic form and forwarded by email to the Editor on or before the 25th of the month.

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

The Editor would love to have members' input into the magazine.

Have you been fishing lately in an interesting spot, had a funny experience, learnt a new technique or just have a good story to share?

Please email any contributions to editor@afac.org.nz or post them to the club mail box, P.O.Box 63 016, Manukau City 2241.

All opinions expressed by contributors to this newsletter are solely the opinion of the contributor concerned and do not necessarily represent the views of AFAC or its other members

Hon Solicitor: Alan Jenkinson 1990-

Past Patron:

Michael Beddek 1973-96

Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hardie Boys GNZM GCMG QSO 1996-2008

Past Presidents:

Hon Life Members:

Robert Hunter 1972-74

Brian Roland 1974-75

David Lyon 1990

Brian Frankpitt 1975-78

Dan Hartley 1997

Colin Kennedy 1978-81

Derek Carter 2002

Ron Walters 1981-82

Derek Eustace 2002

Colin Kennedy 1982-85

Frank Ciochetto 2002

Alan Peak 1985-89

Neil Hirtzel 2002

Scott Murray 1989-92

Noel Osborne 2002

David McLellan 1992-93

Chris Christianson 2003

Doug Rankin 1993-94

George Lammie 2003

Brian Hetherington 1994-97

Brian Hetherington 2004

Mike Batty 1997-2000

Virginia Duncum 2000-2002

Ian Gibbs 2002-2005

Hugh Hutchinson 2005-2008

Doug Snell 2008-2011

Brian Young 2011-2012



Next club meeting:

The speaker at the next meeting on the 13th of April is **Adam Clancey**. Adam has the relatively new TV ONE show *Fishy Business*.



He is something of a cook, is into saltwater as well as freshwater fishing.

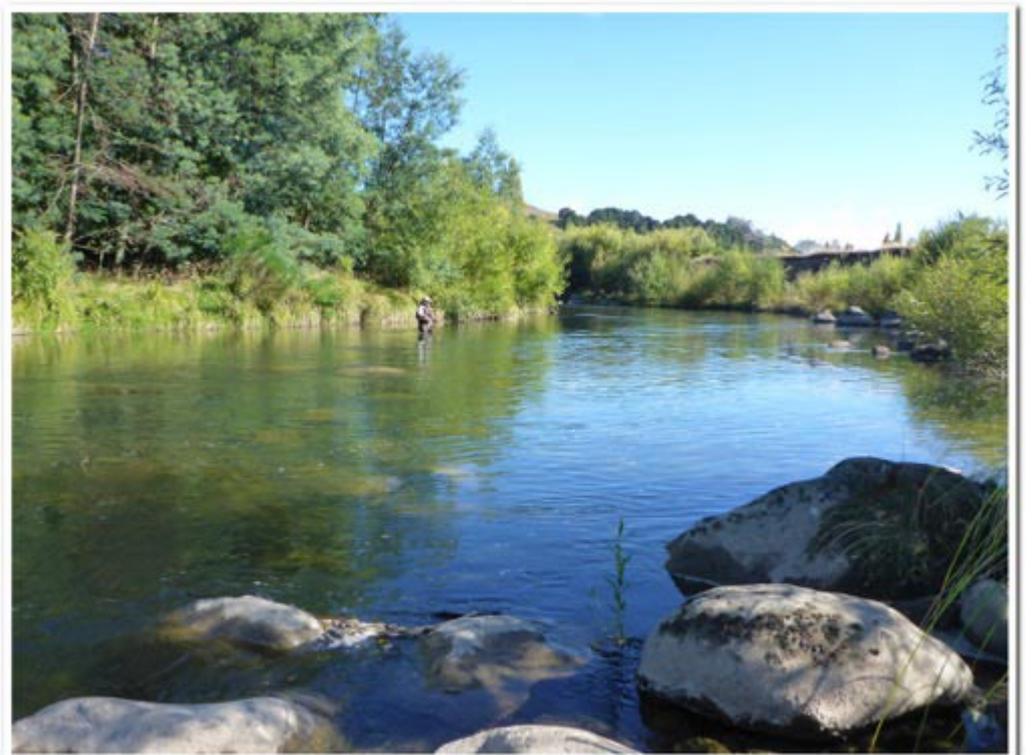
Here is a link to the show.

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/ondemand/fishy-business/28-03-2015>



Whanganui club trip 2015









targeting smaller waterways as a water source - where will it all end...

Dear Selwyn Hodder,

A plea for help from Serge up in Hamner over the application for a resource consent that will take 1600 lps from this little spawning stream.

Please sign [the petition](#) today and help save Kakapo Brook

The application is very short on detail so gives no confidence that the stream will be protected, from the size of the stream in the photo it's hard to see where they can ring the 1600 lps from, the lack of detail means we should all oppose this in it's current form and we can all do this in a few seconds by signing the petition which already has close to 500 signers



More info is available here: [Overview](#)

And the resource [consent application is here](#)

And there's a short video on the [petition page](#)

This type of development highlights a worrying trend as irrigation moves further into the less developed high-country



Tales from the riverbank

Riverside Destination: The Mangatawhiri River



Took a little trip to the Puniu to get to grips with a new rod I had purchased some 3 months back. The summer had lowered the river considerably since I was there last and finding deep pools to fish taught me you can't put heavy bombs on light gear and hope for a good cast. You need the patience of a fisherman to get all these things together. This little lesson is just one of many.

Somehow buying a new rod is never as simple as that.

I have a 6wt which at the time was the new 8wt but I felt I had to have something more.

The word out there is that a 5wt is the new 6wt.

So should I buy a 4wt in the hope it is the new 5wt?

Not to worry the die is cast and it duly arrived in the mail just in time for a fish before Xmas.

That's the new reels, lines and fit out to make it ready to go.

There's a thing to consider when getting into light gear. It needs a lighter touch for it was not long before I man handled the line too much and snapped the tip all before catching a fish.

All these hassles getting a new section kept us out of the water.

I had wanted a chance to pay another visit to the Mangatawhiri after fish and game had just announced the finding of a survey on the spawning of brown trout in the Waikato River.

The finding of this report indicates this river is still

an important spawning river to the Waikato. Ben Wilson's request for a fish-out pond location in the Auckland area was in the back of my mind and I wanted to find out more about this river. Besides Camp Adair was on the way, this river the Wairou and the Mangatawhiri are the closest streams to Auckland and rather than have a fish-out pond set up in Auckland I have in mind a Fishing Academy on a river course where beginners can learn river-craft rather than being a Tom Sawyer on a pond. The Wairou used to be stocked some years ago and there are still trout above the falls. There is plenty of parking at Camp Adair and some nice runs through the grounds,

though no pools big enough for a competition. Some thoughtful talking to the people at Camp Adair could solve this. The river has plenty of cover for most of its length and a few deep pools above the camp. But you have to get down stream to just before the falls where the course widens out into a couple of riverine lakes where youngsters can freely cast for trout.

This river never really runs clear and it took me a long time to figure that a lot of the rivers bed is over clay which just stays in suspension and just does not settle out. I have had a bottle in my garage for over 3 months and it has not cleared.

Below the falls is of course a beautiful natural fish out pond with plenty of access. Again behind the show jumping ground is another riverine lake formed just before the river disappears in to the gorge.

The river is often overlooked by people looking for the big one. It is still a pristine asset to the Auckland fishery? It has its own self-sustaining trout population. Trout have even been caught in the estuary and I just overheard the counter talk in Rod and Reel with the guy saying he had just had a fun afternoon on the Waihou commenting that he caught his longest fish there. This river is in desperate need of a management plan to save it from the ravages of urbanisation. It would also need a rethink of F&G policy of not stocking waters that run to the sea or modifying the water course but this is how F&G can serve the licence holders of Auckland.

The Mangatawhiri has suffered a similar fate to the Waihou since the building of Auckland's water supply dams it now runs for most of its length as a



drainage ditch, beneath a collection of dairy farms. I have walked most of the bank above Lyons Rd, its low flows since its damming in the 50s has prohibited any natural scouring caused by flooding, what natural pools there where have largely been levelled by natural filling from the removal of vegetation from its banks, the removal of logs to prevent erosion and stock access. It is well fenced on this section now but it is in desperate need of more cover and a couple more log dam pools if only to hide the wheel ruts up the river bed caused by some youthful exuberance in a 4WD. I have seen fish in this section but you have to look wishfully into the deep pools that remain. Others have told me of sighting fish above the bush just below the dam. I was just about to give up on exploring this river for apart from its natural beauty (it's a great Sunday afternoon walk above Dilworth School to the bush line) fish were going to be hard to come by.

Natal origins and life time movement patterns of brown trout in the lower Waikato River report #2585

http://auckland.fishandgame.org.nz/sites/default/files/Auckland_Waikato/Waikato%20River%20bro wn%20trout%20study.pdf

Inspirational reading from the Cawthron institute. Ben had given us all a heads up on this little gem *The Mangatawhiri stream has a recruitment contribution of 4.7% of the sample of Brown trout caught in the sample.* That's one bid statement for this little stream that everyone seems to have given up on, so is it worth another look. Wanting to christen my new rod and a fine Sunday afternoon says it is time to take a look at the river below Lyons Rd. Just a wet wade kit this time, it's probably best to access this river via Hunua since the road layout of SH2 has been modified around Mangatawhiri and so it was I parked up adjacent to the bridge abutments. I took a stroll fist to look over the parapet, such a delight to see a trout basking itself in the pool below, things are looking up, now just get kitted up, over the wall and onto the bank. A short stroll downstream left me a little un-nerved for in the next pool was a Koi carp. Not to be put off came the voice in my head, for some were in the recesses I had heard of people sighting Koi at the SH2 bridge. I kept on my walk downstream the grassy banks gave way to tree lined cover and

yet more action. In the dappled light of a pool was a Koi being hassled by a trout? I don't know what to think now, the score line is two all and I have not walked 25metres at lease the trout are holding their own. This did not last, a section of weed bed held a nasty surprise. Tucked in underneath the edge canopy of the weed was another Koi. I would not have seen a trout laying there but the Koi's subterfuge was wasted with its striking camouflage. What was more apparent was that it was going to be marooned there if the river level dropped much further. My crest fallen heart left me poleaxed for a moment but moving to the next pool I began to realise what a classic bit of trout water this was. A large pool braded with weed beds under the shade of few willows which forced a run to a deep pool below their roots. The one impediment to this illusion was a large orange Koi feeding in the shallows under the bank on the far side. The pool had a sediment bottom and a khaki cloud surrounded it, aware of my presence it made a bolt for deeper water but it was hemmed in. It broached the weed mat, heaving itself up out of the water, sitting on top of the weed ribbon it hauled itself across the berm pumping waves of sediment out from underneath it, till it got to clear water. It was at this point I gave up for I realised I had come out with the wrong calibre rod.



A hefty fence and more scrub bared my progress and I turned for home. Crossing the river I walked back along the true left bank impressed by the variety of cover along this stretch of the river. A clump of long grass lined this stretch of the river but skirting this



was a plume of sediment that was totally out of place to the romantic vision playing in my headspace.



Rounding the grass clump gave me the cause for this abnormality, an orange Koi grubbing in the bank.



This sediment is from the same source as what colours the Wairou so I knew it was going to take a long time to disperse and was probably the cause of the greyed out greens of the weed beds and the matt sheen on the surface of the water. Water that does not sparkle!

This surly is the best way to suffocate a river, deny it of light, and spread inert material over its Chlorophyll parts blocking nutrients to the flora. If you want to know what this looks like.



I had half in my mind a rant about stock in the water, wheel tracks up stream beds, illegal modification of the stream bed to form stock wallows or local bathing hollows for the kids. All of this is present on this river. But getting the farmers to tidy up their act is not going to take us anywhere. Knocking at the door of F&G will only produce some shrugged shoulders for they have not got the personnel or a budget to take on something like this. I doubt that they do not have a remit to act on, to try and control this. Their biggest tool for this is advocacy and it will take a lot of talking to a lot of people to get an action plan together to save this river. So let's ask the hard questions first.

Is this river worth the effort? Up until now the answer has been no, it's a small stream that for most of its length flows behind stop banks across arable land that is now intensively dairy farmed. Controlling a Koi infestation is going to require a lot of clever people.

What has changed, well nothing's changed we just know a little bit more.

It has since the time it was dammed and still is supporting a healthy and much needed breeding resource for trout.

That in itself says a lot for the quality of the resource, since despite our neglect it still punches above it weight and is worthy of a second look.

Is this alone enough to save this river, who's interested in a meagre 5% contribution?

Well Koi have been sighted in the Puniu and Mangatutu

What's the difference between these rivers? Not a



lot. It is only a matter of time before there is an infestation in these rivers. You can wait till that happens to try and do something about it and have nothing in your tool box to go into battle with. A wise man would set up a case study on a sample river and learn his trade before crying wolf when the problem gets too difficult.

Some of the detractors of the Mangatawhiri River actually work in its favour, being behind stop banks means it already has a resource consent and is a managed waterway Fish and Game already manage a sizable piece of land adjacent to its riverbank just north of Pioneer Rd. There is no doubt a lot of people are going to have to get involved in recovering this river Ben has already put up his hands for more practical help from the clubs.

This river lies within the boundaries of three of the largest clubs in the country. That is a lot of vested interest, who collectively could make this work.

And that new rod? Well I had to wait till I got to the Waimea to get a fish on.

aka *Roger Moor*
The Saint