





## First Cast - July 2015

Last Sunday Selwyn Hodder and I headed for Turangi - he to do the most sensible thing and that was to go fishing, and for me to join my colleagues on The *Taupo Fish Advisory Committee (TFAC)* to meet with the Office of Treaty Settlements(OTS) and others to talk about the implications of the suggestion that the Tongariro National Trout Centre's facilities be used to 'harvest' trout (read farm trout) for tangi, hui and other important occasions. This of course did not rest easily with the local angling community or TFAC and we endeavored to get our points of view heard. If you wish to know more on this don't hesitate to give me a call and as you will know the media has been running with it too. An interesting few days. As is always the case there are some good things that unexpectedly happen along the way. One was that I agreed to meet up with a couple of TFAC members on the way through on the Sunday. Where else was better than to meet than at the *Taupo Fishing Club!* What a spot. It's opposite the AC Pools and all fisher people and their friends have an invitation to join them for good fellowship, fishy tales and even a drink at their excellent bar, any Friday evening after 5.30pm. Our hosts Mathew Pate and Craig Woolacot were our very convivial hosts so look out for them when you call in. Great club rooms, most envious!

And - **Taupo is going off!** While Selwyn is a very good fisherman he was wondering just how well for a while there, the river was in great condition and as clear as. However the very heavy rain soon changed that and the change in colour made for great, albeit it very wet fishing. The Hinemaia, the TT and the Waitahanui are also fishing very well from all accounts. And talking the *Waitahanui* our Club Captain and very able Trip Organiser Hugh Hutchinson, has for those lucky enough to book in time, a trip there the weekend after next. Dave Wood, a Professional Guide and President of the *Waitahanui Angling Improvement Association* is being good enough to assist us in getting to know this iconic river. (If you have forgotten to book I know that Hugh is a connoisseur of good Scotch...!)

And if you miss out here Dave has a competition on the river the following weekend - refer Riffles.

REMEMBER THE TAUPO SEASON STARTED ON 1 July.

Just so easy to get online go to:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/buy-a-fishing-licence-online/>

See you there - on the river!

*Jan Rodger*

President

p.s. if you really want to read an excellent book or watch a very good fishing DVD, click onto the 'library' on our excellent [AFAC.org.nz](http://AFAC.org.nz) web home page and look through the lists very ably compiled by Ron Holmes. Then give Ron a call and he will bring those that you would like to the next club night. An excellent system. Thanks Ron - and thanks too, to our fine web master Harry Jones for making it happen online.



cover: ngongotaha !!

This month:  
 The First Cast  
 committee  
 Ngongotaha trip report  
 June Taupo report

- **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. (Patrick Counihan 021 081 68896 and 09 534 6010)**

### 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](mailto: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

	<b>Past Presidents:</b>
<b>Hon Life Members:</b>	Robert Hunter 1972-74
David Lyon 1990	Brian Roland 1974-75
Dan Hartley 1997	Brian Frankpitt 1975-78
Derek Carter 2002	Colin Kennedy 1978-81
Derek Eustace 2002	Ron Walters 1981-82
Frank Ciochetto 2002	Colin Kennedy 1982-85
Neil Hirtzel 2002	Alan Peak 1985-89
Noel Osborne 2002	Scott Murray 1989-92
Chris Christianson 2003	David McLellan 1992-93
George Lammie 2003	Doug Rankin 1993-94
Brian Hetherington 2004	Brian Hetherington 1994-97
	Mike Batty 1997-2000
	Virginia Duncum 2000-2002
	Ian Gibbs 2002-2005
	Hugh Hutchinson 2005-2008
	Doug Snell 2008-2011
	Brian Young 2011-2012



## AFAC COMMITTEE CONTACT LIST

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<b>Secretary</b>	Patrick Counihan	<a href="mailto:secretary@afac.org.nz">secretary@afac.org.nz</a>	09 5346010	021 08168896
<b>Vice President</b>	Ron Holmes	<a href="mailto:library@afac.org.nz">library@afac.org.nz</a>	09 5358872	021 661812
Library		<a href="mailto:library@afac.org.nz">library@afac.org.nz</a>	09 5358872	021 661812
Trophies				
<b>Club captain</b>	Hugh Hutchinson	<a href="mailto:captain@afac.org.nz">captain@afac.org.nz</a>	09 2999758	022 1753365
Trips		<a href="mailto:captain@afac.org.nz">captain@afac.org.nz</a>	09 2999758	022 1753365
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robyn Arrowsmith	<a href="mailto:treasurer@afac.org.nz">treasurer@afac.org.nz</a>	09 5282468	021 899279
Bookings		<a href="mailto:bookings@afac.org.nz">bookings@afac.org.nz</a>	09 5282468	021 899279
<b>Fly-tying</b>	Stephen Kerr	<a href="mailto:stevok@xtra.co.nz">stevok@xtra.co.nz</a>		027 2941493



**Topic :curent trends in Fky Tackle**





## **It's fun being on the committee, don't we have a great club....**

This is my fourth year in the club and all but 4 months of these I have been on the committee. First I was trips which I could never understand. I didn't know diddly squat about fishing or where to fish. Mike helped me out with suggestion, but I spent too much on food and never got to grips with it.

I then took on the posting out of the Riffles to members that don't have email. There were 24, now it is down to 6. I feel sorry we have had to cut it down but as numbers have drop, for ours, and most clubs, we have 35 Honorary and Paid life members, we couldn't afford to keep printing and posting to so many, also it's a job that someone has to physically do. With the new email age snail mail seems like a chore. We would like to thank David Lyon, for his generous donation towards the posting of Riffles. The committee is keen to keep it going.

I also took over bookings for Turangi and Punui Hut and campaigning to stop the sale of Turangi House. Yippee, house is NOT FOR SALE. I get to talk to most members that book the house so we are all pleased that the Sale was quashed and bookings last year and this year have been great. We have a few non-club members also booking the house now, and I am also treasurer.

If you have just joined the club or been in for a while, we would love you to consider coming on the committee, we are a great bunch and meetings are well run and convivial.

Ian Rodgers our intrepid president, he does so much back ground work for the club which no one realises happens Also making sure the meetings both club and committee run smoothly, and the club nights are a success.

Hugh Hutchinson he is a very hard working committee member and past president. He works tirelessly for the club behind the scenes most tasks going unnoticed. Hugh is club captain and organiser of amazing trips.

Ron who has championed the mentor program organised gear for new members , also taken over the difficult task of the library and trying to get it on line many hours of work has gone into this it is a thank less task, and he organises the trophy's

Stephen Kerr is a valued committee member, and

being available club nights working at getting everyone to participate in fly tying. This is a great skill to have many happy hours while not fishing can be utilized to improve your fly tying skills with the added bonus of something to catch fish on.

Patrick Counihan our newest committee member took over as secretary, never having done anything like this before; he has hit the ground running. He only joined the club this February so we greatly appreciate his input and is doing a wonderful job learning all the ins and outs of the computer software that the club runs from.

Peter Chan is our editor of Riffles and works outside of the committee; he is a valued member and has published the Riffles for many years now. We can't thank you enough Peter.

And there is myself.

So please consider joining our wonderful committee you don't have to commit to a portfolio just another voice at the meetings is always welcome.

I was welcomed into the Club by Paul Sharpe and Brian Young both who have been very generous with their time, spending a lot of their fishing time getting me to catch fish. They were so welcoming and helpful to me. I hope other new members are getting made feel as welcome as I was.

Going on Club trips is the perfect way to get to know other club members and to fish with a variety of excellent fishermen in great spots. All the members I have been fortunate enough to fish with have been wonderful, showing me where and how to fish. So please if you have never been on a trip please come on one, you don't need to know how to fish. If you are a bit apprehensive ring one of the committee members or talk to us about trips on club night any one of us will be happy to help you. Also it's very unusual if you don't get a fish on club trips. I have had the best smoke trout ever on club trips.

Hugh [afac.captain@afac.org.nz](mailto:afac.captain@afac.org.nz).

Email me [afac.bookings@afac.org.nz](mailto:afac.bookings@afac.org.nz) for bookings to either the Turangi or Punui or ring. I am not too keen on night time calls, so if I get grumpy with you, forgive me. I prefer to hear from you between 9am to 5pm or email is perfect, then it's in writing and I can't lose it, which I can do if you ring me and I write it on the back of an envelope, as John Stevenson can attest to. If you want to know about



the Punui Hut which is greatly underutilised please ask me.

I love fishing and hope to do lots and lots, and not to mention, lots of it.

*Robyn Arrowsmith*

## **AFAC Library System**

Good news, the system is finally again up and running on our Web Site. To access proceed as follows:

Home Page  
Latest News (Right Hand Side of Page)  
AFAC Library 2015

alternatively

Home Page  
Membership  
AFAC Library 2015

We have two new DVD additions this month:

Stealth With a Fly - Dean Bell  
Back Country, North Island

To view order via: [afac.library@afac.org.nz](mailto:afac.library@afac.org.nz)

Rgds *Ron Holmes*



## June Trip to Ngongataha!

We left Auckland in the rain on the Friday evening and although the rain decreased as we headed south the weather forecast for the weekend was more rain. After settling in on Friday night at Paradise Valley Lodge and being told of the 7.00am breakfast, excitement set in, having never been to this stream before to fish.

After a hearty breakfast Tony and I were to go to an area with Robyn and Neil for the morning. I am not sure Neil was ready for a novice and in the rain, but what a morning,

Two trees and 5 bust offs, including what Neil thought was a brown trout, my confidence in my ability rose. Although sighting the trout each time, the landing of them proved to be my downfall, but the fun I had watching Robyn and Tony catch fish added to the morning.

After lunch, Tony and I were on our own and were to travel up from the lodge. We walked up the stream and did not see many fish at all. On the way back down we were told of a trout landed in the pool at the picnic table at the bottom of the lodge, so off we went back down to this fishing hole.

Four bust offs and a near landing (but I will blame my net man for that one) I was getting a little bit annoyed (the politically correct word) for my inability to actually net anything. By this stage it was 4.30 pm and I told Tony that I was not going back to the lodge until I had landed a fish... The rain was heavier and we were drenched. On my second cast I finally had one on and was able to get it into the net, but would you know it the camera decided not to work... Time for a well-earned drink after that!

The dinner and Company was once again wonderful; great tales around the table.

Unfortunately the stream was too high on the Sunday for a fish but Saturdays effort made up for it - at least for us anyway!

I would like to thank Hugh for organising trip but also a big THANK YOU to Neil for tying flies on, the knowledge that he shared, having the patience of a saint and his lucky nymph which helped me land

my last fish.

Regards

*Susan*

## Watching the Master at work

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity of accompanying Yoshi on our recent trip to Nongataha.

The first morning did not start well for me as I fell down the first bank we came to and ripped my hand open on a dry fly requiring 3 stitches (me not the dry fly). Fortunately it was a barbless hook so I avoided one embarrassment at least!

After a quick trip to A&E I re-joined the group consisting of Iain, Frank and Yoshi and was shown a photo of a very proud Frank holding a lovely 5+lb brown which he had just released.

The three of us followed Yoshi up the stream like a row of ducklings until we were signalled to stop. Iain stepped forward and cast exactly where directed. On Yoshi's call he struck upwards and was hooked into a feisty willow tree. Lesson Number One – "strike low and sideways".

The fish was unaware of what was going on downstream and still happily continued going about its business, so another cast was made and bingo, a lively Rainbow came to the net.

I was talked into having a couple of casts and after two misses and then a willow tree, I decided that discretion was the better part of valour and blamed my poor skills on my wounded hand.

After Frank picked up a nice fresh run Rainbow Yoshi and I left them to it as we had arranged to meet up with Mark and Hans.

Yoshi took us to one of his secret spots further up the river and what followed was a lesson in professional guiding.

We had barely entered the water when Yoshi called, "fish".

Hans stepped forward and after a couple of flicks Yoshi yelled "strike". Unfortunately, Hans had not been present at Lesson Number One and strike with upward with such fervour, that he toppled over backwards and landed on his back with a great splash, at my feet. After the obligatory check for injuries and



a little mirth Hans did get it right next time and landed a nice Rainbow then followed, Lesson Number Two - “Fish are slippery suckers and don’t necessarily want their photo taken”. Consequently we do not have a pictorial record of any of Hans’ fish.

Mark was next to hook up and landed a lovely fish on his first attempt.

This pattern of behaviour continued throughout the morning with some good fish being landed.

Mark and I watched as Yoshi spotted fish after fish that we struggled to see. He could even see the fish’s mouth open to take the fly and would make the call for a quick strike. I doubt that we saw a third of the fish that Yoshi spotted. His skill was quite remarkable.

We did see one trophy sized Brown which decided not to take the offerings that Mark placed before him but I lost count of the number of fish that were found in such a short stretch of shallow water. The other very noticeable thing was that nearly all of the fish that were hooked on a dry fly/nymph rig were done so without the dry fly indicator moving so without Yoshi’s incredible skill most of the fish would probably not have been seen or hooked.

The next day Yoshi offered to take me and a couple of the others out in the morning but it wasn’t to be as Mother Nature decided to turn the Nongi into a mud pool overnight.

Nevertheless, I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to watch a master at work and I am very grateful to Yoshi for giving up his time to share his extensive knowledge with our group.

***Hugh Hutchinson***

Club Captain

2 July 2015





## June (Taupo)

### River fishing

The Tongariro has continued to fish extremely well during June with an estimated catch rate of 0.73 fish per hour (1 legal sized trout every 1 hour and 22 minutes) based on over 100 angler interviews. Such a high catch rate of legal sized trout is expected later in the season as the main spring runs come through and so having it this early in the season is encouraging news for anglers. The 45 rainbows measured and weighed by staff surveying the Tongariro during June averaged 519mm and 1.6kg (3.5lbs). The heaviest rainbow weighed was a jack measuring 580mm and 2.4kg (5.3lbs) and was caught nymphing in the Bridge Pool. Two browns were also weighed during the surveys with the heaviest brown weighed a hen measuring 680mm and weighing 3.95kg (8.7lbs) caught nymphing at the Kamahi Pool.

The Tauranga Taupo River has also fished well during June for both the nymphers and the wet liners. The large flood over the weekend of the 20 June saw the river rise to over 2.8m on the gauge at the monitoring site which was the largest flood recorded since the February flood of 2004. With a flood of this magnitude, some damage was to be expected on the angling tracks and the team are currently working towards cutting new tracks where some sections have been lost completely such as on the true left bank near Kereru Lodge. Some small sections will also need attention downstream of the main car park and so please take care on the tracks until this work has been completed. The ten rainbows measured and weighed on the TT River during June averaged 486mm and 1.5kg (3.3lbs) with an average condition factor of 46.2. The heaviest rainbow weighed was a jack measuring 540mm and 1.9kg (4.2lbs) caught nymphing between the main car park and Maniapoto's bend.

Similarly, the Hinemaiaia River also received significant damage after the recent flooding with large sections of track damaged upstream of the State Highway 1 Bridge. The majority of this repair work has been completed but again please take care on the tracks

and report any other damage that you see. Aside from the flooding, the Hinemaiaia has continued to see a lot of attention from anglers and the fishing has continued to be excellent on this smaller river. There are a lot more snags in some sections of the river since the flood that will offer the trout some cover. Rainbows measured on the Hinemaiaia River during June averaged 523mm and 1.7kg (3.75lbs). The heaviest rainbow measured was a jack measuring 555mm and weighing 1.85kg caught nymphing above the SH1 Bridge.

Two very nice rainbows were also weighed on the Waitahanui River during routine licence checks. These jacks measured 650mm and 2.7kg (5.9lbs) and 610mm and 2.5kg (5.5lbs). Large male rainbows were a feature last summer on the lake and it is good to see them appear in the rivers over the last couple of months.

### Waipa Trap

A total of 103 rainbows and 261 browns were trapped in the upstream pen of the Waipa Stream fish trap during June. This is up on the 61 rainbows and 157 browns trapped during the same month last year. Browns trapped this year averaged 604mm and 2.84kg (6.25lbs) with the heaviest brown a jack measuring 695mm and weighing 4.7kg (10.3lbs). The rainbows trapped this month averaged 499mm and 1.5kg (3.3lbs). The heaviest rainbow weighed was a jack measuring 590mm and weighing 2.75kg (6lb). The trap was out of action for a period of approximately 90 hours due to 152mm of rainfall being recorded at the trap site over two days during mid June. Some significant erosion occurred at the trap site given the sheer volume of water passing through the trap but the trap is operational and trapping once again. With water temperatures averaging 8.6°C in the Waipa Stream during June, the run of browns is expected to start declining as mid winter runs of rainbows start to build.

### Waihukahuka trap

The fish trap at the Tongariro National Trout Centre had a run of 189 rainbows and 10 browns during the month of June. This is up on the 109 rainbows and 2 browns trapped during May and also up on the 111 rainbows and 6 browns trapped during June 2014.



The heaviest brown trapped was a jack measuring 665mm and weighing 3.4kg (7.5lbs) spawning for at least the fourth time. The heaviest rainbow was a hen measuring 690mm and weighing 4.5kg (9.9lbs) trapped over the weekend of the heavy rainfall.

### Te Whaiiau trap

Across at Lake Otamangakau, the Te Whaiiau Stream fish trap has trapped a total of 471 rainbows and 148 browns since it was installed for the season in early June. The heaviest two rainbows measured and weighed through the trap were a hen measuring 665mm and weighing 4kg (8.8lbs) and a jack measuring 660mm and also weighing 4kg. The heaviest brown processed during June measured 680mm and weighed 3.9kg (8.6lbs). The neighbouring Papakai Stream has also had a total of 19 rainbows and 81 browns trapped over the past 4 weeks. These fish traps didn't escape the flood but were operational again and trapping soon after the worst of the rain had passed. Over 100 trout have also been processed through the Te Whaiiau fish trap after having spawned and are now heading back to Lake Otamangakau to feed and recover from the rigours of spawning. Lake Otamangakau and Lake Te Whaiiau remain closed to fishing until 1 October.

Anglers are reminded that the new Taupo fishing season starts on 1 July. With good numbers of large trout in most rivers and high catch rates come and enjoy what the Taupo Fishery currently has to offer.

### ***Mark Venman***

*Senior Ranger  
Department of Conservation  
Taupō Fishery Area Office  
Level 1  
69 Town Centre  
Turangi  
3334*

DDI: 07 384 7117

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VPN: 6217



# ROD & REEL

## FISHING SPECIALISTS



## Stephen Kerr Fly Tying Classes

Want to learn to tie flies?

Already know how to tie flies, but want to take your flies to the next level?

We have fly tying classes running every Thursday with Professional Fly Tyer Stephen Kerr. These are run so that one week it is beginner based classes and the second week they are intermediate classes (these swap on consecutive weeks).

The classes are limited to 10 People, so you get all the one on one tuition you could need. Classes start at 6pm and go until 8pm. The cost is a minuscule \$30 with ALL fly tying equipment provided! Feel free to bring your own vice.

Want to know more or want to apply for a class, please drop in to the shop, give us a ring (09 5200307), or send us an email at [sales@rodandreel.co.nz](mailto:sales@rodandreel.co.nz).

If you have already applied for a class, we have your name and number and we will be in touch.

Check out the pictures attached for some of Stephen's amazing work.



# FISHING COMPETITION



Waitahanui Angling Improvement Association

## **FISHING COMPETITION**

**Sat 25 July (5am-midnight)**

12 and 6pm weigh in

**Sun 26 July (5am-midday)**

Weigh in 11-12 followed by BBQ & Prize giving (1 fish a day allowed as entry)

(competition entry = membership)

## **Membership**

\$20/person, \$40/family

## **AGM at Waitahanui School**

Fri 24 July 6pm

## **For more information**

[waitahanuiangling@gmail.com](mailto:waitahanuiangling@gmail.com)

021 214 7271