



HASTINGS ANGLERS CLUB

NEWSLETTER
January/February 2008

www.hastingsanglers.org.nz



Ross Morgan, Bary Daly & visiting English angler, Keith Brooks take a well earned break from paddling the lower Mohaka during the November Club Trip

**Next Club Meeting:
Wednesday 6th February
7:30pm**

In this issue:

- **Club Meetings**
- **Presidents Report**
- **Club Captains Report**
- **Commonwealth Championship Update**
- **Members Fishing Trips**
- **Mohaka Accommodation Reopened**
- **A Note of Thanks from Keith Brooks**

Club Meetings

All meetings continue to be held at Waimarama Surf Life Saving Club in the Splash Planet car park in Hastings

- Wednesday 6th February – Photo & Video Evening on Back-country fishing
- Wednesday 20th February – Fly Casting Clinic by popular request
- Wednesday 5th March – Topic to be confirmed



President's Report

Well that is Xmas over with for another year and one month of 2008 done and dusted. I hope that most of you have managed to get out on one or two occasions. Most rivers have been in great condition over the past two months. We seem to be getting the odd top up in the high country which has been having a positive affect on all rivers. However it would be fair to say that if things remain hot and rather dry over the next couple of months we will see a fall in water flows.

Fishing has been good in all rivers and hopefully there maybe one or two reports in this newsletter.

I expect fish to be in prime condition in the lead up to the Commonwealth Fly Fishing Champs in early April.

I have not had the opportunity to get out over the Xmas break – however my time will come !!!!!

Patangata Hall-

The hall has been used extensively during the Xmas break by family groups and anglers. February is virtually booked out already. This facility is a huge asset to the club and the best thing in it's favour is that it is only 25 minutes away.

All bookings must be made through the Hall Custodian – Brian Cottington –06 8768626

Commonwealth Flyfishing Champs 2008

Looks as though there will be 10 teams coming - this is great news. Now the hard work begins.

Your help will be appreciated over that first week in April – plus you will learn so much from the best around and you will even get paid for it !!!!!!!!

Club Nights

There will be a change to the Club 's Wednesday night summer programme.

As a trial we will be holding one meeting per month. We know members have busy lives and it is proving more difficult in attracting quality speakers along to Club meetings twice a month.

The committee has decided to designate the FIRST Wednesday as the Club meeting for the month. At this stage we will still hold the two meetings on a monthly basis during the winter months – May through to September.

If Members are unhappy with this please let us know – we as a Committee value your input.

Tight Lines
Mark

CLUB CAPTAINS REPORT.

I trust that you have all had a great holiday break and a good start to the new year. The rain in December has set the rivers up for the early summer period. I have not done much fishing on the local rivers but when have been out I have seen plenty of fish in the rivers. Very little weed but the bottom is quite slippery. The smaller fish seem to be in great condition.

In December I went away with Lindisfarne college on their fishing camp. This was the most enjoyable school trip I have been on. The weather was

good for the first day and a half by which time a lot of the boys had caught fish. Some of the boys caught quite a few fish. There were some deep holes where the boys with spinning rods did very well. One hole must have produced 8-10 fish. At night the boys really took to fly tying, turning out lots of flies. However because of rain they did not get a chance to use them on the last morning as the river had discoloured. Not only did most boys catch fish so did most fathers and





much fun was had by all. It was great to see so many boys having ago at flyfishing.

It is not long now until the Commonwealth champs will be on us. Practice days will be on the 2nd/3rd of April with competition being Friday and Saturday 4th-5th. If you would like to help out with being a controller please let me

know.

When it comes to fishing we are all different, the places we like to fish and the way we fish them. I like to get about to remote areas. It's not that I don't like to meet other anglers as I usually prefer to fish with someone. It's just that I like the challenge of accessing wilderness areas. In the last few weeks I have been to the Ruahine ranges, Kawekas and Lakes Waikaremoana and Waikare-iti. It's not so much the fishing I go for it's the intrinsic value these places offer. A 1-3 hr walk may not be your idea of



fun but the rewards can be spectacular. You also meet some great people in these places. The water is so good that you can drink it.

There are so many places that I would love to visit but it all takes time. Its great that all the tourist anglers go to the South Island. I rarely meet another angler most places I fish. Its amazing that so few anglers know of the fantastic fishing we have on offer in Hawkes Bay or don't have the drive to go and explore.

I used to hate traveling more than about an hour to go fishing as we have so much on offer close to Hastings/ Napier but now find that he quality of fishing to be had a little further a field makes it worth while spending more time traveling. I am sure most anglers living in Auckland would love to

avel 3 hrs to reach the quality angling many of us have on our
en in HB.



2008 COMMONWEALTH



Fly Fishing Championships



Hawkes Bay - New Zealand

Tukituki River April 1st - 5th

1st April – All teams to register at the Angus Hotel, Railway Road, Hastings. We would like all teams to arrive by 5.00pm as the opening Dinner will be held on this evening starting at 6:30pm. Our guest speaker will be Bryce Johnson, Director of Fish and Game NZ. Fish and Game are the statutory managers of the Fish and game resource in NZ.

Competition venue – All fishing will take place on the Tukituki River. We will use sections of the river between Blind road near Hastings up to Waipukurau. We will also use a section of the Waipawa River which is a tributary of the Tukituki River. We have Lake Tutira as a back-up venue should rivers be flooded but we hope not to use it.

Practice day's – Wednesday and Thursday will be official practice days. We will have people available to take teams to practice sections of the Tukituki River. Alternatively teams may choose to use some of this time checking out competition beats.

Fly tying competition - Wednesday 2nd April. Feather Merchants will be sponsoring a fly tying competition between teams. We would like all teams to enter two competitors in this friendly event. They will be expected to tie three flies each. Two Feather Merchant patterns plus one of there own choice. All materials will be supplied for this event.

Competition Day's – Friday 4th and Saturday 5th. There will be three sessions of two hours on Friday and two three hour sessions on Saturday.

Patangata Lodge – Which belongs to the Hastings Anglers club will be used as a base on competition days. Controllers will be staying at the lodge. Toilets, first aid, and any other assistance required can be found here.

Teams will also pass through Waipukurau and Waipawa between beats.

Angus Hotel will provide packed lunches for competitors on practice days and for competitors and controllers on competition days. All breakfast's and dinners will be provided at the Angus Hotel which is close to the centre of Hastings.

Teams attending.

New Zealand – 2 teams

Australia - 2 teams

England

Wales

South Africa

Canada

Scotland – Men

Scotland - Women

Club Members Fishing Trips

Ken Hyet

It's a week before Christmas and I have stolen a day on the Tuki. The gods were on my side- the day dawned fine and I was off like a dog shot up the bum. The forecast was a fine, windy day turning wet late p.m. The fish sensed heavy rain and were on the bite. They certainly can predict an adverse weather change. The river was in pristine condition.

Changed flies several times-landed, killed and gutted a 3-4 pound jack, chock-full with caddis larvae. Quickly changed to a caddis fly and then it was all action! Cleaned out one run and on return two hours later, it fired again. Many fish were landed and released (all rainbows), but, oh, how fickle fly fishing can be!

Spent considerable time fishing a drop-off holding four fish and ten metres further down were five more in deeper water. Could not tempt them with anything and they finally dispersed when I threw rocks at them.

All in all, a very satisfying day. Home at 3.45, unscrewed a bottle of Scotch and relived a wonderful day.

South Island to Western Australia

Steve Evans

The offer to spend a week fishing around Oamaru was just too promising to refuse. Visions of big South Island browns in spectacular scenery filled my head for weeks before the trip & when I got picked up from Queenstown airport on the second Saturday in December, I fired with enthusiasm for a memorable trip.

The problem soon became apparent that I was among hundreds, if not thousands of visitors with the same vision, which combined with Didymo infested rivers & a well advanced drought that made many of our 'hot-spots' bone-dry stream beds' led to a frustrating week.

Every trip to the famed Ahuriri was the same; several anglers in every pool, all complaining about the fishing pressure; even more frustrated guides with disappointed clients trying to cram into the pools, & when you did finally find a stretch to fish, the river was invariably chocka with suspended didymo stands that clogged up your leader & flies & required a cleaning operation between almost every cast. The reason for the pressure? No water. The region was drought struck, with most headwaters & smaller streams literally bone-dry, forcing anglers & guides into larger rivers in ever increasing density.

We did find good fishing in the lakes around the hydro canals, but stalking fish next to State Highway 6 wasn't quite the splendid isolation I had in mind.

So, if I learned anything from the trip, it was that the fishing in our backyard really is fantastic & relatively untouched; something reinforced on a day to the Mohaka a week later where three of the five trout caught in a morning were over 5lbs & we didn't see another living soul all day.

The family holiday to Western Australia was primarily just that, but some fishing just had to be done! A day afloat among the coral reefs of the North West Cape, casting flies at bonefish, permit, trevally & various other high-speed critters was great fun, & although the fish were generally 'switched off' on the day, spotting big sharks & turtles in a couple of metres of water was exhilarating enough without the fishing.



10lb Golden Trevally
– a real speedster on
fly-gear!

Mohaka Accommodation Reopened

Barry Daly

The accommodation on Waitara Rd that used to be known as "Shearer's" has become available again after the sale of the property to neighbouring farmers Bruce & Jenny McCormick.

The place can sleep 13 people on new mattresses & has both kitchen & shower facilities.

Bruce & Jenny can be contacted for bookings on 834 9711

A Note of Thanks to HDAC

What can I say about the wonderful hand of friendship extended to me by the Hastings Club members during my visit last November... the wonderful rafting trips down the Mohaka are something I shall remember and treasure for the rest of my life. For a non Kiwi, non club member to be invited along to share both the fishing and the '5 star accommodation' (!) is I believe yet another typical example of the tremendous hand of friendship that has been extended to me since my first visit to NZ in the year 2000. Their huge camaraderie and open friendship is truly priceless and has driven me to return to NZ four times! I know that Paul Elstone was largely responsible for my invitation " to show visitors to NZ just what we gets up to", so please assure him that it certainly did that (it also left me green with envy!). I just wish I was younger so that I was able to settle in Napier to become a full time club member and share more time with the guys! Please convey my grateful thanks to all the chaps that were with us on the trip, and especially poor old Ross who had to put up with my complete lack of seamanship and constant burling! Don't forget the rather spooky experience I had whilst fishing the gravel bar on the lower Mohaka only for a voice to say "Hi, how are you doing" and turning out to be the business partner of the 'Compleat Fly Fisher' shop in Melbourne from whom I had purchased a spare Hardy reel spool just 7 weeks before (making them one of just two people that I know in the whole of Oz!). For him just to 'turn-up', god knows how far from civilisation and half way up a river (on foot!) is bordering on a miracle?

Whilst dolling out thanks, don't forget to do a 'top-up' to yourself.... the week I spent with you and the fishing we did together was the highlight of all my trips to NZ, your companionship and your hospitality were second to none, and living among your family was a fantastic bonus! Our trip with Tony Heindleshiem on 'Out of the Blue' is something which I still dream about regularly (honestly!) and my only regret is that having enticed you to join me in the South Island, the fishing proved to be a mini disaster and nothing like that which I had experienced on previous trips, even my beloved Ahuririr and Twizel rivers proving futile... sorry, sorry!

Keith Brooks
Worcestershire, England

Hastings Anglers Club Committee 2007/2008				
PRESIDENT	Mark Hyett	06 8799649	hyett@xtra.co.nz	104 Rosser Rd, RD 4 Hastings
VICE PRESIDENT	Brent Simonsen	06 8749133	chris.bennett@xtra.co.nz	
SECRETARY/ TREASURER	Paul Elstone	06 8700961	riverside@igrin.co.nz	
CLUB CAPTAIN	Murray Boaler	06 8708206	boaler@xtra.co.nz	
LODGE CUSTODIAN	Brian Cottington	06 8768626	briancott@clear.net.nz	
COMMITTEE	Barry Daly	06 8785763	barry.narina@actrix.co.nz	
	Ken Hyett	06 8771885	hyett30@xtra.co.nz	
	Graeme Jobey	06 8797537	g.j.jobey@clear.net.nz	
	Doug Hamilton	06 8778503	coll.doug@actrix.co.nz	
	Patrick Hegarty	06 8774227	patrick@paynet.co.nz	
NEWSLETTER	Steve Evans	06 833 6465	steve@peoplecentral.co.nz	
WEBSITE	Marty O'Grady	06 8440213	msogrady@xtra.co.nz	