



HASTINGS ANGLERS CLUB

NEWSLETTER
May/June 2010

www.hastingsanglers.org.nz



Paul Elstone takes on another rapid during the club rafting safety weekend on the Mohaka in February

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Club Meetings

Club meetings double up to two per month on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Waimarama Surf Life Saving Club in the Splash Planet car park in Hastings from now until October.

The second monthly meeting will be fly-tying evenings, with prizes for best tied patterns. All materials are supplied by the club & whether you're a novice or seasoned practitioner, most people get a lot from these sessions.

5th May – Fishing Photography

We welcomed back Stuart, Harvey Norman's photography speaker, for an evening of advice and tips on taking great fishing photos and the cameras most likely to help you capture the moment.

19th May – Fly Tying

Brent introduced us to his Zygote pattern

2nd June – Winter & Lake Fishing Tactics

An evening of practical tips on methods, tactics & rigs for fishing deep in rivers during the colder months, & also lake fishing tactics for those winter fishing Tutira or further a field.

16th June – Fly Tying

Pattern to be confirmed. Deer Hair Cicada would be good. If any of you are up to the challenge of teaching the rest of us!

Presidents Report

Summers gone, winter is just around the corner and the fish are on the move. The cooler weather has started the fish thinking about sex (lucky buggers). Time to target these fish, as they are in the best condition of the year. Good numbers are reported in the Tuki , and they are willing to be caught.

The Ngaruroro has seen a few changes after a sizable fresh earlier and now is at a low flow but from what I have seen the bigger fish may have all ready started to move as I have only seen small fish lately.

We have our trip to Rotorua, coming up which I am going on and looking forward to as there are some big fish up there. I hope to do a little night fishing at one of the stream mouths if condition suit so will let you know how we fare. We are about to start our Fly tying evenings soon so any patterns you would like to tie or would like know how to tie let me know and we will see what we can do.

I have decided to include a fly of the month and if you can't follow my instructions give me a yell and I will do my best to assist.

If any one has the time to go up to Lake Tutira they will be amazed by the size of the fish up there. Unfortunately they or not trout but Grass Carp and they are huge but are hard to hook on a fly. There has been rumours that they are close to 40lbs and One chap has broken his fly rod trying to winch one of these monsters in, but please don't remove them as they are there to help clean up the lake.

Tight lines for now see you at the next meeting

Brent

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(Next to Robbie Burns)
Stortford Lodge, Hastings
Phone: (06) 878 2800
crafty@craftys.co.nz

Forthcoming Club Trips

There are some great trips on the agenda for the middle of the year, with spaces available on all those listed below.

As usual, please call Club Captains Steve (06 833 7511) or Paul (06 870 0961) to book a place on forthcoming trips or find out more about the fishing at any of these places.

As we did last year, we are taking a break from away trips in July as most rivers are shut & the Taupo fishing seems to get later & later each year. August & September trips will be in the next newsletter, with forays to Turangi & Aniwhenua likely.

Planned Trips

22 nd & 23 rd May	Ruakituri. Shearer Qtrs Accom.
12 th & 13 th June	Patangata Club Weekend
26 th & 27 th June	Ngongataha Stream & Rotorua Region. Ngongataha Hatchery Accom.
10 th & 11 th July	Patangata Club Weekend

Patangata Pub Breakfast

We have word from the pub that they are willing & able to cook breakfasts for people staying at the lodge!!

Just give them notice the evening before.

Please note you will have to get out of bed & go to the pub, although some of you charmers may persuade them to deliver breakfast in bed.

Tariffs for this service were not known at time of going to print, so let us know if you try it out.

Club Captain's Report

Steve Evans

There are no less than three club trips to report on since our last newsletter in January.

February saw us return for a third annual pilgrimage to the central plateau, and for the second year we were lucky enough to secure accommodation in Peter Brown's ski club lodge in Ohakune. The amount of room & comfort that place affords easily offsets the longer drive to the Whakapapa & Whanganui rivers and we had a fine turnout of 12 club members, yet still managed a room each!

Unfortunately, we weren't the only group of anglers with a high turnout & discovered on our arrival that rumours of large groups of French, Czech & Polish competition anglers were sadly true & that the rivers of the region had been thrashed by about 40 competition fishers for several weeks prior to our arrival.

We spilt up into groups & most concentrated on the Whakapapa & Whanganui rivers, but pickings were slim & trout decidedly spooky. Our best results came from applying reverse psychology & fishing the most accessible water the Whanganui has to offer alongside the roadside from the power station, on the grounds that the visiting throngs would avoid it. Several decent fish were taken there on Saturday morning, whilst forays into hard to access parts of the Whakapapa via railway lines etc resulted in no fish & heavily used access tracks into the river, closely followed by encounters with anglers from across the European Union. I have to say, everyone I met was a pleasure & the complaints from locals of appalling river etiquette couldn't be applied to them, but those rivers are getting a pasting as competition fishing takes an ever greater hold on our fishing.



a good rainbow from the power station

Sunday saw people heading off in various directions, with Barry & Peter getting a very good fish on the Tararua, whilst myself, Dereck & Colin experienced meagre pickings of very small fish on a desperately low TT.



Tararua Rainbow for Peter Frizzell on the way back home from Central Plateau

A month later, & the next club trip to Waikeremoana was underway, largely hosted by Dereck Quillam, with two new club members, Cedric Edwards & our visiting Englishman & now club member Keith Brooks; plus Colin Joll & Paul Elstone. As the family is so fond of the place, I opted to take a cabin with Katie & the kids.

Friday saw a fruitless session of driving to stream mouths & having a crack at a very low lake, while Colin, Paul & Dereck tried various spots from Dereck's excellent boat, but with little avail.

Saturday was a very different day. The family, plus Cedric booked rowing boat sessions on Waikeriti & hiked up the hill. Several trout were caught, with most falling to the kids holding spinning rods while we rowed them around islands & drop-offs. You really can't beat the look on kids faces when they're just starting to look despondent when the rod suddenly gets almost pulled from their hands & a rainbow crashes out of the lake behind them. Coupled with the stunning scenery, it was a magical day.

The main lake party didn't fare so well, with Paul experiencing the frustration of casting to in excess of 40 fish & not hooking one of them, & resolved to rise before dawn & give it another go on Sunday morning, with more success to trolling methods. After that, we left the motor camp & headed home, stopping off at Tuai power station to see the legendary giant trout, who were all having a day off as we saw absolutely nothing there!

The third week of April saw seven of us making a second trip to the Rotorua region, staying in the Ngongataha hatchery staff quarters. There's something

quite odd about staying in a hatchery surrounded by thousands of trout, then wandering out to try a catch a couple somewhere else!

All anglers arrived during Friday & tried their luck on the Ngongataha stream with varied success. Rotorua was in the thick of a drought & the rivers were at very low levels, so while a reasonable number of rainbows had pushed up the stream, the numbers were certainly well down on the same week the previous year. Brent and Dereck still got some fish before we headed off to Rotorua Anglers Club having been generously invited there on the Friday evening for BBQ, beer and to meet up. Our hats go off to this incredibly active club who throw a BBQ every month and have a throng of people helping out with catering and manning the bar. Needless to say, we all had a good time and feed and got to put faces to names from various correspondence in the past.

Saturday morning came and Barry and Peter headed off for a day on Rotorua club member Rog Brit's boat on Tarawera, while we headed off on a tour of various spots; first one being Ohau Channel where we got a couple in the main pool flowing out of Rotorua among big shoals of smelt and feeding shags. One fish fell to George, which was great. After that, we had a go on the Kaituna with little avail, then headed back for food, beer and relaxation, whilst Brent and Dereck did another night fish on Rotorua. Barry and Peter arrived back with half a dozen cracking Tarawera fish all about 5lbs.

The Sunday saw us all head off to L. Rerewhakaatu on the advice of the Rotorua Club guys. The lake was mirror flat with the occasional fish showing as they chased smelt, often well within casting distance. Our club members preference for moving water soon showed, with most getting despondent, although I got one good rainbow on a smelt pattern.

By 2pm, we were all en-route back to Hawke's Bay after another away trip that delivered few fish, but was good fun never the less.

Tight Lines - Steve & Paul

Safe Rafting – 6/7th February, Glen Falls Hut, Mohaka

Seven members met at Glenfalls hut on the Mohaka on Friday 26 for a briefing and discussion regarding river safety and some instruction for the next days rafting.

Our instructor ran us through a number of scenarios and showed us some of the safety and rescue equipment they use.

6.30 am Sat saw some of us doing a vehicle shuffle to the Te Hoe with a rapid return for a quick brekkie and out on the river at Jock Sutton Road by 8.00am. We set off with Ross in his raft with Colin and Norm the Guide, Peter F in a club raft, Maria and I in an Incept inflatable Kayak and Roger and Phil in another

kayak. We had a bit of a play at the launching point learning to “eddy out” and other tricks. After we all felt comfortable we set off towards Auroa Road. At the rapids we stopped and tried various exercises including rescuing some one in trouble. With a little more confidence we continued to Auroa Road and met up with another rafting party to accompany them to the Te Hoe.



We left our club raft, Ross’s and a kayak here and continued in a bigger raft. Peter and I continued in a kayak. This section saw the rapids growing in length and size but we seemed to be handling it fairly well. The party we were following had two raft loads and was having quite a bit of fun. Seemed to spend a lot of time in the water and the rafts were rolled a number of times to make sure all were wet.

This part of the river was pretty reasonable still but would be a challenge for our small boats; I think we would be doing a lot of walking down the sides.

Shortly before lunch Maria traded places with Peter in the front of the kayak. It didn’t take long for him to be convinced that was a good idea. A couple of rapids later Maria and I came to grief in a big way, rolling out of the kayak in the middle of a rather large rapid. Maria luckily fell to the right side of the river away from most of the rocks but still managed to find enough of them. After negotiating the length of the rapid she was picked up by one of the bigger rafts. I fell the other way and came up holding the kayak but struggling to stay on top. Eventually I got a good breath and ditched the kayak as I could not see where I was going. After that I negotiated my way past several rocks and much to my relief, floated out the bottom. After gathering the kayak and paddle I found that no-one wanted to come with me so I had to carry on alone. With one person in the kayak it was quite manoeuvrable so I had a crack at a good sized rapid a bit lower down and managed to stay in.



This was our lunch stop which was much enjoyed as we dried out in a very pleasant sun. Our guides had a bit of fun trying to surf the waves in this rapid which kept us all entertained.

The next section we were heading to was the Te Hoe drop and I was not prepared to chance that in the Kayak, so I joined the larger raft while one of the trainee guides took the kayak. We all stopped at the drop to have a look before running it. I found this very helpful as I knew what we were going to do in there, so when our guide Norm said paddle there was no hanging back. It was all over in a flash but was certainly exciting rafting. The river seemed a bit easier after this and we were all amazed at the way the river cuts through the "Narrows", and the beauty of the gorges and waterfalls on the way. Eventually we drifted out to our finish point at the Ngatapa Bridge, all a bit weary but a great day under our belt.

We returned to Glenfalls picking up our vehicles at Jock Sutton on the way. A couple of beers and a good meal at the hut had Barry and Peter planning a trip from the Taupo road with our two Rotorua members Phil and Roger. I doubt anyone was awake for long, I am sure I went to sleep as I lay down. Maria and I dropped the four rafters off at the waterfall the next morning and then made our way home. The rafters had a pretty good day but dropped a number of fish, the Rotorua members enjoying their first look at that part of the river. This exercise has been very worthwhile for those of us involved in the rafting/fishing. I realize we have been taking things a bit too casual and need to look at some extra safety equipment. The potential for a real problem is never far away in the water. Having learned a renewed respect for this river I will be taking things a bit more seriously.



I carry a locator beacon as a matter of course nowadays on these trips. I use the Spot communicator because you can also send a message home to say you are okay and it shows your position on Google Earth. We now need to look at helmets, jackets, safety lines etc.

We have been discussing a new raft for a while now and part of the idea of this trip was to try the Incept kayak. Because I came to grief in it I was quite sceptical about their suitability for what we do. In reflection I realize that this boat would easily do everything we currently do and more. Where I had trouble was in a rapid that I would never have run in our club boats and only did so in the kayak because we had support and were not carrying much. They are actually quite easy to handle but need practice to learn a different technique to what we currently do. I think it would be good to organize a follow up to this weekend if there is enough support and hopefully create the opportunity for those that could not make this one. Let me know if you are interested.

Fishing Buddy Scheme

Steve Evans

For Club members who want to get out fishing with other club members have access to the contact details and basic information on where and when like minded club members like to fish.

Fishing Buddy Scheme Members

Name & Contact No'	Looking for places to fish?	Can help others	Can fish on weekdays?	Can fish on weekends?	Other relevant Info
Michael Jones 0274-423444 Hastings	Yes – all over the region	No	Yes	Yes	got 4wd
Peter Hunt 06 8446150 021 1546451 Taradale	Yes	No	Yes-School Holidays	Yes	Novice looking for time on the water
Doug Hamilton 8778503 Havelock North	Yes	Yes Tukituki Mohaka	Yes	Yes	
Peter Frizzell 021 246 7400 06 876 6944 Hastings	Yes Tukituki Mohaka	Yes Tukituki Mohaka	Yes	Yes	Can take own vehicle
Bryce Seymour 8761002 Hastings	Yes	No	No	Yes	
Tom Brummer 877 5526 Havelock North	Yes	No	Yes Tue - Fri	Prefer not to	Prefer to share car costs with driver
Roy Frost 875 0128 Te Awanga	Yes Tukituki Mohaka Ngaruroro & Tributaries	Yes Tukituki Waipawa	Yes Mon, Tue & Thur	No	

Renewed Call For Trout Farming Recalls Hastings 1972.

by **Tony Orman**

Recently Federated Farmers NZ (FFNZ) made a call for trout farming to be allowed in New Zealand This was startling particularly because myself and Ian Rodgers, president of the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers late last year, spoke to Don Nicolson, president of FFNZ who enquired about trout farming.

I told him in the words of a fishery expert from the USA, some years ago, trout farming is "capital intensive, high risk, with marginal economics". Still Don Nicolson saw fit to make his call.

It reminded me of the 1970s when the Hastings and District Anglers was to the fore of an intense public debate over trout farming, much of it happening in

Hawkes Bay where the National MP and cabinet minister Duncan McIntyre called for trout farming to be allowed.

I challenged him in the "Hawkes Bay Herald Tribune" and "The Daily Telegraph" the two Hawkes Bay papers at the time based in Hastings and Napier respectively. The Hastings and District Anglers, with the late Joe Townsend as president, publicly challenged government too. The debate escalated and I found myself in the front line!

The president of the National Party at the time baled me up against the BNZ building in Heretaunga Street and abused me loudly for writing "scurrilous letters" to the local newspaper. The National Party secretary invited me to his office and implored me to drop my public opposition to Duncan McIntyre's support for trout farming and to "join the party and work within."

The outcome was massive public opposition, Labour's Norman Kirk opposing trout farming, and Labour sweeping to victory with local MP Duncan McIntyre defeated in what the "NZ Herald" in an editorial called a "shock result" and attributed a major factor as the angling public's opposition to trout farming!

It was jokingly referred to as The Battle of Hastings, 1972.

Another outcome was that from that trout farming battle and victory, was the realisation, clubs throughout New Zealand had little or no communication when protecting public trout fishing or rivers. As a result a meeting, organised by the Hastings and District Anglers, was held in 1974 at Turangi, the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers was formed. Joe Townsend (Hastings) was elected inaugural chairman and myself secretary. A number of Hastings and Scinde Angling Club (Napier) members were on the executive then or in subsequent years.

Interestingly Hastings Anglers were instrumental in forming the highly successful Federation of Hawkes Bay Angling Clubs too.

The FFNZ call for trout farming emphasises that "eternal vigilance" as Joe Townsend called it, is vital to protecting the public recreation of trout fishing. In short, apathy or indifference, has no place.

Coincidentally the 2010 AGM of the Federation of Freshwater Anglers is to be held in Turangi this year (17 and 18 April) - 36 years after the Hastings and District Anglers initiated the federation's formation.

It would be great, in my opinion, if Hastings and District Anglers could be represented and nominate a member for NZFWA executive!

Note: Tony Orman is a life member of the Hastings and District Anglers' Club and is keen for Hastings & District Club members to put themselves forward for the NZFWA executive. If this grabs your interest, please call Tony on 03 577 7875

**Hastings Anglers Club
Committee 2008/2009**

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