

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED 16/06/1949

June 2020 - NEWSLETTER



**Gavin Corbett—
recent Club Trip**

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron	Joe Fleet	07347 8861
President	Jenny Hilton	0273402524
Secretary	Position to be filled	
Treasurer	Ian Fear	0274742772
Club Captain	Position to be filled	
Past President	Gavin Corbett	0212263978
Committee Members		
Helen Cunningham	Ian Ferguson	Rod Hinitt
Iain McLintock	Sandra McLintock	Larry Ware
Fly Tying Convenor	Colin Cox	07 3436282
Trophy Master	Sandra McLintock	
Kids' Fish Out	Brendan Davis	0211055039
A to Z School	Gavin Corbett	0212263978
Almoner	Terry Wood	07 345 5587

Newsletter Editor: Ian Ferguson

Contribution Deadline – 20th of each month –
send to fergusonian1@outlook.com

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The content and comments in this newsletter are those of the authors or by participating members and not necessarily those of other Association Members

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Jenny Hilton)

Hello again fellow fishers,

Not a lot for me to add this month, but isn't it so great that we can get back to fishing although I have heard that it is with differing results – some of us fish and some of us catch fish?! Both of which is why we all enjoy getting out there to the lakes and rivers that we are so fortunate to have in our backyard.

As you will have seen from Larry's posts on Facebook a few club members braved the weather and camped at Rerewhakaaitu and enjoyed 2 days of fishing, with some others joining them for both days. Some of this group then went out for a day's fishing on the Whirinaki river.

So it seems to me that it is time we organised a club trip in the not too distant future so that we can all enjoy a day's fishing as well as meeting up with each other again.

The committee met last Thursday and whilst we can have up to 100 people in our club rooms, that would make social distancing quite difficult and so we decided that we will wait at least until we are at level 1 before opening the club rooms again for Friday night get togethers. We will of course look at making our opening night an occasion to remember.

Despite the club being closed, we have had a number of enquiries from people wanting to join our club as well as attending the A – Z course. We just need a further 2 interested parties and once we are at level 1 then a course will be held.

We still need a secretary for the club, so please if you can just spend a couple of hours each month to attend to correspondence, attend the committee meetings you will be helping myself and the committee to keep our club running smoothly.

I wish you all tight lines for the coming weeks and once we have advise of the review to level 1 we will organise and invite you all to our grand re-opening.

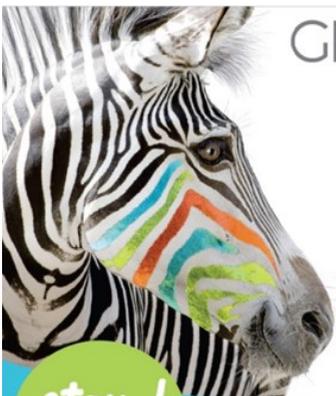
Stay well, be kind,

UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

- **Club Membership Invoices** will be emailed this month—payment due by **July 1**, please pay to the Club Bank Account.
- **A—Z Course**; please enquire amongst friends and family in regards to taking part in this high quality programme as more participants are needed. Pass any names to Larry Ware.
- **Kids Fish Out**—now confirmed

Sunday 2 August

Sunday 6 September



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When the going gets tough the tough getting going—the ‘sunny climes’ of Lakes Rerewhaakaitu and Okaro. Club members fishing and camping recently



FISH OF THE MONTH



**Brown Trout, caught on Tongariro
River by Neal Hawes, using a fly,
Condition factor of 57.56**





A good winter fish from Lake Rerewhakaaitu





HAMILLS RAA LOCKDOWN CHALLENGE

The results are in and we have a winner.

There was only ONE point separating first and second, with third not very far behind.

Some superb stories came to light, and these will be published in future newsletters.

Hamills came to the party with prizes. As the result was so close, Brad agreed to split the prize into first & second.

1st Roy Coulsen 116 points

2nd Owen Poad 115 points

3rd Gavin Corbett 101 points

Thank you to all participants. I enjoyed reading all the entries, but had to agonise over judging ; didn't realise it would be so difficult. Who would be a teacher marking exam papers?

Although only seven members took the time to participate I think the exercise was really worthwhile. At the very least, our newsletter editor will have copy for months to come.

My thanks to Hamills. Please support Brad and his team when buying your fishing gear. SHOP LOCAL!!

Neal Hawes

My Fishing Journey - Owen Poad

My father was a farmer and not a fisherman but I grew up surrounded by rivers. I used to catch huge eels, I eliminated the entire population of giant native trout from a stream near our house and acquired an old green heart rod together with a tin plate reel to fish for trout.

My interest was fostered by an uncle who loved his fishing and enchanted me with his stories. At a book sale, my mother bought a couple of fishing books to give to him. They were "The Fishermans Bedside Book" and the other Izaak Waltons "Complete Angler". I persuaded her to give them to me and that sowed the seeds of a lifelong interest in angling history. I dreamed that one day I would fish those same rivers and chalk streams that Walton, Skues, Halford and Plunkett Greene fished.

After a long break from fishing, I was persuaded to attend a meeting where John Parsons the author spoke about pioneering the use of nymphs on the Tongariro. Hey, that didn't sound too hard! I splashed out and bought a fiberglass rod to replace my split cane, and managed to catch a very good trout on my first trip. I was hooked again.

I had never lost my interest in angling history and on a trip to UK I visited the Fisherman's Chapel in Winchester cathedral where Izaak Walton's is buried. I found the stained glass window beautiful and quite moving.

I arranged to fish a couple of chalk streams and on the Lambourne I caught my first chalk stream trout on a dry fly that I had tied myself. It was a pinnacle in my life – it was my Everest, and I was not sure if I needed to catch any other fish that day or ever.

But I did.

fished the River Meon, quite a small stream which Izaak Walton used to fish in southern England and he felt it was one of the best trout streams in England. The fish lay in channels between the weed beds and I am not sure how old Izaak caught his but I suspect it was probably a worm. We had lunch in the thatched hotel in the tiny village which has probably changed very little since his time.

It was always my dream to fish the River Dove and visit the “Fishing Temple” that Izaak Walton and Charles Cotton built just before Walton died in 1683. It has been rebuilt and has a kilometre or so of fishing available. We rented a cottage and after we arrived at the river, the keeper took us to the temple. Next day we fished the river and it was truly easy to imagine the pools being fished by gentlemen in tall hats as I fished the same pools described by Walton in his book.

We sat around the ancient table and ate our lunch just as Charles Cotton and Izaak Walton would have done 500 years ago and I am sure discussed the turbulent politics of the age, just as we did.

I still have the two fishing books that my mother gave me.

Every time I fish in Hawkes Bay, I stand in my uncle's footsteps.

And I am forever grateful of the beauty of fish and the rivers in which they live.

OWEN'S DADDI

I was lying in bed watching a daddy long legs flying up and down the window and it reminded me that in UK, a very popular fly is the Robjents Daddy for both river and lake fishing. I bought a few while there and have only one left and I know that in NZ, fish eat them with as much gusto as in UK. In Japan I bought a very straggly parachute spider pattern that also imitates a daddy so I thought that perhaps I could combine these patterns to come up with a better design.

The Robjents daddy has long pheasant tail knotted legs, a bushy hackle and spent wings and was difficult and slow to make. The Japanese fly was very sparse but was a good representation of a daddy, trouble was it hardly floated.

My idea was to make an impressionistic fly rather than an exact copy as I subscribe to the theory that most of our flies are somewhat impressionistic. It needed to be easy to tie, float well and looked like it had long legs. My answer was to tie a parachute fly with two hackles, one a few turns of a long straggly feather and under that a ginger cock hackle with enough turns to make the fly buoyant.

I used green pheasant or guinea fowl feathers for legs. They need to be quite large and the fibres need to be able to separate easily. Any red cock hackle will suffice as the floating hackle.

To get to here has taken a lot of experimenting with legs, detached bodies and wings but I have favoured the simplistic approach and from underneath it does look like the insect it is supposed to represent. I see its value as late in the season when we get dozens of daddy long legs in the garden and along river banks.

When making it, tie in the post and taper it to the back so it will form a plump body. I then tie in both hackles, one flat along the body and the other up the post of the indicator which is wound first and then followed by the second. It may require the first hackle to be pulled upwards to get the second one lie nicely. I use plenty of superglue to secure the post and later the hackles when finishing.

The story is not finished yet and it may change when testing after we are allowed out of isolation.

Dont have a name, perhaps Owens Daddi.



Owen's Daddi



Views of Norway

Lockdown Competition

Owen Poad

My Fishing Dream We have travelled to Norway a couple of times but I have never had the opportunity to fish there. It is the home of fabulous brown trout, of amazing arctic char, of huge grayling, some of the best salmon fishing in the world and is renowned for its pike fishing. It is also the home of the Klinkhammer fly first made to catch the big grayling in the rivers.

Most families in Norway have a second house for holidays. Our friends have theirs in the mountains where most houses have grass roofs and there are lakes and rivers scattered everywhere. They all hold fish and many are rarely fished.

They took us to the top of a mountain, really just a high rounded hill where we had lunch. The whole area was desolate with no trees and had been swept by ice with all the rocks lying in rows in the same direction and we could see the banks where neanderthal men had captured mammoths. And below us was a series of lakes were fed by a small river about a kilometre away. As we watched a single fisherman gently cast onto the lake catching the odd fish. Elk grazed on a distant hillside, the only thing to disturb him was the mewing of the falcons.

Fishing in Norway is not just about catching fish. A trip will involve many cups of coffee (probably drunk from a wooden cup) and almost surely a meal cooked over a fire on the bank, if possible with a freshly caught fish. Norwegians and Swedish anglers have added a social dimension to their fishing and have taken their sport to a level that is more than catching a fish.

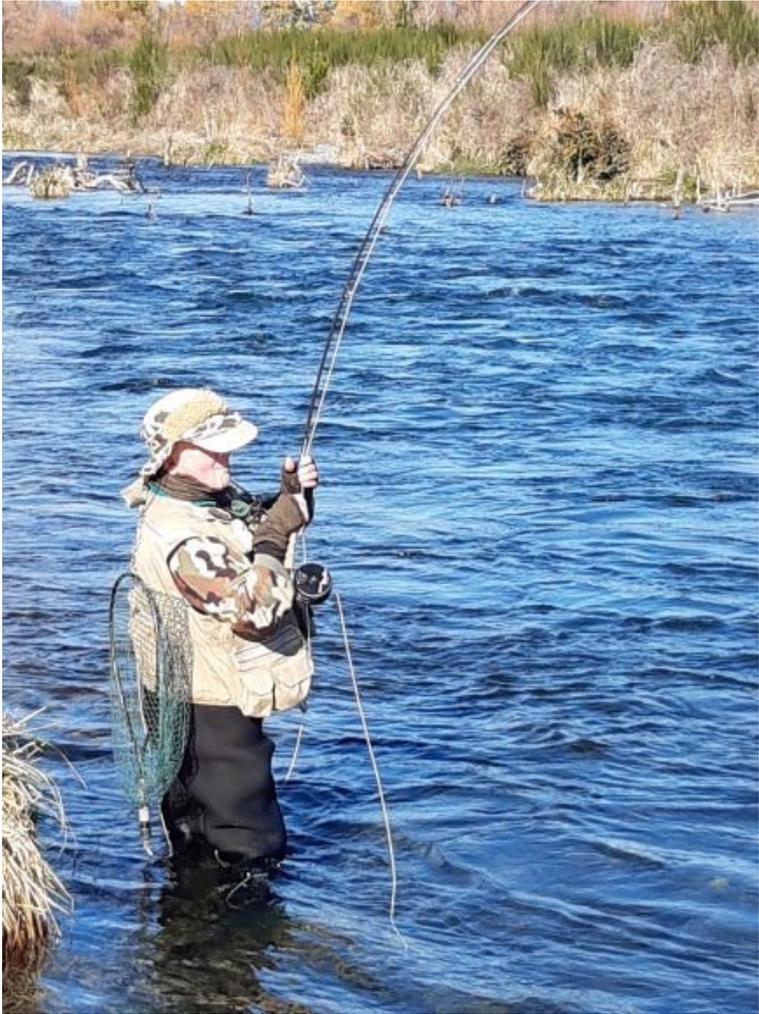
make our sandflies look like beginners both in size and numbers.

While the salmon fishing is great, the trout and grayling fishing using dry flies would be my target. A five weight and perhaps a six weight on the bigger river are the rods to use. They have wonderful mayfly hatches early in the season, that's when the snow has melted. Plenty of warm clothing and above all, lots of insect repellent as the mosquitoes make our sandflies look like beginners both in size and numbers.

It's easy to get to the fishing either by train or hire car from Oslo. Private fishing with a guide around NZ\$400 per day. But in contrast to NZ, a cheap bottle of wine will be \$60.00 and a meal out will be \$100 - \$200. Over the summer there may only be a couple of hours of semi darkness so you can fish for 24 hours if you wish.

My dream to fish Norway is centred around the wildness of the country, the availability of the fishing, the variety of fish and the companionship of the Scandinavian anglers





Roy Coulson fighting a good fish recently on the Tongariro



May Reflections

Kindly supplied by Heather Fargher