

New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers Inc.

President's Report

2020/21 proved to be a rather turbulent year with COVID, three resignations, a threat of libel action, and the near resignation of a valued life member.

Much of this disruption can be linked to the politics and personalities within Fish and Game New Zealand which concluded in the independent Review mandated by Eugene Sage, a recent Minister of Conservation.

Michael Gregg and Strato have emailed notice of their resignations due to disagreement with the Federation's advocacy &/or governance.

Rex Gibson's resignation was sadly due to health issues which caused Rex to step back until he is on top of things again. We wish him a speedy recovery.

This has left the NZFFA without a treasurer and secretary.

On a more positive note thanks to Andi we have a working website which is starting to pay dividends in its first full operating year.

The NZFFA has made progress in highlighting Canterbury's water pollution and water over allocation, a key focus decided at a previous AGM.

The Canterbury executives; Alan, Rex, Steve, Larry and myself have networked with Ecan councillors and staff, the chair and CEO of NC F&G, and a number of environmental groups.

Dr Mike Joy continues to be very supportive and the Federation was able to return the favour by helping out with the recent ABC Foreign Correspondent documentary *Troubled Waters*.

Colin Taylor arranged a meeting with MPI re trout farming which led to a direct email contact with a staff member at the MfE.

The nitrate sensor has proved its worth and by July 2021 we will have gathered two years of data on the surface waters of the lower Selwyn District.

On 5th May I spent a day with Newsroom reporter David Williams while I carried out my May nitrate testing. (I did a detour or two to test some “hot” wells including the Ellesmere Golf Course where he has played and drunk the water – 9.9 mg/L NO₃-N!). Hopefully David will write up his day and possibly follow my prompts to do stories on the F&G Review, and the disappearance of Stokell’s smelt later the year.

On 29th May I have been asked to test well water in the Dunsandel area for a Greenpeace project. (The NZFFA will be acknowledged, and Greenpeace will pay for our testing).

A big thank you to those of you who continue to do the bulk of the heavy lifting on behalf of the Federation.

The next two years will be critical ones as the Federation regroups and sets about reversing our precarious financial position.

The NZFFA also needs to consider how we will respond to the recent F&G Review.

Peter Trolove

President

NZFFA