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Advocating for Anglers

Greetings <<Club Contact - First Name>>, And welcome to the NZFFA's July Newsletter

This edition includes;

A successful AGM for 2018 is done and dusted;

Recent Press Releases

RDR Consent Hearing update

Rex provides an insight into the Rakaia River

AGM Highlights;

- The AGM voted to offer Free Membership to the NZFFA in an effort to increase the NZFFA's membership base and therefore strengthen it's advocacy role. If you are on our email list you are a member so you don't need to do anything, please encourage all friends and contacts to join.
It's now very easy to become a member, there's a quick [sign up form](#) on the website
 - Guest speaker - Andi Cockroft gave an informative speech on initiatives that work for CORANZ to raise membership numbers and if embraced, the value that extra numbers could bring to the NZFFA's advocacy work
 - Guest Speaker - President of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association Larry Burke gave an informative talk about the decline in the Salmon fishery and the problems on the Rakaia River, including issues relating to diversions of water into Lake Coleridge and issues with water take from the Wilberforce and Harper rivers and resulted in a Apply to Trust Power's Environmental Enhancement Fund for funding to challenge issues on the Rakaia River
 - Guest Speaker - Trevor Isitt Chairman North Canterbury Fish and Game spoke about local issues and provided an informative insight into the issues within the NC Region
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A Special Moment;

The AGM was delighted to vote that Ian Rodger be made a Life Member of the NZFFA. A big thank you to Ian for much dedicate and thoughtful input over many years - Congratulations Ian!

AGM Documents;

[Minutes](#) (Unconfirmed)

[Presidents Report](#)

Clean, Flowing Rivers Must be Restored- Trout Fishing Lobby

Press Release 17th July 2018

Restoring clean flowing rivers is the goal of a national trout fishing advocacy the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers (NZFFA). NZFFA President Graham Carter of Hamilton at the organisation's recent annual conference in Christchurch said clean and adequately flowing water in the public's rivers must be restored.

"It is totally unacceptable that there are rivers once nationally revered trout fishing waters that were now summer dry and devoid of fish life such as Canterbury's Selwyn River."

"Habitat is the key. Without water there will be no trout, native fish or any life. And water needs to be not only clean but in adequate flow," he said in his president's report. In the face of the mantra of growth and more growth in the diverse areas of industry and agriculture, the previous National-led government, showed disrespect for the environment and rivers.

However he conceded the new government was showing encouraging signs of an improved and different culture with promises to clean up degraded rivers.

"The recent government announcement of 'enough is enough' as far as dairy cow numbers go is a challenge to the dogma of growth and more growth. It was an election issue," he said.

The economic reality was major industries particularly corporates were solely profit motivated. "The public's environment is secondary to them, too often not considered. They will do whatever it takes to ensure their shareholders get a dividend," said Graham Carter. "But the public interest of clean water and flowing rivers and streams is more important."

The Federation of Freshwater Anglers was, by its constitution, "apolitical", i.e. no political party allegiances. "This has the potential to cause some angst but the reality is "politics in our sport is nothing more than cause and effect. We will call a spade a spade in returning rivers to being clean and flowing."

Consumers were becoming increasingly environmentally conscious, and businesses that disregarded the

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environment did not like adverse publicity.

Contact: NZFFA President,

Graham Carter

021 026 00437

July 3 2018

The New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers opposes the extension of dairying in low rainfall areas like the Mackenzie Country.

No to Mackenzie Country dairy expansion



The NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers (NZFFA) supports the reported comments of the *Forest and Bird Society* in opposing the expansion of dairy farming in the Mackenzie basin.

Graham Carter, president of NZFFA, a nation-wide advocacy for rivers, trout and the trout fishing public, said expansion of dairying especially in low rainfall areas, should be opposed and stopped by government.

Dairying in low rainfall areas demands high irrigation rates that depletes the water resource, he said.

Whether it's the aquifer or direct from rivers is immaterial as both form the total water resource.

It was time for the dairying industry to realise that there are enough cows and the need now should be to concentrate on a value-added approach.

Curbs needed on irrigation



The Mackenzie Country is too dry for dairying

Irrigation overall needs better controls.

The inefficient spraying of water from the public's natural waterways into the wind and on hot days when evaporation rates are high, should not be permitted. Instead any and every irrigation should be between 8 pm and 8 am.

Ironically New Zealand boasts of a clean and green image to gain a marketing edge on export markets but

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summer time dry river beds like the Selwyn – once a revered trout river – destroy the integrity of that marketing brand.



The much decreased flow in the Selwyn River. (Photo credit: Bill Benfield)

The situation has passed the ‘environmental tipping point’, and it is time for the dairying industry – especially the corporate sector – to acknowledge it cannot be environmentally irresponsible.

“Water is a common good and not a plaything for those with little environmental awareness, said Graham Carter.

Contact: Graham Carter phone 021 026 00437

(Thanks to Tony Orman for supplying this press release.)

RMA News;



RDR;

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Unfortunately the [RDR has been granted](#) consent to take an additional 10cumecs of water from the Rangitata River here in Mid Canterbury. Local opinion is that this will be the final nail in the coffin of that once outstanding salmon fishery. There is some good news within the decision though and that's the commitment to replace their ineffective fish screen with a state of the art new screen that will reduce losses to the river markedly.

There is now an opportunity to appeal the decision, which has to be lodged by next Friday.

[CSI F&G held a meeting](#) last Tuesday evening to explain the decision and to gauge support for an appeal. So local Salmon Angler Association Members, submitter's, and others along with myself have been reviewing the decision and assessing if we believe there are grounds to appeal and will meet again with CSI on Monday night. There's strong support for an appeal from the Salmon Anglers, and in my opinion there are a lot of points that have not been properly accessed by the decision, and as the local NZFFA representative, I'll be supporting them in pushing for an appeal.

Stories;

Rex has written another stirring depiction of the problems in Canterbury, he could as easily be describing the Rangitata River rather than the Rakaia...a must read;

I have seen Armageddon!

(At least where Canterbury's sea-run trout and salmon fisheries fate will be decided)

by Rex N. Gibson

An environmental "Armageddon" will be fought on the bed of the Rakaia River south of Christchurch; the battle between the "forces of evil" vs common sense and common good. This river has had a mean flow at around 200+ cumecs in past decades, with floods over 2,000 cumecs being common, and over 5,500 cumecs being reached every couple of years. This flow, and the floods, produced the most iconic of the country's braided river beds.

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Kind Regards
Steve Gerard

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NZFFA Exc

steve@nzffa.co.nz[Facebook](#)www.nzffa.co.nz*Mission;*

*To protect, enhance and foster the sport and interests
of the freshwater anglers of New Zealand*

PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

**STOP THE SPREAD OF
FRESHWATER PESTS**

- CHECK** Remove all plant material from items that have been in the water.
- CLEAN** Soak or scrub all items for at least one minute in a 5% solution of detergent.
- DRY** If cleaning is not practical, dry items completely and then leave for at least 48 hours.

See www.biosecurity.govt.nz/cleaning for more ways to Check, Clean, Dry. If you restrict your activity to a single waterway there is no need to Check, Clean, Dry.

New Zealand Government

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

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