



NZFFA July 2022 Newsletter

{name} - Welcome to Your Newsletter

AGM Held 25th June 2022

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers took place 09:30 SATURDAY 25 June 2022 at the North Canterbury Fish & Game Offices, 595 St Johns Road, Harewood, Christchurch.

Draft Minutes are [here](#)

Fly Tying for Opportunistic Scroungers

by Tony Orman

Fly tying can be either a fish catching or an art in creating a fly that looks so beautiful requires great skill to tie and mostly still catches trout.

With fly tying as an art form, I think of John Morton who I had the privilege to know as a good friend and angling companion. His skills were incredible. His flies could be wonderful creations, such as his dragon fly nymph "Little Annie" or his Frog pattern.

But he also tied up necessarily "not so pretty flies", basic in their tying and tied solely to catch trout. The reality is, many - but not necessarily all - of the better trout flies are simple to tie. And many only require materials that you can get for 'next to nothing'.

Of course your initial outlay for vice, bobbin holder, scissors etc will cost something

but thereafter you can cut your costs greatly by being an opportunist scrounger.

Expert scrounging is an art and a skill.

It requires a good amount of resourcefulness and large amounts of fertile imagination.

Rabbit Fly

For instance there's the story behind the Rabbit Fly, a wet fly lure which works well anywhere in North or South Islands. Alan Duncum of Hawkes Bay was the creator of the Rabbit fly lure. Perhaps one evening Alan's eyes noticed his wife's slippers that were trimmed with rabbit fur.

Using some scissors he cut a strip off and used it to tie a trout fly. It also said he was still married to the same lady, so she must have been an understanding wife!

You don't need to go around seeking womens' slippers to get rabbit fur. You could get into trouble doing that!

If you're a hunter shoot a rabbit and skin it, peg it out, inside of the skin up/fur down. Then smear the skin with a 50-50 mixture of baking soda and kerosene. Do this for 3 or 4 days and then let it dry for a few days. Then to soften it up, rub it with a pumice.

Perhaps you don't hunt but know a hunter? If you know one, ask - i.e. scrounge - him or her for a rabbit skin off the next one shot.

Perhaps you don't hunt or don't know a hunter?

Road Kills

Well in driving the country roads or highways carry a plastic bag and look for a clean road kill. Often a rabbit or hare killed by a car has had only a glancing but fatal blow so it's dead and not a bloody mess.

Grab the animal and either skin it there and then leaving the skinned carcass for a hawk - or take it home and skin it, peg it out and cure it.

The trout fly use for rabbit fur is not confined to Alan Duncum's rabbit fly lure. I've found rabbit fur dubbing nymphs to be pretty good too.

In the Rabbit Fly lure the strip of skin with fur is used for the top wing. i.e. to look like a small fish. The body is normally chenille in shop tied Rabbit flies. But you

don't need chenille - use wool, red, green, yellow, orange or whatever takes your fancy. It's very cheap at the wool shop or you can just pinch some from your wife's wool balls in the knitting/sewing kit.

The rabbit fly has a ribbing of thin wire just to hold the 'wing' in place. More on that thin copper wire later.

Hare and Copper

I mentioned briefly hare fur. Frequently I see road killed hares. Hare fur is very good for nymphs such as the Hare and Copper nymph, surely one of the most buggy looking nymphs out? Well the trout think so.

The Hare and Copper nymph uses thin copper wire as ribbing around the body. You can buy copper wire for fly tying from most tackle shops.

But back to the thin copper wire. I scrounged loads of it from the local auto-electrician in towns in the 1970s. I've still got those rolls - they last decades and cost me nothing except a smile and a poverty stricken look when I asked.

UK nymph guru Frank Sawyer used simple nymphs. His book "Nymphs and the Trout" is a great book.

Killer Bug

One of Frank Sawyer's simple nymphs was the Killer Bug, made of fawnish wool wrapped around the hook torpedo style and a ribbing of that copper wire, hopefully scrounged from the auto-electrician. That's all - simple, easy to tie and a "killer" to coin Frank Sawyer's name for it.

A ball of a suitably coloured wool of that will last you a lifetime!

With the wool, a strand is three or four mini-strands together. Pick these out and use just one. That'll make the the ball of wool last a lifetime.

Flies don't have to be pretty. Many an ugly fly will catch trout. Therein lies a potential failing. A fly that looks good to the human eye may not look good to the trout's eye - and perception.

Going back to road kills, a road killed possum skin gives you oodles of excellent fur for dubbing nymphs. Skin the carcass and cure it with that baking soda/kerosene paste mix and the same with the black furred tail which gives you countless flies, either dark nymphs or John Morton's Hob Nail Boot, a favourite after dark streamer fly of mine.

Hob Nail Boot

The Hob Nail Boot is an excellent fly lure. I recall John Morton telling me it's important to tie it sparsely. Don't over-dress it.

I scrounged an old wallaby skin off a taxidermist and used the fur as dubbing for a nymph I called The Bouncer.

Possum fur is very underrated for flies. Possum fur comes in a couple of variations. For instance there's the brown pelt and the grey one. The grey possum is ideal to dye particularly an olive colour.

Olive coloured possum fur is ideal for the Green Stonefly Nymph for up-country rivers and tying damsel fly imitations for Lake Argyle. The Hob Nail Boot in olive on a size 6 or 8 hook is a good imitation of a dragon fly nymph. About size 10 or 12 hook, ideal for a damsel fly nymph.

Anyone with chooks inevitably has to kill them to renew egg laying stock. If you have a friend with hens, ask them when they kill one, if you could have the neck hackle feathers. Three or four fibres make good tails for nymphs.

There's no end to the opportunities. You just have to keep your eyes wide open and that imagination running in top gear.



© A road kill possum



© Hob Nail Boot fly lure made from possum fur tail

Don't Be Selfish and Shortsighted or Else---

Opinion by Andi Cockroft

Should a government dictate to the public or should the people tell the government what to do?

If you believe the government should be fearful of the wrath of the public and a subsequent backlash at election time, well you are out of step with political moods of the last few decades. Apathy is commonplace.

It's plain to see.

The last two general elections saw a million New Zealanders not vote or were even too disinterested to register as voters. Those one million are selfish. They do not care about tomorrow and the legacy they leave to their children and grandchildren.

They are short-sighted because they only live for today and

don't give a toss about tomorrow.

Take a look at recent Fish and Game elections where in some regions not enough nominations were received to fill the council seats. The voting turnout by shooters and anglers was woefully low.

With local body elections this year and a general election next year, people need to rouse from slumber. Rivers - indeed water - should be a number one issue as it was in 2017 and 2019 elections. Labour promised and failed to deliver, arguably to do anything. I'm still waiting for action. National's record with John Key and Nick Smith to the fore, were undeniably pro-corporate dairying, even sacking a democratically elected council in ECan to achieve the expansion.

Rivers flow above and under ground - the latter known as the aquifer. The RMA fails badly as do those administering it. Recent decades have seen an unbridled urge to increase the corporate style dairy farms. Remember water from the aquifer will deplete "above the ground" water flows i.e. rivers and streams.

But who is going to challenge the government?

Fish and Game NZ is bound by statute to the Minister of Conservation and government. It is a toothless tiger.

The Department of Conservation is government-run.

Besides it advocates for massive 1080 poison drops at the expense of the native birds and invertebrates. Does DOC care?

DOC seems disinterested in river flows yet those rivers are habitat for native fish and trout. DOC manages the Taupo trout fishery by law. It is by law, entrusted to look after native aquatic life. But it stands lamely by, turning a blind eye to the fate of the public's rivers.

That leaves one other option - you.

Do you as a New Zealander care?

Well the record of the public ever since 1984 (and the advent of Rogernomics) has been one of apathy and disinterest - and yes, selfishness and shortsightedness.

Apathy is a major worry. Consequently the world has become ruled by top-down, dictatorial, often arrogant governments. But one country stands as an exception - France. As political commentator Chris Trotter recently put it, "French governments are frightened of the French people."

"Any perceived threat to their rights---is met by the French people, with action - on the streets."

In the outdoors the 1972 New Zealand election - 43 years ago - was a landmark one for action. The National government wanted to destroy Lake Manapouri in the "people's national park" to give cheap, heavily discounted power to a corporate foreign consortium. The people rose up in anger and formed "Save Manapouri."

The government then wanted trout farming. Anglers rose up in wrath. The government did a deal with a rich American to sell public land in Te Anau's Upukerora valley for a luxury lodge to exploit fishing and hunting and lock Kiwis out. The NZ Deerstalkers' Association rose up in wrath.

The 1972 election saw the National government dumped in favour of Norman Kirk's Labour one. Kirk significantly loved fishing and hunting and the outdoors.

The Kirk government banned trout farming, Manapouri was saved from drowning and the Upukerorora deal collapsed.

Fast forward 43 years, to 2015.

Chris Trotter ended his recent column with "it would seem the

habit of revolution and the knack of frightening governments, are forgotten at the people's peril."



Footnote: Andi Cockroft is co-chairman of the Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of NZ (CORANZ), and a co-opted member of the NZFFA Executive

The Fly Rod-breakin' Blues -

Fly rods are easily broken. Here are some of the most common causes of breakage and a few tips for keeping your favourite rods in service.

High Sticking

It is estimated that 75% of broken fly rods do not happen in playing a fish. Of the remaining 25%, almost all can be

attributed to “high-sticking”. High-sticking occurs when the rod is raised to the vertical when fighting a fish or freeing a snag, placing undue stress on the tip section of the rod. It can quickly turn your four-piece rod into a five-piece model. A better choice is to apply side-pressure forming a deep bend in the rod. For freeing a snag try a quick side-to-side motion, or roll-casting toward the snag. If breaking off is necessary, point the rod tip directly at the fly and pull the line steadily.

Fly rod breakage

Another type of high-sticking is gripping the rod above the cork handle when fighting a fish in hopes of gaining leverage. In many cases, this will hinder the action and place too much tension on the weakest part of the rod.

Stringing up

Some rods are broken before the fishing starts. When stringing up your rod, be sure to pull an ample amount of fly line through the tip and pull straight out while cradling the rod in the opposite hand. Pulling against the rod will result in a “U” formation in the top six-to-eight inches of the rod and likely cause breakage.

Heavy Flies

Heavily weighted flies can be deadly on fish and equally deadly on fly rods. When a passing fly collides with the rod, a nick can occur, weakening the blank. This weak spot is usually discovered when fighting a big fish or making a particularly long cast. To avoid this, open your casting loop.

Improper seating of ferrules

Walking with rod in hand

To avoid breakage by “feeding” your rod to a tree or bush or a bank, simply carry your rod with the tip pointed behind you,

leaving the rod strung. But you pull the tip ring off. Best of all, break your rod down when hiking through heavy brush.

Road Rage

Car doors, boot lids and 4WD tail gates have all claimed their share of rod casualties. Take extra care. **Don't** put your rod on the car roof; it's so easy to drive away leaving it there.

Around Homes

Believe it or not rod tips have been broken in ceiling fans, Sliding-glass doors, spring-loaded doors, narrow hallways, etc., also pose potential hazards around the house. It is always best to take your rod down outside.



Words of Wisdom?

Lifelong Learning

The great charm of fly fishing is that we are always learning, no matter how long we have been at it, we are constantly making some fresh discovery, picking up some new wrinkle. If we become conceited through great success, some day the trout will take us down a peg.” - Theodore Gordon

Lifelong Happiness

If you wish to be happy for hour, get intoxicated,

If you wish to be happy for three days, get married,

If you wish to be happy for eight days, Kill your pig and eat it,

If you wish to be happy forever, learn to fish. Chinese Proverb

Rules

Most anglers spend their lives in making rules for trout and trout spend theirs in breaking them - George Aston

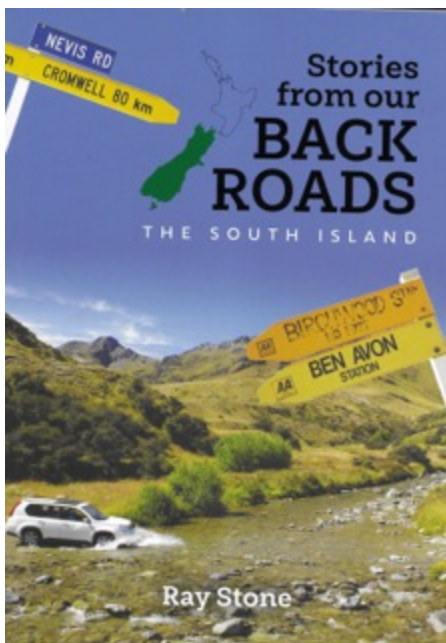
Tell?

You can always tell a fisherman, but you can't tell him much - Corey Ford



Postings From the Website

Some of our more recent posts from the website (see <https://nzffa.com>)



Book Review: "Stories from Our Back Roads" by Ray Stone. Two volumes at \$49.99 each, i.e. North Island and South Island. Reviewed by Tony Orman Here's a twin set of...

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Dirty Truth About the Waikato River

From Radio NZ Radio NZ journalist Farah Hancock has lifted the lid on the reality of the Waikato River which from its pristine water outlet from Taupo, spilling over the...

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Peter Trolove Responds to Big Irrigators

Originally intended to be a comment attached to David Williams story here about noncompliance with the Rakaia NWCO, NZFFA Chairman Peter Trolove's thoughts elevated to a full post. Thank goodness...

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Big irrigator's water takes 'potentially non-compliant'

Original posted at <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/big-irrigators-water-takes-potentially-non-compliant>
Regional council ECan outlines the difficulty of monitoring Rakaia River consents, and how little it knows. David Williams reports
Fresh analysis of irrigation takes from Canterbury's...

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Guy Trafford takes a critical looks at Mike Joy's latest attack on the impact of dairying

Original posting from interest.co.nz Guy Trafford takes a critical looks at Mike Joy's latest attack on the impact of dairying on the Canterbury Plains' groundwater resource – and finds it...

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The real cost of dairy

From the Otago Daily Times: During the past few decades we have wrought the most massive changes to New Zealand's environment since fire was used to burn forests and clear...

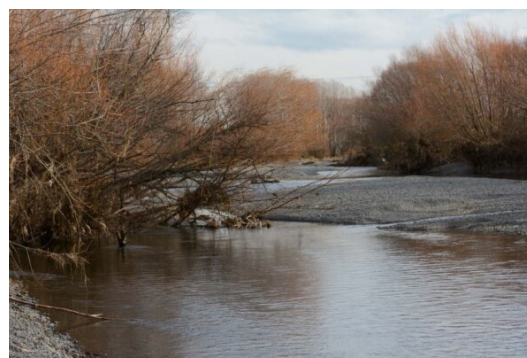
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National Geographic Calls for Halt to Salmon Farming in Key Chilean Region

Special report The Kawésqar National Park extends over 2.8 million hectares, making it the second-largest park in Chile. However, the coastal areas in the park are considered a national reserve,...

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Selwyn Nitrate Testing August 2020 to May 2022

A New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers Project NZFFA Nitrate Testing The massive increase in the amount of irrigated farmland across Canterbury in recent decades has resulted in a comparable...

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Rakaia River National Water Conservation Order 1988 Worthless Thanks to Politicians and Bureaucrats

Special Report The Rakaia River, a public waterway of once outstanding trout, salmon and native populations with associated wildlife values, has been gutted by politicians and bureaucrats , says the...

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SAFE demands code of welfare for farmed salmon

From RNZ; An animal welfare group says millions of farmed salmon are dying due to a lack of regulation and cramped conditions. Photo: RNZ/Cosmo Kentish-Barnes SAFE has launched its 'Forgotten...

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The Federation's Executive:

President: Peter Trolove (Rakaia)

Treasurer: David Haynes (Nelson)

Secretary: David Haynes (Nelson)

Committee:

Steve Gerard (Central South Island), Andi Cockroft (Wellington), Larry Burke (NZ Salmon Anglers), Zane Mirfin (Nelson), Brett Bensemann (Otago), Casey Cravens (Otago), Colin Taylor (Nelson), Grant Henderson (Auckland), Rex Gibson (Canterbury)

Life Members, Tony Orman, (Marlborough), Sandy Bull (Gisborne), Ian Rodger (Auckland) and Ken Sims (Manawatu) are automatically on the committee

Co-opted: Alan Rennie (North Canterbury)

Disclaimer

The opinion pieces and submitted articles are provided for your interest and information. They do not necessarily represent the views of all of the Executive members but are seen as vital to promote active debate around the issues that fit the aims and objectives of the Federation.

If you have not already done so feel free to comment on any of the articles on our website. The discussions always open up many valid points.

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