



NZFFA July/August 2023 Newsletter

{name} - Welcome to Your Newsletter

This has to be a Newsletter for the past two months, and is even late after that.

NZFFA is run entirely by voluteer efforts and both time constraints and content have been limited.

Hopefully we can catch up for September

RAKAIA RIVER WATER CONSERVATION ORDER ENVIRONMENT COURT CASE UPDATE



All the parties' legal counsel gathered in Christchurch mid-August to discuss and develop a single Declaration Application to the Environment Court. In essence, this was an attempt to amalgamate multiple applications into one single version.



This was not achieved and believe it is unlikely to be so and so am urging our counsel to press the Environment Court, or to ask the High Court, to deliver an opinion on who is responsible for the WCO.

At the conclusion of the legal counsel meeting, the majority of those present agreed that it would be useful for Manawa Energy to give a presentation on how they manage and account for water stored and released from Lake Coleridge (defined as 'Stored Water'). This will happen on 13 October 2023.

The NZFFA spoke to Fish and Game and others to gauge their take on the purpose and usefulness of this exercise and subsequently made the decision that we WILL NOT participate in this event for the following reasons:

1. We do not believe it is relevant to the Application for a Declaration on who is responsible for managing the Rakaia WCO.
2. We believe it is a tactic to delay the legal process.
3. We believe it is also a tactic to bleed resources from parties opposing ECan and Manawa as the latter have infinitely more money to waste.

Our legal counsel has kindly agreed to watch the presentation, via video link, at no charge, just to keep a watching brief on who is doing what.

We continue to liaise and share our thoughts with our allies, such as NZ Salmon Anglers Association and Fish & Game.

Many thanks to everyone who has donated towards our legal costs. For those who have not yet done so **PLEASE DONATE**, no matter how little, it all helps.

Thank you

NZFFA Bank Account is: 02-0524-0112601-000

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The irrigation story is a great study of the lack of environmental ethics shown by resource users;

Pollution/water use as a transfer of consequences

Consequence borne by	Other present people	Future People	Non-human Species
Loss	Recreation	ditto	Aquatic life
	Fishing, swimming	ditto	Macro invertebrates
	Nitrates	ditto	Eutrophication
		ditto	Native fish (Stokell's smelt) Salmon and trout
Harm	Water borne diseases	ditto	Extinction
	Bowel cancer	ditto	
	Other cancers	ditto	
	Birth defects	ditto	
	Blue baby deaths	ditto	

[From Environment and Ethics - A New Zealand Contribution Ed. John Howell]

Basically resource users consider they have no obligations or social contract with the rest of our community.

Without having an understanding of the ecology of freshwater environments any pretense of "stewardship" of the environment,(RMA or other), by regional councils who consider consent applications will inevitably end in failure.

Take home message for as long as we have a human concentric view of the use of natural resources the environment will continue to be stuffed.

Erosion of Democracy Must be an Election Issue

Opinion by Tony Orman

Over the last decade or two - and even longer - I have had increasing concern that democracy is being eroded and is under continuing siege.

It should be an election issue. Democracy is precious and its integrity must be strongly guarded.

Two years ago the Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand (CORANZ) expressed concern that parliament’s select committee

democratic process was being undermined to the detriment of the public right to make submissions.

Current CORANZ Chairman Andi Cockroft made an oral submission to a select committee dealing with the Resource Management Act (RMA).

After being beforehand, granted 15 minutes speaking time the chairman interrupted Andi's submission after five minutes and said the committee had heard enough thereby cutting the oral presentation short by ten minutes.

The rudeness and snub to democracy left Andi bewildered and angry.

But then, it had been happening for some years before. It's in contrast to the 1970s when there was a move by the National government to bring in trout farming. Now trout in New Zealand are non-commercial and for very good reasons. Fish farming is environmentally disastrous. Diseases often flare up amongst the crowded fish in the pens and can spread to the natural wild populations. Fish farm effluent is polluting. It is bizarre governments have pushed for it because trout farming is a poor economic venture. As an American fish hatchery expert told me, "trout farming is capital intensive, marginally economic and high risk."

There is no money to be made on export markets as European and American markets are saturated. Besides farmed trout are most unappetising. Budge Hintz former NZ Herald editor, trout angler once wrote that "a farmed trout can be likened to the felt sole out of a fishing wader, only the felt sole tastes better."

Back in the 1970s I went before a parliamentary select committee and spent an hour and a half presenting my submission and answering questions.

Other select committees were the same. My submission to the Maori Fisheries Bill in 1990 was three quarters of an hour in presentation and fielding questions from two arrogant MPs in ACT's Ken Shirley and Labour's Bill Sutton. I argued the fishery belonged to the people irrespective of ethnic background.

The arrogance manifested itself in downright aggression. Messrs Shirley and Sutton were not listening but were attacking.

Luckily I was rescued by none other than Winston Peters!

He arrived late, quickly summed things up and berated Sutton and Shirley, dressing them down in no uncertain fashion.

In 1986 John Henderson and I presented an hour long submission on behalf of the Federation of Rifle, Rod and Gun Sportsmen to a select committee considering the Conservation Law Reform Bill which resulted in the formation of Fish and Game Councils.

But now submissions are being severely - and arrogantly - restricted - as CORANZ found out in submitting to a bill around the RMA.

In 2007 there was the ERMA 1080 poison review in which submitters were mostly given just a token five minute slot. I said at the time, it was evident the ERMA 1080 review was nothing more than a "kangaroo court" and a "token nod" to consultation. The two biggest poison users DOC and OSPRI had requested it. The stench arising smelt of a jack up.

Given just five minutes I refused to travel at much expense across Cook Strait, to present a few minutes long submission. What with air fares, accommodation etc, the five minutes would be costly. Besides I'd already seen through the farce since the two big poison spreaders had requested the review. Predictably despite very expert scientific evidence against 1080, the government's ERMA panel gave the green light to the poison.

To reiterate it's been happening for quite a while and it's fair to say the erosion of democracy is not confined to the current coalition government. The National coalition government (2008-2017) was guilty of a blatant breach of

democracy when Prime Minister John Key and Environment Minister Nick Smith spearheaded the sacking of the democratically elected Environment Canterbury council and grabbed control by installing its own "state puppet" commissioners.

Another example was Environment Minister Nick Smith taking resource consents over 1080 poison aerial drops away from regional councils and public scrutiny and giving the government the sole, unassailable power to approve. Subsequently neither National or Labour governments have revoked that dictatorial move by Smith.

It removed the right of the public to express an opinion.

Politicians are treating the public with disdain, just making a token consultation to listening. After all MPs are in reality, public servants and the Prime Minister is not the people's leader but the most senior public servant.

Behind central and local government elected representatives were bureaucrats who seemed to manipulate MPs and the procedures to suit political and/or self-serving agendas.

The public believe Parliament is the place of democracy - where you could get a fair hearing from elected representatives based on a historical and moral constitution of honour, truth and justice.

The manner in which firearm law changes following the Christchurch March 15, 2019 mosque tragedy, were rushed through with "thoroughly indecent haste" showed a total disregard for democracy. Consider the manner of the select committee dealing with 13,000 submissions in just two days. It defies credibility and shows a total lack of integrity.

It's therefore a logical reaction for the public to rate politicians, political parties and governments as among the most untrustworthy. The capture of Government departments and regional councils by industry groups is even more blatant and worrisome. The latest example being the Waikato Regional Council which granted farmers extra time to appeal their freshwater plans, but not anyone else.

There is an urgent crisis about the accelerating and alarming erosion of democracy and the strangling of the people's voice. It needs strong reaction from an outraged public which is timely as this is an election year.

Talking of fish farming-- fish farming inevitably experiences fish deaths caused by either disease in concentrated, cramped fish pens or by warm water temperatures or a combination of both. King Salmon farm salmon in the Marlborough Sounds but have suffered high mortality among fish.

I asked an elected councillor to find out quantity of dead salmon dumped. She willingly agreed.

A few weeks later I received an e mail from a council bureaucrat. The information would not be released under the Official Information Act (OIA) as it was "commercially sensitive."

I was puzzled. I never requested under the OIA.

Why was it "commercially sensitive"? After all King Salmon occupy public space belonging to you and me. I reasoned that corporate King Salmon with heavy Malaysian ownership, pay no rates for occupying public seabed space. But I pay rates.

And after all, the council's land fill's operation is in reality, funded and operated using my rates.

I learned that following my request dropping into the council's bowels of bureaucracy, that a memo was immediately sent to all councillors ordering them not to ask questions from ratepayers.

It seemed to me that the people who elect councillors were being denied the right, by public servants paid by the people ratepayers, to ask their

elected representatives for information relating to council. Surely an affront to democracy?

The bureaucrat's email at least had a constructive suggestion - if not satisfied, go to the Ombudsman.

So I did.

The Ombudsman was diligent and most helpful. I was informed that information prised from Council was not what I requested. There was no tonnage of dead fish but simply "the tonnage of waste in the category '*Sludges and Animal Waste*' that Edwards Logistics takes to landfill for NZKS. The Council has confirmed that these figures include dead fish waste, old nets, feedbags and other waste. This is the closest available information the Council holds in relation to your request."

The Ombudsman agreed with me that "Council ought to have confirmed what information it had before declining your request on the grounds of commercial sensitivity."

"Had the Council done so, it could have located this information earlier and explained to you that this was all it could find."

The Ombudsman wrote to Council about its handling of my request.

Significantly the Ombudsman revealed that the Marlborough District Council "had received submissions from NZKS to this effect and was persuaded that release of this information, if it was held, would be commercially prejudicial."

As stated - and for obvious reason - NZ King Salmon did not want the tonnages of dead fish disclosed. Is "commercial sensitivity" a valid reason given the public's vested interest in funding the landfill, employing bureaucrats and in corporate King Salmon occupying public space for free?

The exercise left me wondering with words like democracy, public interest, public servants, bureaucrats swirling around.

There is an alarming decline in democracy.

And it's related to the power of the executive, i.e. the bureaucrats. When bureaucrats dictate to and order elected councillors not to ask questions for the people and when bureaucrats seemingly show reluctance to openly answer genuine questions and erect obstacles, then democracy is under threat. Transparency and accountability are vanishing.

The inevitable question is who are bureaucrats more interested in serving - commercial interests or the public?

The erosion of democracy has over the past two decades or longer, increased. It underpins every issue whether it be the sacking of a democratically elected council Ecan by the Key government, insufficient submission times allocated for the public to express their views, even salmon farming in the Marlborough Sounds and numerous other issues.

Footnote: Tony Orman is a "swinging voter and belongs to no political party."

Want to share an article with others?

If you have a general-interest paper, or amusing article - even a photo or cartoon that you want to share with us, please simple email it to newsletter@nzffa.com



Four Tactical Thoughts for this Coming Summer

by Ben Hope

Once during winter, anglers put their feet up by the fire and virtually hibernated just reading fishing books and magazines and tying a few flies for the next season to open at the start of October. Winter fishing put an end to hibernation and anglers can fish locally in winter, in the lower reaches of rivers, or head to Taupo or Rotorua. Yet October 1 still has a magical ring about it with a new season nigh.

Some anglers still wait all winter to spend warmer days fishing for trout. Summer time can be potentially challenging days if river flows are dwindled by a dry summer. When flows drop and trout get wary, but here's a quartet of tactics to keep in mind to catch trout this summer!

Try a Dry-Dropper

The old adage that nymphs will always catch more fish is still true during summer, but this is one time of year when dry flies really do well. For that reason, anglers should consider using a dry fly as an indicator with a nymph 30 or 40 kms underneath. This becomes especially deadly during the cicada season, when a favourite setup is a cicada pattern with a nymph, such as a Pheasant Tail size 14, trailing behind.

Oxygenated Water

As water gets low in summer, which it invariably does, trout tend to seek cooler water where oxygen is at maximum. That might mean deeper pools with a cool spring bubbling up from the bottom or mouths of cooler tributaries, but it can also be riffles. These bubbling, faster moving sections of water provide trout two very important things - a steady source of food and oxygen. Riffles are great for nymphs such as Deleatidium mayfly nymphs. Focus on riffle sections that have enough depth to hold fish comfortably. Fish in riffles are often very steady feeders since there's a steady drift of nymphs coming down. A size 12 or 14 Pheasant Tail is a good bet.

Avoid Hot Hours

This becomes especially important during the sweltering of mid-summer. As it gets hotter into the afternoon, trout hunker down.

Once those water temperatures get upwards around 30 degrees Celsius, it's time to switch to the cooler hours in the morning and evening. Hatches will be heaviest in these periods. About midday trout usually feed less, if at all. As an important note for catch and release, any trout caught during these critically warm stretches should be handled carefully. Keep them in the water and avoid holding them up for too long for those 'grin and grip' photos.

Fish Streamers

Trout may home in on streamers through summer. If the water is low and clear, use a small streamer such as a size 8. Lush willows can overhang streams and trout will hug just inside the shadow and grab a streamer placed in near the edge of the shade. In lower reaches use a small whitebait imitation such as a Grey Ghost as whitebait will be running in from the sea.

Begging Notice - Part Quinque



To those who have already made a contribution to our cause, our gratitude - Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

NZFFA still needs ongoing funds to help us with our ongoing representations on your behalf.

Legal fees are never going to be cheap, and there are several issues needing our immediate attention.

Anything you can do to assist would be so much appreciated - either a one-off or a regular monthly contribution.

See here at <https://nzffa.com/all-donations-gratefully-received/>

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Quilted Fleece sleeping bag liner with zip. This quilted sleeping bag liner can be used as a spare blanket on a bed, in your sleeping bag for extra warmth, or as a wall hanging in your fishing hut, bedroom, lounge, or where ever you fancy it to be. It could also be used as a summer sleeping bag if you are camping by the riverside. For its lifetime it has been a wall hanging, it has not ever been used as a single sleeping bag liner or double bedspread/blanket when unzipped. It also comes with two pillow slips. The quilt is 180cm x 180cm / x 5'11". Zipped up, it is half the width. It is a single sleeping bag liner with the quilting sewn on to the outer side.



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https://nzffa.com/downloads/advertisements/RUAKITURI_CABIN_INQUIRY.pdf

Postings From the Website

Some of our more recent posts from the website (see

<https://nzffa.com>)



A Court Case of National Significance

Dear Secretary We are seeking financial help from every freshwater angler in the country to fight for our Water Conservation Orders. Environment Court for the Rakaia River WCO Declaration Proceedings...

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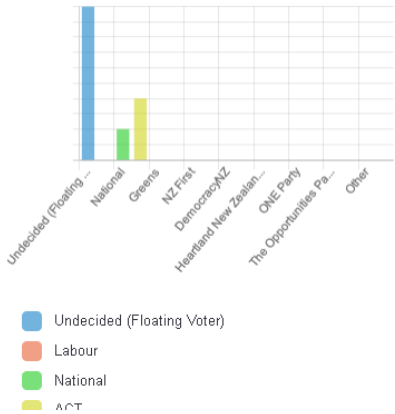


A Fishing and Hunting Minister Welcome But There’s Misgivings says NZ Outdoors & Freedom Party

Press release The National Party’s proposals for a Hunting and Fishing Minister in Government is very welcome says Alan Simmons, President of the NZ Outdoors & Freedom Party and a...

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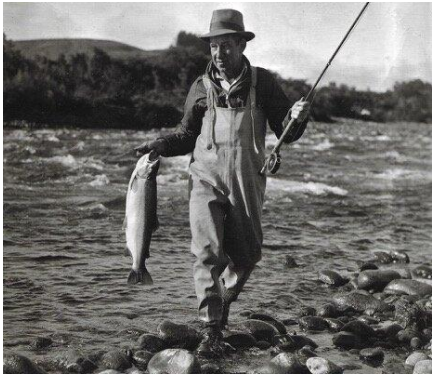
So which Political Party do you intend to vote for?



Latest NZFFA Poll Results – Interesting – 63% Undecided

So, NZFFA members have a differnt set of beliefs than our MSM polsters would have you believe. We show Undecided voters sitting on 63%, with National only gaining 12% and...

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An Enlightening Invaluable History of one of New Zealand’s Greatest Trout Fishing Rivers

Book Review “Fishing the Tongariro – A History of our Greatest Trout River” by Grant Henderson, published by Bateman Books. Price \$59.99. Reviewed by Tony Orman Several years ago, Auckland...

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A Top Kiwi Nymph – Hare and Copper

by “Trutta” It’s probably New Zealand’s most popular nymph and probably the first nymph most beginner fly tiers will tie. Simple design and simple to tie but so very effective,...

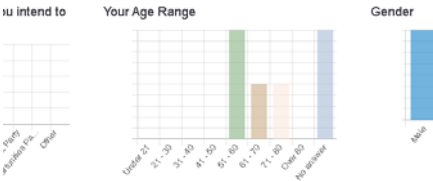
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Ever Read “Big Two-Hearted River”?

This is a classic essay by the famed novelist Ernest Hemingway, written in 1925. It’s regarded as one of the most influential pieces of writing in American literature. It follows...

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Survey Results for June 2023

Results for the last week of June are in, and whilst only a modest amount of entrants so far, the results are nonetheless fascinating. Help us by completing the survey...

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Healing the Pains of Cancer, Depression Through Fly Fishing

Elevated from a comment BY HAZEL ATKINS TIMEJUNE 14, 2023 PRINT “The river runs through my veins,” said Katie Cahn, self-taught fly fishing expert and active volunteer for Casting for...

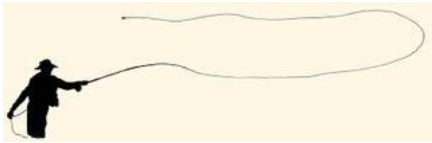
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Targeting Perch – a Top Sportsfish and Succulent Eating

Thanks to the Fishing Website by Allan Burgess The freshwater perch at Lake Forsyth, which is only 45 minutes from my home, offer a fun late winter and early spring...

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Seeking Stillness and Sunlight – On the Art of Fly-Fishing

David Coggins Makes a Case for the Angler’s Lifestyle Moving water thrills me. I can’t drive over a bridge without looking down at the river and wondering whether trout live...

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ONE FACT ABOUT FLY FISHING

by Didymo DaveFly fishermen who fish the Taupo area are keen to know when the spawning runs have commenced? They ask questions like are there many fish in the...

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Our Grateful Thanks

Our extreme gratitude to all who have responded to our plea for assistance in our new fund-raising efforts. With a couple of legal battles looming, we need all the financial...

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Alarming Nitrate Levels in Water and Rivers

Opinion by Charlie Baycroft News from Greenpeace that many Southlanders and Cantabrians are exposed to levels of nitrate that are potentially hazardous to human health is alarming. Recent testing confirmed...

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DOC Increases Hut Prices for Taxpaying public

Pressrelease by Department of Conservation The Department of Conservation is updating accommodation prices for huts, lodges, some campsites, the West Coast's Paparoa Track, and off-season rates for some Great Walk huts. The new prices...

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NZ Lakes Are Ailing With Health Issues

"The Guardian" reports Only 2% of New Zealand's large lakes are in good health, bleak report finds. The number of cows has nearly doubled in a generation, and the resulting fertiliser...

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Many Endangered or Lost Species, but Some Extinctions Are Inevitable

Opinion by Paul Revere Many believe – among them ecologists – believe the world is beset with a massive extinction, the sixth mass extinction which comprises the five previous catastrophic...

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Winter Trout Fishing Down South

by Sally Forth While the Taupo-Rotorua area is usually associated with winter fly fishing, there are many other regional options – and even down south in the South Island. Look...

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Stick to Basics in Fly tying

by Peter Langlands In recent years there has been a lot of activity on the internet about new trout fly patterns. However, while some patterns are highly refined and will...

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Memories Can be Better Than Today's Reality

by Tony Orman Back in the 1980s I discovered a fabulous small trout stream. I've always had a soft spot for small streams. After all I began my serious fly...

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How Healthy is Your River? Look to Fish Numbers

Abridged Pollution is not always easy to spot but there are visible indicators that can reveal whether rivers are in a good ecological state writes the UK's Graham Lawton in...

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Secretary: David Haynes (Nelson)

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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.

Please feel free to circulate this newsletter around club members and friends.

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