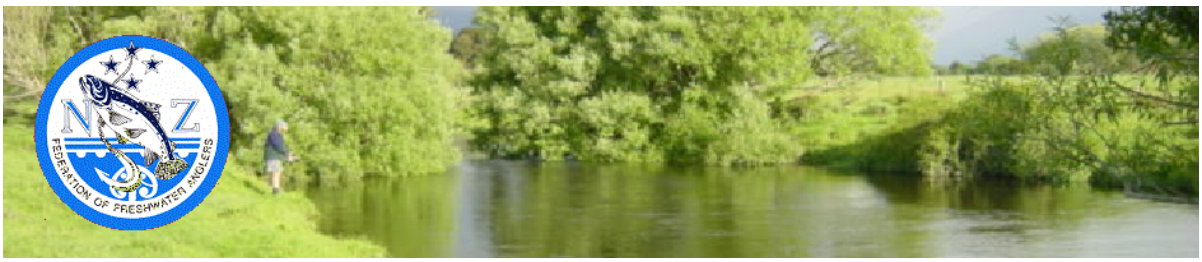
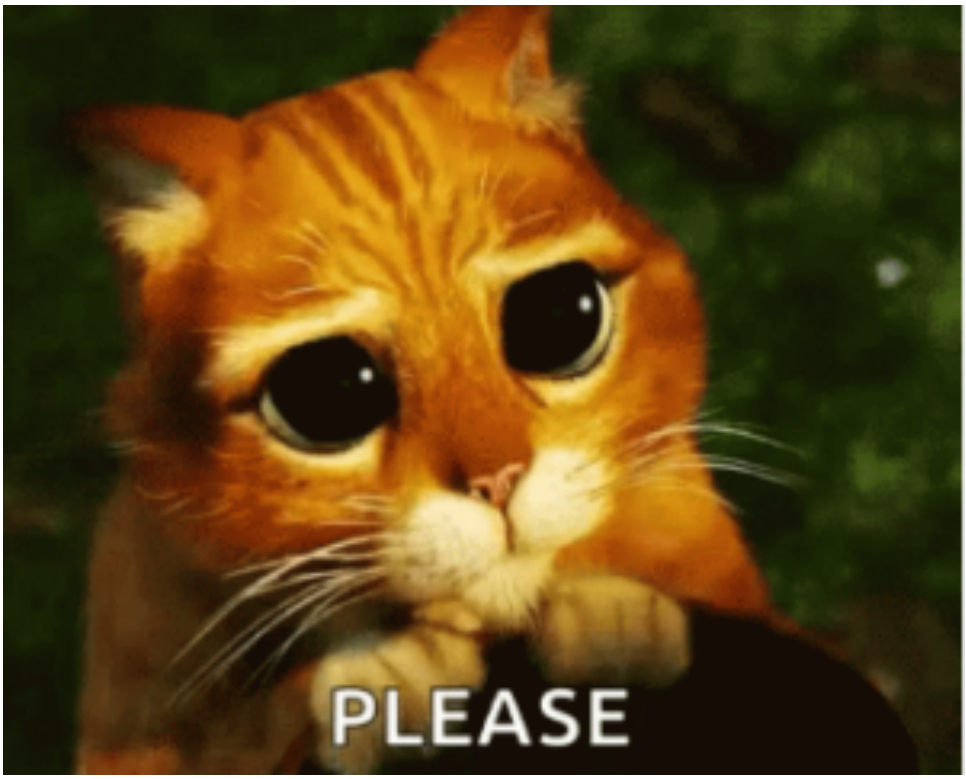


NZFFA March 2023 Newsletter

{name} - Welcome to Your Newsletter

Begging Notice



NZFFA needs 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/

An update of NZFFA's nitrate testing in the Selwyn District

On behalf of the NZFFA I have been conducting monthly nitrate testing across the lower Selwyn District measuring surface waters and a public bore between the Rakaia Huts and the Hallswell River since August 2020.

This data has been entered on a google docs spreadsheet the link for which is below;

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/...

Also available as an Excel spreadsheet at: Canterbury Rivers Nitrate Testing.xlsx

The spreadsheet can graph the data for each site to show trends e.g. Harts Creek;

This exercise is an attempt to get information that is more relevant to anglers and environmentalists than the limited data and opaque reporting that the Canterbury Regional Council (Ecan) posts on the Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA) website.

In my view many of the Ecan sites mask the growing level of nitrate pollution from dairy farming on light vulnerable soils. Sites connected to larger braided rivers will have low levels of pollution, while heavy water logged anoxic soils will reflect the denitrification that occurs here disguising upslope pollution.

Reporting as 5 year means might be justified if the only purpose is to identify trends, but it is the seasonal highs that are the most toxic to freshwater ecosystems and human health.

I have recently written to The Press suggesting that Ecan appears to have refined the adage that "*you cannot manage*

what you cannot measure" to *"we chose not to measure in order that we do not have to manage"*!

It amazes me that the incompetence of the Hastings District Council and Hawkes Bay Regional Council, causing mass poisoning and deaths in Havelock North, can sting the Department of Internal Affairs into responding with the oppressive Three Waters agenda, while the people of Canterbury continue to elect Ecan Councillors who put self-interest ahead of Public Health. (The majority of our councillors are dairy farmers or others who benefit financially from this industry).

I find it ironic that the controversial Three Waters legislation should avoid addressing drinking water safety of private wells not unlike Ecan!

What have we learned?

Our nitrate testing has revealed the following;

- Intermittent rivers such as the Selwyn River will have nitrate levels falling when the river flows are connected due to foothills rainfall events, and elevated when sourced mainly from groundwater
- There are "zones" of high or low nitrate depending whether the soils are light vulnerable porous soils or heavy anoxic water logged soils
- There is a seasonal influence due to ground temperatures and rainfall. Nitrate pollution is highest Sept/October due to lack of plant growth with higher rainfall increasing the amount of nitrate leaching.
- Most of the smaller drains show low nitrate levels in summer when over-allocation of surface water for

irrigation means there are greater proportions plants to water.

- Eutrophication with nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen markedly increases the volume of macrophytes and algae. These plants take up nitrogen.

Future study

The shallow wells at the Ellesmere Golf Club and nearby Ellesmere Speedway typically exceed the Maximum Allowable Value for drinking water, (11.3 mg/L).

I have informed the committee &/or ground staff of my results.

To date there have been no notices or warnings erected to inform unsuspecting members of the public that by drinking the tap water they might be putting their health at risk. (Here at least the Three Waters regulations should kick in).

When I join the private well data I have collected through community testing by NZFFA and in conjunction with Greenpeace, it seems there is a broad zone connecting the dairy farming areas from Te Pirita to Bankside, to Killinchy, to the Ellesmere Domain, to the head streams of Harts Creek.

I do not believe the two dairy farms between Leeston and the confluence of Harts Creek with Te Waihora contribute significantly more nitrate to this groundwater sourced river. Rather that there is an underground connection linking them all.

I am now sampling a stream near Taumutu in line with Harts Creek having tested a private well with high results at Sedgemere. (There are ridges of light soils between heavy

soil types here).

I believe Territorial Authorities are required to identify private wells on LIM reports and that the wells are required to be tested to identify if they contain potable water.

I am about to ask the Selwyn District Council for this information to prove or disprove my theory that the Central Plains Water irrigation zone is a high risk zone.

The Fonterra/DOC "Living Waters" Project

DOC and Fonterra have a joint private/public venture to restore the LII River catchment.

I see this as a cynical gesture by a corporate posing as an environmentalist.

The LII River cuts through low lying water logged soils with few dairy farms at its margins. It is a short run spring fed river having its origins from a series of springs and wetlands east of Lincoln township. (Liffey Springs is sampled monthly as is the LII downstream at Pamment's Road). It is likely to have underground connections to the Waimakarri River from the time when the Waimakarri flowed into to Te Waihora.

My results suggest the landscaping, mapping, and signage of DOC and Fonterra have had little effect on the nitrate levels in this catchment. It seems likely the extensive property development occurring on the outskirts of Lincoln is elevating the nitrate levels due to exposed soils releasing inorganic nitrogen.

[Liffey Springs]

Other matters of interest

It takes several hours and a few litres of diesel to carry out each test, but there can be moments of compensation.

I might run into local farmers, Ecan staff, DOC workers, and other locals with a story to tell about their local stream.

One fascinating character is Gary Pullan who operates the last remaining commercial eel and flounder fishery on Te Waihora.

Gary is a fund of local information about the Lake having fished there for around 50 years.

Another was the guy operating a weed cutting pontoon on the Hallswell River.

He also clears the Temuka and Kaiapoi rivers. He reported a lack of large trout and eels since he began this work 25 years ago.

In conclusion

This testing has given the NZFFA a valuable profile and I am now contacted by various parties including Councillors, environmentalists, reporters, and documentary makers all interested in Canterbury's water pollution issues.

Good contacts to support the NZFFA's advocacy and well worth the price of a couple of tanks of fuel.

Dr Peter Trolove
President
NZFFA

LETTERS

NEW ZEALAND – 100% PURE DESTRUCTION

My bag was packed and loaded.
The anticipation of a month fly fishing with a great friend and reuniting myself with the South Island left a Kiwi living in Australia excited, as Sydney disappeared.
The plan included a 60-year reunion of sorts with a tour of Otago, Southland and the Waitaki, the Southland part including Riverton, and a visit to the hospital and house I was born in and lived my first 2 years of life.
Importantly, I was looking forward to fly fishing those beautiful rivers, the Oreti and Mataura in Southland, the Hakataramea, Kakanui and Ahuriri in Waitaki, the Eglinton in the Fiordland area.
January 2023 delivered stable, mostly sunny and wind-free days.
All the ingredients for dry fly action were in place.
The first sense things were not right was evident through the car windows.
Everywhere it seemed, all day, every day, irrigators were pumping water onto land that shocked the landscape with its unnatural

greenness created from the synthetic fertilisers composed of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium – compounds so important to the food for cows that did not belong there.
Like many days, this day was warm, windless, the water clear but the grip of my new boots was no match for the brown sludge coating the rocks of this section of the Hakataramea.
John Kent in his book 'South Island Fly Fishing' rightly identified the Hakataramea River as one of the best waters an experienced angler might find and I was looking forward to fishing its clean water.
However, there was very little water, the draw off evident from the bleached beaches unnaturally created as more water is taken from a river than it receives.
I pressed on loaded with experience, stealth and an 18-20 foot polyleader, the trout in the water were anxious, few in number and hiding more than feeding.
I lifted my focus realising that I would need to see a trout well before it saw me if I was to be successful.
Time and again I saw confident, mature fish in their prime exhausted, mouths gulping as they sought the lifegiving oxygen from the water via their gills.
I began to understand these animals were stressed, scared, tired and fighting to live in a dying river as the nitrates from fertiliser run off did their damage, creating hypoxia (low oxygen levels).
I looked for life, the immature aquatic invertebrates that we fly fishers understand so well.
Rock after rock had nothing.
No surprise the dry fly-fishing New Zealand was known for was not to be found.
This day, the river is dying.
I moved on; surely, an isolated event.
Eighty odd kilometres away to the southeast, on the Kakanui, the same thing.
Stressed, scared animals and no aquatic life.
As I drove away, I looked up to the watersheds cradling these valleys to see that unnatural greenness reaching higher than I had ever noticed before; irrigators can climb too.
New Zealand's South Island lowland rivers are effectively dead and if not already, those that are left are gasping for air just like the animals that live in them.
As I left that dying river, I recounted a day earlier in my journey.
I was on the Eglington River.
I was having fun, the 4-pound brown took a well sunk nymph in fast water on the edge of a bench drop-off.

The water on the river was clear, the river bed clean, with life under the rocks energetic and happy.
There was no watershed pollution here.
In this river flowing through Fiordland National Park, where fertilisers are not present, both river and land remain close to their natural state.
New Zealanders need to wake up.
What I have recounted here no one, much less the future generations, should live a life of educated promise only to find a dead land in which to live.
Yet New Zealanders are allowing their governments to permit the commercial imperatives of corporate profits and the production of dairy and meat products, priced so as to reflect the death and destruction that is happening today.
The massive nationwide farm conversions that have been created under this misaligned pricing structure has facilitated the export of under-priced milk product to the Chinese and other markets.
New Zealanders are physically killing New Zealand by allowing this to happen.
Until they all require their politicians to price the death and destruction happening now and so make these products unaffordable to those export markets, there will be no improvement in the health of New Zealand and New Zealanders.
Barry Cawthorn.

Another Iconic Fishery Devastated

by Rex Gibson

As I write it is teeming down across Otago. Even Dunedin has flooded streets. The Upper Clutha Anglers have recently cancelled a local fishing trip because of rising rivers. The lake level at Wanaka is rising. A month ago it could not have been more different. I had returned to the fishing location where the late Jim Robertson helped me learn the art of fishing with a feather lure thirty plus years ago before I progressed to nymphs. Jim and had two favoured spots. Deans Bank on the Clutha at night, and Paddock Bay on Lake Wanaka. For decades both have been iconic trout fisheries. The Queen Mother sampled the former among a host of other celebrities including my old acquaintance, fly-tier extraordinaire, John Morton. The latter also had a reputation for attracting the elite of fly fishing nobility; nationally and internationally.

Each year, when Covid lockdowns allow, I make an attempt to recreate the good old days of double figure catch totals in Paddock Bay. On a perfect morning last February I headed out from Wanaka, parked by the Upper Clutha Anglers access sign and walked across the paddock to the stile. The signage and stiles have been provided and maintained by the club.

Photo 1: the good old days.

I gazed out upon this celebrated bay and saw not a rise nor a ripple. The water had gone. I have seen the lake low before but this had to be the lowest. I have even seen it so high that I was able to catch two trout in amongst the tussocks in the adjacent cow paddock. Wanaka is not a controlled hydro lake. As my old aunt used to say it goes up and down like the whore's drawers. Its height depends on natural cycles of rain and dry periods. These can be significantly affected by "weather bombs" in the headwaters; or lack of.

Photo 2: Paddock Bay dewatered (looking back). I have caught many a fish among and left of these willows.

The exposed lake bed had an unusual texture; a camel coloured fabric covered it all for about 100 metres outward; maybe further. The lake was about two metres below its normal level. In a shallow bay the equated to 100 metres of flat substrate. It was covered by huge sheets of hessian pegged to the substrate. There have been various areas in Central Otago that have had a problem with the invasive water weed *Lagarosiphon major ;* otherwise known as oxygen weed. It is considered a nuisance for swimmers, boaties and water skiers. The latter group, with their cousins the jet-skiers have long competed with anglers for the Paddock Bay territory. More than once whilst wading the shallows I have been "buzzed" by members of both tribes. Once the level rises they will have won, so to speak. I have never seen swimmers there. The temperature and risk of "duck itch" (a parasite that burrows into your skin), and the sticky mud bottom, deter swimmers. The hectares of hessian have eliminated ALL of the aquatic flora on which the Paddock Bay food chains depend, not just the *Lagarosiphon*. No self-respecting trout would be interested in nibbling on the hessian and silt; although the hessian is described as "biodegradable".

Photo 3: Hessian matting in the shallows

The eastern side of Paddock Bay was deep enough to still hold water and water skiing was the order of the day there.

Efforts in recent decades to control the *Lagarosiphon* have included periodic cutting and spraying. Diquat is still used in some Central Otago lakes; enough said on that score. Paddock, Roy's, Glendu and Parkin Bays, and parts of Stephenson's Arm all now have hessian mats pinned to their base. At $60,000/hectare that is considered an economic solution. Internet searches do not reveal the results of this processes success in eliminating the pest. Logic would suggest that it will only restrict its growth in these five bays, which incidentally just happen to be the five most favoured areas for both water skiers and shore-based anglers.

In the days when cutting out the weed was tried there was always just enough aquatic flora left to sustain the snail populations which seemed to me to be the main diet of trout entering these bays. Recovering over 50 snails from a trout's stomach and intestine was not unusual and could only be matched by the 50 earthworms I

recovered from a trout caught inside the cow paddock when the lake overflowed. It seems sad that a compromise was not possible where small strips of *Lagarosiphon* and other aquatic plants could be left to maintain some sort of fishery accessible to shore anglers. Didymo has shown us that this sort of pest species cannot be fully eliminated.

The weather had not been kind to some of these weed mats. Wave action has caused damage in several spots that I observed in both the Paddock Bay and the Glendu areas. These rips in the fabric have allowed the *Lagarosiphon* to struggle through. I fished such portals to the angling universe of yesteryear near Glendu and caught two healthy trout later in the day. Despite that, the lake trout fisheries of Wanaka now belong solely to the anglers with access to a boat and to the gleeful water skiers and jet sky adrenalin junkies.

Photo 4: The solitary sign of life in Paddock Bays ecological desert.

Why Turn the Clock Back to 500 AD?

by Tony Orman

There are some poor demented souls who live in a state of chronological fantasy with delusions they can turn the clock back to 500 AD. Evidence of this fractured state of mind can be seen from time to time in the newspapers. I remember several years ago in Wellington's "The Dominion-Post"a news item that ran as follows, "Wellington waterways may be poisoned in

an attempt to eradicate introduced brown trout. The Conservation Department (DOC) has applied for resource consent to introduce the natural toxin rotenone to the upper Karori reservoir and the streams flowing into it this summer."

A DOC spokesman said the operation would provide an opportunity for DOC to trial the use of rotenone in flowing water.

"If this trial is successful, rotenone could be a major breakthrough in protecting and restoring native freshwater ecosystems where there are threatened species of native fish."

The ideological dream of turning New Zealand back to 500 AD is active and vivid. Of concern is that it is lurking in the 21st century group of public servants within the Department of Conservation.

Driving this ideology is a prejudice against "introduced species." It is blatant hypocrisy. After all, aren't humans, including DOC and Forest and Bird fanatics, introduced by way of migration?

I'm not stereotyping here as there are some good, rational people in Forest and Bird and within the Department of Conservation. Quite a number will confide to you that they don't like policies, especially 1080 poison. If those fanatical people, descended from introduced human species and who hate "introduced species" like brown trout, really cared about native fish, they would be concerned about nitrates, poisons and other chemicals that are freely spread about in streams, rivers and forests.

Waikato brothers Steve and Clyde Graf's made a controversial DVD "Poisoning Paradise". In their DVD, freshwater eels are shown feeding on a 1080 killed possum carcass. The toxin 1080 is a secondary killer, i.e. that eel feeding on the carcass, takes in poison.

After 1080 drops in North Otago, dead eels were found.

Also on the Graf Brothers DVD was the sight of koura (freshwater crayfish) feeding on 1080-laden baits that had dropped into creeks. Again those native koura would probably have perished.

Even if a creature does not take enough poison to kill it (known as a sub-lethal dose), the toxin undermines body functions such as the immune

system and sexual fertility. The latter is known as an “endocrine disruptor” in effect, making males infertile. So the species breeding capacity is eroded or conceivably the species is incapable of breeding.

So either the creature, in this case native species like koura, eels, other native fish like kokopu are either killed or rendered incapable of breeding. The end result is probably the same- another endangered species.

The crazy, irrational aspect is that DOC is a major user of 1080 and sanctions OSPRI’s use of 1080 for p,ossum. Both agencies using public money, indiscriminately scatter 1080 from the air over thousands and thousands of hectare of public land. In doing so in their blissful ignorance, poison the ecosystem. Originally developed as an insecticide in 1917, 1080 kills invertebrates such as worms (food of kiwi by the way), native birds, wild deer and it seems native fish.

There are other toxins. One is brodifacoum which is, according to one authority "highly lethal to mammals and birds, and extremely lethal to fish. It is a highly cumulative poison, due to its high lipophilicity and extremely slow elimination."

The lethal dose for trout is"(96 hours exposure) 0.04 parts per million." The 96 hours probably reflects the slow killing characteristic of brodifacoum.

In actual fact brodifacoum (the common ingredient in Talon rat poison) is a far worse poison than the deadly 1080!

Another alternative poison is Pindone. Pest Management Services Ltd, the supplier of the toxin, says the lethal concentration for rainbow trout is just .021 parts per million.

Another toxin is sodium nitrate. ERMA gave the green light for trials of sodium nitrate to proceed. According to the Safety Data Sheet, sodium nitrate is "toxic to aquatic life and may cause long lasting effects in the aquatic environment."

The potential for high damage to the public’s trout fisheries is real either accidentally in the misguided use of toxins or by a deliberate act by some obsessed ideologue.

Why are these people so intent on using toxins?

In their obsession to rid New Zealand of "introduced species", they target possums. Today, possum numbers are low in many regions, not due entirely to the use of poisons, but as a natural progression over about 80 years of animal numbers following liberation (1910) rising to a peak, then falling to a low stable level.

If you doubt this, have a look on roads where road kills of possums once common are now only very occasionally seen. There's your clue.

Let's return to native fish and the perceived threat to native fish species from brown trout. I believe this is greatly overrated. One trout fishing friend, fishing after dark in the Hutt River some years ago for brown trout, caught a native fish, koaro on dry fly. The koaro were happily coexisting with brown trout.

And one thing that bugs me is the fact that eels are indeed threatened. Their numbers have declined alarmingly. But does DOC show any concern?

The ludicrous situation exists where a native freshwater fish, the eel, is under the government's quota fishery system and is fished for commercially. And what about the other native fish, the whitebait. If DOC had a sincere desire to save native freshwater species, it would be urging government to de-commercialise both eels and whitebait.

The whole thing is a tangled mess of anti-introduced ideology and greed for money. The anti-introduced hatred as shown by the Karori reservoir exercise of eradicating brown trout, has been within New Zealand authorities for years. Several years ago, a member of the New Zealand Conservation Authority, termed trout as "pests."

Brown and rainbow trout were introduced but Nature accepts these, adjusts and the result is a modified food chain of predator and prey. Within the food chain, trout and salmon become the prey with native species in shags and eels preying on juvenile fish.

Tying Your Own Flies Is Fun and Cheap!

by Ben Hope

I've come to consider fly tying is almost as much a part of my sport of fly fishing as fishing itself. Let's say 40 percent fly tying, 60 percent fishing. The simple pleasure is in catching a fish on a fly you tied yourself.

For me that goes back to the 1960s in Hawkes Bay when I tied up a Red Tip Governor "wee wet fly" and hooked a feisty rainbow trout on it. The elation borne of the realisation that "Hey! I can tie a fly that will fool a fish" was magical.

If you don't tie your own flies, then I urge you to learn.

And that's just not for trout fishing either. Saltwater fly fishing is taking on and tying your own flies for the sea species is just as satisfying as for trout.

Contrary to initial apprehension, fly tying is not difficult and you get cheap, cheap flies in terms of dollars for often better quality than the often overdressed flies in shops.

The "tools" are simple. A vice, a bobbin holder, scissors, hackle pliers, tying threaˇd and varnish (lacquer). Materials need not be fancy for a start anyhow. For trout, little soft hackled wet flies and nymphs are the simplest to start with. So for those in

materials, you might start with a cock pheasant tail, a packet of peacock herl, possum fur, a hen (soft) brown hackle cape and some fine copper wire.

Hooks you will need of course. Get bronzed hooks for freshwater in sizes 4 to 14 and proper “non rust” saltwater hooks for saltwater.

You don’t have to buy all your materials too if you have a touch of resourcefulness (stinginess) about you. Your auto-electrician will probably give you some old fine copper wire from “toss outs.” Possum fur is easily “ratted” from a clean road kill, if you can find one, or by shooting one at a friendly farmer’s place - if you can find a possum there.

By the ay have you noticed how few possums are around in many districts today?

It’s nothing to do with 1080 poison. Low numbers are in areas which haven’;t been bombed senselessly with 1080. It’s part of the “bell curve” of a graph of populations after liberation reaching a peak 50 years later, then declining to a low stable level. It’s an interesting subject but in no more detail for now.

You can get books on fly tying. Hughie McDowall did a very good little booklet on fly tying. Keith Draper’s books on fly tying are good. But the one that stands head and shoulders above all is Norman Marsh’s “Trout Stream Insects of New Zealand.”

The interesting aspect of fly tying particularly for trout is that often, the simplest flies are best. Take nymphs for example. The Pheasant Tail nymph is just cock pheasant herls and copper wire. The Hare and Copper nymph is essentially just hare fur and copper wire.

If you were limited to two trout flies, it’s very arguable the Hare and Coper and Pheasant Tail would do you well, in fact you’d probably catch as many trout than having a hundred and one trout flies with you!

For trout let’s start with a simple possum nymph.

Step One: Secure your thread to hook shanks and take it to the rear. Tie in a tail of three or four dark whisks off a hackle feather.

Step Two: Tie in a strand of thin, red/brown copper wire you’ve bludged from your auto-electrician.

Step Three: Cut a small amount of possum fur from a pelt. Colour can be of your choice as a possum fur can contain a variety of colours from creamy yellow belly to grey, dark brown or black) Take the fur between thumb and four finger and roll it onto the thread. Moisten finger tips if you have difficulty.

Step Four: Wind thread (with dubbing) around the hook to form body. Finish just before eye of hook.

Step Five: Wind wire evenly over body leaving gaps.

Step Five: (Optional). Tie in one turn of soft hen hackle.

Whip finish or if you're lazy like me, three half hitches will do. Lacquer the head to secure thread.er

That basic pattern can be adjusted to a simple wet fly for fishing across and around too. Just make the body slimmer with fur (no tail required), rib it with copper wire and then tie in a soft hen hackle at the head.

That simple little fly will catch trout.

You can tie just as simple saltwater flies too. For saltwater flies start with some white calf tail and perhaps chartreuse buck tail. Chartreuse seems to be an effective colour for saltwater. Some sparkling chartreuse Krystal Flash is worth while

A basic saltwater pattern for kahawai is to tie in a tail of Krystal Flash. Take thread to about two thirds of the way to the hook eye. Tie in a small bunch of white calf tail hair so it comes back to just behind the hook bhend. Then on top of that a bunch of chartreuse hair, same length.

Three half hitches then build up head with thread.

You can buy "stick on" eyes for the head, if you build the head large enough.

This is a very basic saltwater fly but again it will take fish such as kahawai. You can just tie up a fly out of the white calf tail, i.e. no chartreuse.

With kahawai, they are not always a pushover as most seem to think. I have found them selectively feeding on tiny bait fish and of course at this time of the year, kahawai will home in solely on whitebait. So small saltwater fly patterns are needed in such circumstances.

The beauty of tying your own flies is that you can tie flies to suit your wishes.As I mentioned earlier, shop-bought flies can sometimes be over-dressed, both trout and saltwater. You can tie sparse or bushy flies to suit your pet theories.

Simple dubbing nymph which can be fur whether possum, rabbit or hare fur. This fly has a bead in it for weight but it's not necessary.

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How Safe are the Waitaki Lakes?

Remember the old school days when teachers graded your work as Excellent, Good, Fair, etc. It seems like local bodies have not got past that basic (lazy?) system of assessment. One of the groups spawned from the regional council, ECan, has been assessing the Waitaki catchment waters for "Swim-ability" = recreational use. Thank goodness Nick Smith's "Wade-ability" never became the standard. Thanks to the push he reportedly got from Crusher Collins we do not have to worry about him if National get re-elected. Perhaps they have another clone hidden in their "Frankensteinian" laboratory for new candidates; who would know? Perhaps they have even got the message that water quality matters to voters; again who would know?

Buried in pages 82+ of the recent Upper Waitaki Zone Management Committee Agenda was the heading of "Trophic Level Index and Suitability for Recreation Grade Update".

For anglers this area of knowledge is vital. It is page one stuff. It is not just important for F & G staff but for the tens of thousands who annually use these fabulous Mackenzie Country fisheries. These fisheries, including the hydro canals constitute the most used resource available under F & G's umbrella nationally. With the demise of the irrigation induced lowland trout and salmon fisheries in the South Island and the cyclone induced water-boarding of many North Island catchments we need to remain eternally vigilant, as one noted American once said about democracy, in order to protect our angling resources.

Photo: Wairepo Arm, Lake Ruataniwha (Author)

Here are the recent results as published a month ago for the Upper Waitaki Zone:

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
• Lake Alexandrina bottom huts	Good	Good	Good
• Lake Ruataniwha camp ground	Fair	V. Good	V. Good
• Lake Tekapo beach	V. Good	Good	Good
• Loch Cameron	-	-	No data

- Twizel River picnic area Fair Fair Fair
- Te Akatarawa camp (L. Aviemore) Good Good Good
- Waitangi (L. Aviemore) Good Good Good
- Loch Laird (Aviemore) Fair Fair Fair
- Pumpkin Bay (L. Benmore) Good Good Good
- Sailors Cutting (L. Benmore) Good Good Good
- Lake Middleton (North end) Fair Fair Fair

ECan monitor popular swimming sites across the region for microbial quality and cyanobacterial risks, following the Ministries of Health/for the Environment guidance.

Water quality monitoring of high-country lakes is undertaken each year during December to April. This monitoring assesses the nutrient status (trophic condition) of our valuable lakes and determines if they are changing over time.

ECan also monitors nitrogen phosphorus and chlorophyll A levels. Two of the three large natural lakes (Ōhau and Tekapo/Takapō) didn't meet plan limits in 2021/22 year. However, all three large natural lakes (Ōhau, Pūkaki and Tekapo/Takapō) remain within the 'Microtrophic' band – indicating very clean and very low nutrient water quality.

The Ahuriri Arm has improved (reduced) in 2021/22 compared to the previous three years. This is encouraging, and efforts by landowner to control nutrient inputs to the lake are likely contributing to this improvement.

The smaller **lakes McGregor and Alexandrina did not meet the plan limits in 2021/22,** while Lake Middleton did meet the plan limit. Lake Aviemore also did not meet the plan limits in 2021/22. There is year to year variation in the trophic status of these lakes.

Water quality monitoring of our high-country lakes is undertaken each year during December to April.

The trophic condition of 10 lakes over the 2021/22 summer period in the Upper Waitaki Zone were monitored for the measures of total phosphorus, total nitrogen and phytoplankton biomass (chlorophyll a). This in addition to the bacterial measurements.

Two of the three large natural lakes (Ōhau and Tekapo/Takapō) didn't meet plan limits in 2021/22 year. However, all three large natural lakes (Ōhau, Pūkaki and Tekapo/Takapō) remain within the 'Microtrophic' band – indicating very clean and very low nutrient water quality. Interannual and inter-decadal climatic cycles are likely drivers of water quality variations.

Photo 2: Haldon Arm, Lake Benmore (Author)

The three Lake Benmore sites all met the plan limits in 2021/22. The Ahuriri Arm TLI has improved (reduced) in 2021/22 compared to the previous three years. This is encouraging, and efforts by the landowner to control nutrient inputs to the lake are likely contributing to this improvement.

The smaller lakes McGregor and Alexandrina did not meet the plan limits in 2021/22, while Lake Middleton did meet the plan limit. Lake Aviemore also did not meet the plan limits in 2021/22. There is year to year variation in the trophic status of these lakes.

What all this doesn't tell you are the standards against which these measurements are made. The first question would be "What are their nitrate standards?" The recent work by NZFFA and Greenpeace, plus on-going studies by Otago University suggest that current standards are grossly out of line with human and trout health needs. It is hoped that F & G have staff who are keeping a close eye on this, phosphorus, cyanobacteria, etc., levels, trends and remedies. As I said before in relation to politicians "Who would know?" Information on the health of our waterways rarely gets communicated back to anglers in language that they can understand. The results for the ever popular lakes McGregor and Alexandrina suggest that some drastic action is required. We will wait and see.

Rex N. Gibson

Stop Press

Regional council admits it's been flying blind on Rakaia
https://www.newsroom.co.nz/sustainable-future/ecan-admits-its-been-flying-blind-on-rakaia#Echobox=1679183945

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Postings From the Website

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

How the Rakaia turned into a pipe for irrigators

From newsroom.co.nz by David Williams ENVIRONMENT How the Rakaia turned into a pipe for irrigators Problems with protecting the Rakaia River were predicted years ago, documents filed in the Environment…

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A Top Trout Fly Lure – The Woolly Bugger

By Alan Burgess of fishingmag.co.nz I remember some years ago being in a local tackle store in Christchurch – which shall remain nameless. Whenever the subject of Woolly Bugger trout…

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Obsession with Pine Trees an Environmental and People Disaster

Press release – Council of Outdoor Recreational Associations of NZ An outdoor and conservation forum says the loss of a boy's life at Waikanae Beach near Gisborne and devastation to…

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The Rakaia River – We Don't Need Another Bloody Model!

Opinion byDr Peter Trolove Subtitle:-Laws Without Enforcement Are Meaningless Last Thursday, (26 January), I attended a small meeting comprised of anglers and others concerned about the unhappy state of Canterbury's…

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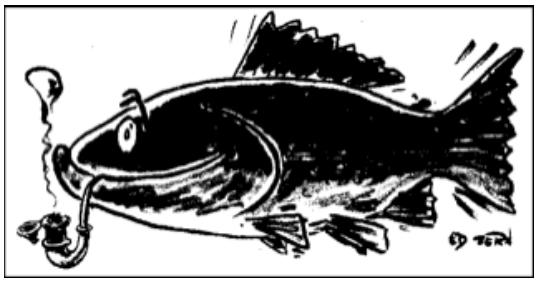

A Puzzling Day – November 23, 1935

This article was published in the January 1936 issue of the "New Zealand Fishing and Shooting Gazette" No sport in the world can perplex its votaries so much as angling.…

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Streams Drying Up Under Onslaught of Pine Trees

by Ben Hope Late last year, research commissioned by Federated Farmers and Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ), found 54 percent of New Zealanders want carbon farming, i.e planting pine…

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Trout fishing tips to improve your catch

From The Fishing Website Late night fishing for trophy fish Often trout become shyer as we move towards summer in response to angling pressure. Sea-run trout, in particular, become quite…

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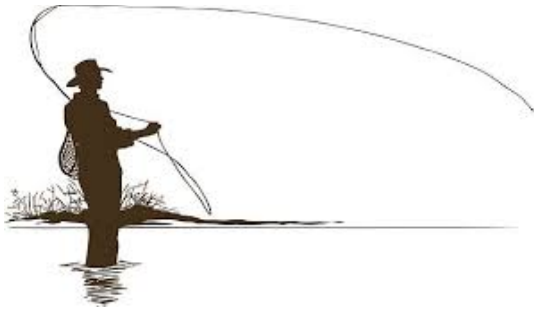

BEHOLD, THE BEST TROUT FLY IN THE WORLD!

from NZ Trout App So, you now know what a fly is, what it is intended to do, who makes them and where to get them. Let's get back to…

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Tony Orman and Black Tail Creek

or perhaps Nothing Gained Without Effort It had been a week of rain at home – every day! It did not really matter I thought as I drove toward Black…

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The Businessman and the Fisherman

by "Trutta" One day a fisherman was lying on a beautiful beach, with his fishing pole propped up in the sand and his solitary line cast out into the sparkling…

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Unsustainable Water Management

"The release of the LAWA monitoring reports for 1727 river and lake sites reveals a national disgrace 82% of monitored lowland lakes are in a poor or very poor condition…

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Carbon Mining – Short Term Gain, Long Term Pain.

Opinionfrom Pure Advantage There is a new risk to you – the taxpayer – from the government's recent decision to back off from excluding exotic species like pine from thepermanent…

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NZ's Predator Free 2050 Pointless and Cruel?

(special report) An European scientist is calling on New Zealand to stop its poisoning of pests under Pest Free 2050 policy as it is impossible to achieve and is causing…

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By Tony Orman In 2017 the late Bill Benfield wrote an excellent book "Water Quality and Ownership" published by Tross Publishing, in which he criticised the new found novelty for…

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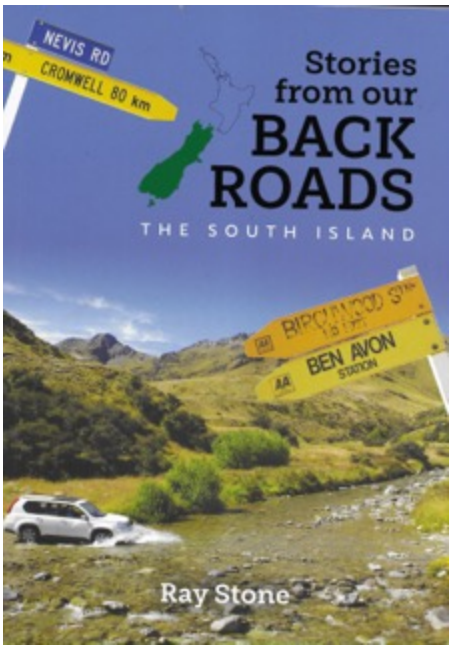

Stories from Our Back Roads

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

Co-opted: Alan Rennie (North Canterbury)

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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.