



NZFFA May 2020 Newsletter

Welcome to Our New Look Newsletter

President's Comment

Proposed review of Fish & Game

The recent video conference of the F&G National Council meeting attended by the Minister of Conservation and Mervyn English, DOC's Director of Governance, was disturbing.

It appears DOC plans to (opportunistically) take advantage of F&G's tenuous financial position, exacerbated by COVID-19, to undertake an "independent" review of F&G.

Almost from the inception of New Zealand's acclimatisation societies, Government departments/ministries have been covertly &/or overtly attempting to wrest control of our freshwater recreational fisheries.

It appears DOC is trying this on with the NZ acclimatisation societies' successor F&G.

A review of F&G may be no bad thing 30 years after its formation, but such a review should be managed by F&G's National Council without political interference.

F&G and its predecessor are valued New Zealand institutions that have done more to protect New Zealand's freshwater resources than any Government body. DOC is compromised by entering into a NZ\$20 million deal with Fonterra and DairyNZ, spread over ten years to study freshwater pollution. The dairy industry is this country's biggest user and polluter of our freshwater resources. In Canterbury there is a joint DOC/Fonterra project looking at the LII catchment. The LII has twelve long established dairy farms in a catchment situated on heavy lowland water logged anaerobic soils which typically reduce nitrate in the groundwater.

The adjoining Selwyn River catchment is Canterbury's "problem child" fed by

aquifers heavy polluted with nitrate and pathogens from the large scale dairying made possible by the Central Plains Water irrigation scheme. This is the primary source of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere's world class pollution requiring a NZ\$300 million dollar fix. This is the catchment requiring study.

F&G's value lies in its generational knowledge and its grass roots angler advocacy.

Ministers have short-lived/ephemeral careers, yet their policy can deliver consequences that last for generations. Government Ministries are "captured" by the latest policies of a Minister driven by short term political expediency.

The MfE's recent Our Freshwater 2020 report records a sorry tale of continued pollution, inadequate monitoring, and an increased number of threatened species.

It would be disastrous for New Zealand if F&G were taken over by a Ministry such as DOC and the country's only effective freshwater advocate was lost.

For this reason the NZFFA expresses strong support for the continuance of F&G

Dr Peter Trolove
President
NZFFA



Many of you will have seen that our Website has undergone a major make-over during the past month. Check it out at <https://nzffa.com>

This also includes a completely revamped newsletter, and we hope you find it both enjoyable and informative.

Towards the end you will find a few sample posts from the website. Feel free to enjoy, plus we are always open to publication of relevant articles. Use the [Contact Us](#) link to get in touch, or forward articles to info@nzffa.com

Tying Your Own Flies Is Not That Difficult

by March Brown

Ever thought of taking up fly tying?

There's a great buzz to be got from using your own flies personally tied for you, by yourself!

I recall years ago, way back in the 1960s tying up a version of the Red Tip Governor, the old style wet fly. I went down to the Tukituki River in Hawkes Bay and using a sinking line, cast it out where a gentle rapid ran in over a drop-off.

A rainbow trout took it and from memory I landed a fish of about 1.5 kgs. I was rapt.

There's an entirely new level of satisfaction from catching a fish on a fly you tied yourself.

The inner reward is multi-fold compared to that of store-bought flies. Tying flies enables an angler to replicate their favourite insect and also to create their own patterns no one else has.

The only limits at a tying vice are imagination and creativity.

Simple

Getting into fly tying is not difficult because some of the better trout flies and nymphs are simple creations. Two nymphs that do well in Marlborough are the Hare and Copper and Pheasant Tail - both the simplest of flies to tie.

You need a few basic tools. Most important is to firmly hold the hook while you wind thread and other materials around it.

Scissors are the most used hand tool on a fly tier's bench. Use sharp special scissors to cut threads, hairs, and many other materials used in the process of tying a fly.

You need a bobbin the tool that holds thread and is used to wind thread around the hook shank.

Hackle pliers are used to wind a feather around the hook.

Many flies commonly use hackles or feathers in fly tying, which can prove difficult to manage with just fingers. Hackle pliers are a great solution. Hackle pliers provide a tight grip on the feather's stem — a difficult feat for fingers alone.

To reiterate, the simplest of flies are often the best. Materials to use for the previously mentioned Hare and Copper nymph are hare fur and thin copper wire. For the Pheasant Tail nymph, herl (fibres) from a cock pheasant tail and copper wire is all you need.

Soft Hackle Flies

You can also tie soft hackled flies to fish “across and around” downstream. Soft hackle flies are so simple. Some floss silk or hare fur dubbing on a hook with a soft partridge hackle (one or at the most two turns) at the head. (refer photo)

Try the internet for The Fly Shop in Methven, Canterbury. Phone is 03 303 3171. Google them for e-mail connection and also ask to be placed on circulation list for their newsletters.

The internet gives you some You-tubes to show tying flies. Or to get started enlist the help of a local fly fisher in your club who ties flies.



Spin Fishing Can be Skilful

By Ben Hope

Although a number of anglers think they're either a fly fisher or a spin angler, it needn't be so. I find my fishing is more versatile and productive by using either method. Besides I can adopt whatever tackle and technique the conditions on the day. In winter and early in the new season (i.e. October, November) and the river tends to be carrying a lot of water, spinning is best.

Spin-fishing is ideal in slightly discoloured water, a windy or cloudy day, any of which will increase your chances of success – especially if you get all three factors occurring at the same time.

Generally speaking, fly-fishing is best in clearer waters, spinning if the river is discoloured. But you can spin in clear water or calm sunny conditions, and adapt by using a smaller lure and as light a line as is practical. In autumn and winter, as water temperatures are cooler than summer and as trout feel the spawning urge, trout will often be more aggressive than usual.

In short, spin-fishing often works best in the cooler months of the year.

Accuracy Paramount

Short casts into prime lies are best. I like to cast upstream on a slight angle to the current. You have to wind quickly compared to casting downstream. In fact I do more fishing upstream casting than downstream.

When fishing rivers, cast upstream and retrieve just slightly faster than the current is flowing to keep your lure's action working. Your spinner will be down near the bottom, the prime zone where mostly trout prefer.

A thought - replace the treble hooks with singles to make releasing small fish easier. It won't make any difference to your success covering the water.

Two spools

Most spinning reels come with two spools. Load them with different line weights. Load one with 2 - 3 kg line for clear conditions. The light line lets you cast further when needed and the light line also lets your lure sink deeper. The second spool - perhaps 4 - 5 kgs - is for fishing larger rivers or high water flows and for salmon in the Wairau or kahawai at the river mouth.

Knowing which spinner to use and when is important. Five types of spinners have worked well for me and stood the test of time, but overall keep your spinners small and your line as light as possible.

Spinner Selection

The Rapalas are great if somewhat expensive. I like blade spinners (e.g. Mepps and Veltic) as they don't need a fast retrieve to bring out the action. They are ideal for casting upstream and retrieving back down. Pinch two or three split shot above the spinner to be more effective in getting near the bottom in deepwater pools.

Tasmanian Devil and King Cobras are very good and the Black Toby (ahem) is a thoroughly dependable lure.

Soft-plastics are a new innovation and are very effective. Don't use the scented varieties in waters where they are forbidden

. Mepps Black Fury spinner



Some extracts from the website <https://nzffa.com>



The lost season

After 25 March 2020 it appears that all you are likely to catch if you venture out is Covid-19. It was an interesting season. Fish and Game still struggle to...

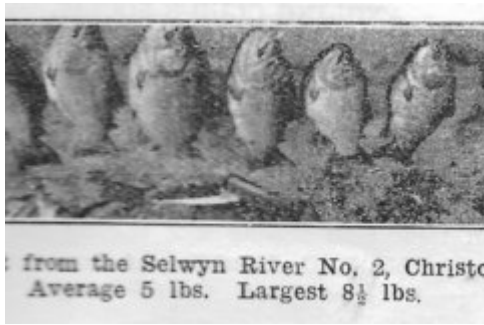
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A Trout Angler's Lockdown Lament.

"There's a fly rod hanging on the wall" There's a fly rod hanging on the wall and my fishing vest is lying in the hall. No longer can I...

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Yesteryear on NZ's once "Best Brown Trout River".

Well known author of trout fishing books George Ferris, in the 1950s, once described Canterbury's Selwyn River, in its hey-day, as being looked on as "the best brown trout river in...

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Selwyn Water Zone Nitrate Testing NZFFA 2020

Selwyn Te Waihora Water Zone
2020 NO3-N mg/L 11/01 16/02 5/03
30/04 Rakaia Huts community well
0.61 0.64 Jollies Brook 1.06 0.94
0.88 0.75 Cooper's Lagoon 1.72
1.82 NT 1.98...

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Wait and Watch and Wonder

by Pedro Burney (Originally published "On the River" 1974) Just looking has its rewards. When I reach a river, I put my rod up, sit



Winter Canal Fishing Tips 2020

The major South island fishing retail stores all have sections on their websites dedicated to equipment and accessories for fishing the

down and just look. What...

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Mackenzie Country hydro canals.
The Complete Angler has an...

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Jest a Minute

The Ranger and Poacher The river has a two trout bag limit and a fisherman is casting for trout as a stranger approaches and asks, "Any luck?" "Any luck? Heck...

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The Old Man and his Grandson

The following article was by the late Ted Bason, who was president and secretary of the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers in the 1970s-80s. It was published in "On the...

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