



Newsletter January 2022

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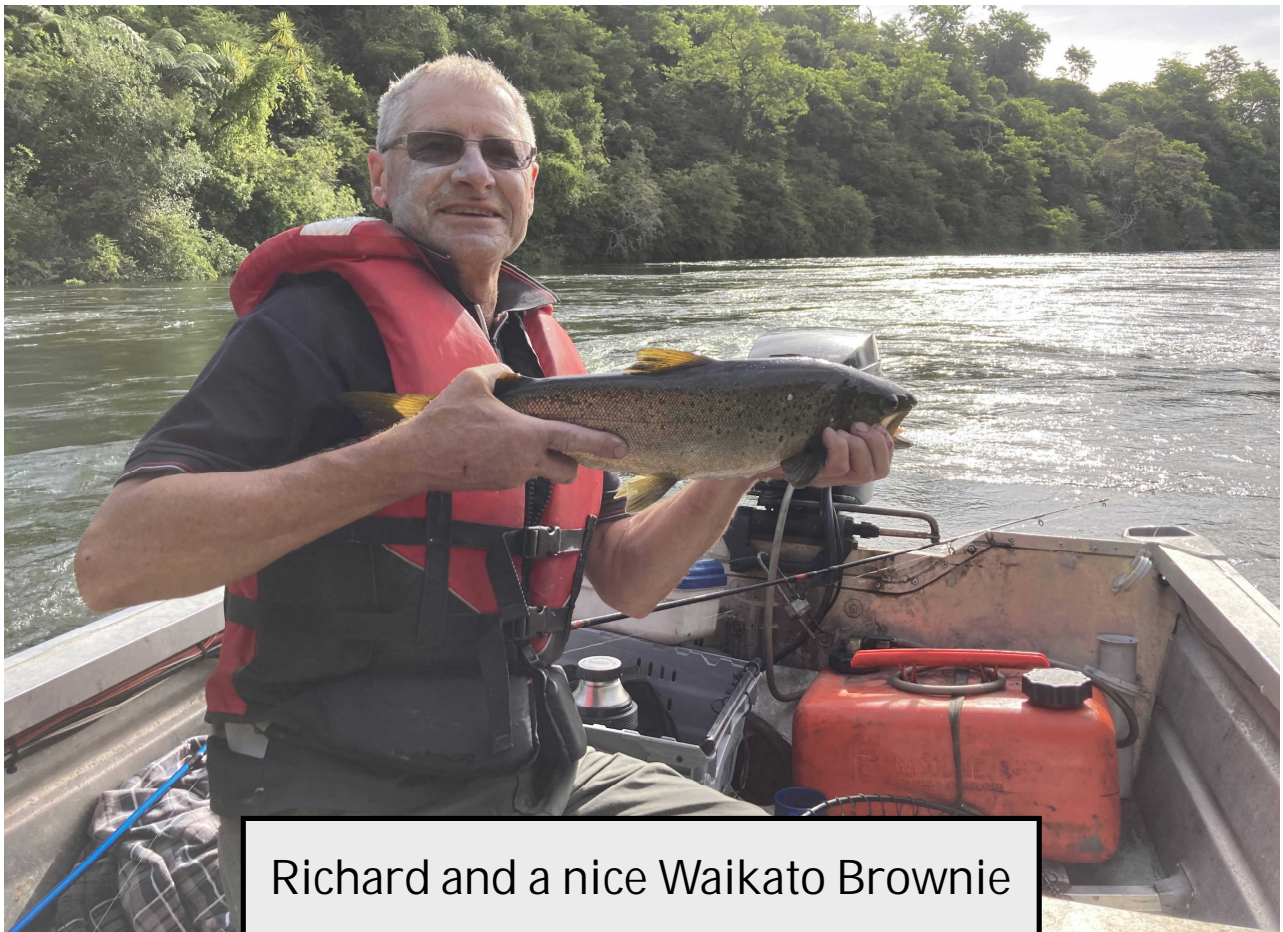


Club News

Not much on the club news front with most people just getting back home or back to work from the holidays. I'm sure most would have made most of the good weather (can a heatwave be described as good weather?) and gotten out there for a fish. I didn't get much done as I sprained my ankle on the 1st outing...

I did manage to get out with Richard on his boat up the Waikato from Cambridge where we saw heaps of rainbows chasing smelt and Richard managed to catch two nice brownies on spin gear using a woolly bugger.

I didn't catch anything apart from snags.



Richard and a nice Waikato Brownie

Haven't heard much from anyone over the last month apart from the regulars; Derek who went down to Rotorua to fish the lake and stream mouths as well as Lake O; Bert with some insightful information related to Lake O; and Nigel about Brook Trout.

And then the highlight of the editorial for me was Rob's story on page 10!

Unfortunately our club evening month has been cancelled as a result of the sudden shift to 'red' covid restrictions. Please refer to Gareth's email re this vaccine certificates etc.

Targeting Brookies - Nigel Juby

Spending a precious couple of days in the south island targeting tiny trout won't seem rational to many - but neither does fly fishing.

Brook trout are neither hard to catch or large and don't fight particularly hard. For me, the appeal of fishing for brookies is the adventure.

I've spent a day walking through bush above lake Hinemaia looking in tiny tributaries. I've fished a trickle beside dessert road that was so small that it mostly flowed invisibly between tussock clumps. I've cast into lake Emily and hiked the Hinds in Canterbury. I still haven't caught one.

I know that I could catch a brookie by getting directed or guided to a spot north of Taupo - but where is the adventure there?

It's more fun searching the internet, talking to people and driving back roads.

Brook trout exists where three criteria are met:

1. They have been released.
2. Water temperature remains cold all year round.
3. No brown trout exist.

I'm general, this means cold, tiny, high altitude streams. Streams that run through beautiful environments, but have their share of challenges.

Leo and I are currently near St Bathens, Central Otago, looking for brookies when we could be sight fishing big South Island brownies. Maybe tomorrow.

Honestly, I think I've earned a fish.

Update: See photo. I still haven't caught one - but Leo out fished me again.

Update 2: F&G Eastern have released some

Auckland / Waikato Access Improvement - Dirk du Preez

Figure 3. Angler days on Auckland/Waikato rivers from the 2001, 2007 and 2015 derived from the national angler survey (Unwin 2017). Rivers highlighted in blue are spring fed. Change is the difference in use between the mean use from the 2001 and 2007 surveys compared to 2014. Comparisons that could not be made are indicated with *

River	2001/02	2007/08	2014/15	Change
Whanganui River	1260	900	4550	321%
Waikato River	4830	6150	3090	-44%
Whakapapa River	1030	2500	2590	47%
Waipa River	1560	1620	2340	47%
Waihou River	2640	1370	1520	-24%
Ohinemuri River	2600	1500	700	-66%
Mangatutu Stream	1070	860	500	-48%
Little Waipa Stream	170	100	390	189%
Awakino River	840	600	380	-47%
Mangakino Stream	0	0	370	*
Waimakariri Stream	770	370	350	-39%
Punlu River	840	440	340	-47%
Waitawheta River	650	480	320	-43%
Kaniwhaniwha Stream	370	110	310	29%
Mangaotaki River	70	150	230	109%
Waipapa River	220	440	210	-36%
Ongarue River	290	210	150	-40%
Oraka Stream	100	20	150	150%
Piopiotea Stream	10	20	130	767%
Waiomou Stream	490	0	130	-47%
Pokaiwhenua Stream	230	120	120	-31%
Marokopa River	100	30	110	69%
Wairoa River (Auckland)	50	0	100	300%
Mangaokewa Stream	20	10	90	500%
Hikutaia River	0	0	90	*
Tairua River	60	440	90	-64%
Taringamotu River	50	30	80	100%
Mangaohae Stream	180	40	80	-27%
Moakurarua Stream	150	90	60	-50%
Rangiriri Stream	250	260	50	-80%
Waipari River	70	0	50	43%
Maratoto Stream	0	10	50	900%
Rapurapu Stream	150	20	50	-41%
Mangawhero Stream	50	40	40	-11%
Kakahu Stream	250	80	30	-82%
Kumeu River	0	340	30	-82%
Mangawara Stream	90	130	20	-82%
Ngakoaohia Stream	430	120	20	-93%
Mangawhio Stream	70	10	20	-50%
Manganui River	0	0	20	*
Mangatepopo Stream	0	0	10	*
Waiwawa River	60	0	10	-67%
Whangape Stream	0	0	10	*
Waitekauri River	190	90	10	-93%
Mokau River	190	90	10	-93%
Total	22450	19790	20000	-5%

The Auckland/Waikato Region has a large range of quality trout fishing rivers primarily south of Auckland. High temperatures restrict quality river fisheries north of Auckland. The availability of rural spring creeks and stunning natural setting within three hours of Auckland make the Auckland/Waikato Region's fisheries critical on a national scale.

As someone that hasn't had any years' experience learning the ins and outs of access on the rivers and streams in our region, I consider access as one of the major deterrents for people getting into the sport in the 1st place.

The information available online is very average and if you don't know where to access or who to speak to about getting access, it makes it very frustrating.

There's obviously a fine balance to be struck between getting too much pressure on some streams, trying to grow the sport and not wanting to share your secret spots with just anyone, but some effort needs to be put in to improve access for some waters and to provide more access locations on other waters to spread the pressure.

I fish the Kaniwhaniwha very regularly for example, but I only ever fish the upper reaches as its easily accessible albeit the wading upstream to fish the really good bits is quite treacherous. I hardly ever see other anglers there though. The rest of the river downstream of that has by comparison very poor access and it isn't obvious to anyone where you can actually access it.

As an Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game councillor, I want to improve the number and quality of access points to the rivers to make it easier for both newcomers and seasoned anglers. I think we should start with a handful of rivers near Hamilton 1st but would like to input from club members to gauge where they would like to see some improvements made. Feel free to send me an email and I will do my best to collate this information.

My thinking thus far has been:

- Kaniwhaniwha Stream (downstream of Quarry Road)
- Moakurarua Stream
- Ngakoahia Stream
- Pokaiwhenua Stream
- Mangatutu River (downstream of Wharepuhunga Bridge)

Are there any particular areas where you would like to see some improvements?

Photo of the month



A likely little spot on the Waihou River and the end result – Chris Corbett with his new Simms sling pack; a Christmas present getting it's first work out. 'Just out there and doing it' at the beginning of the year.

Derek



Some Lake O pictures to excite the trip goers

Mitch with 8lb Lake O brownie

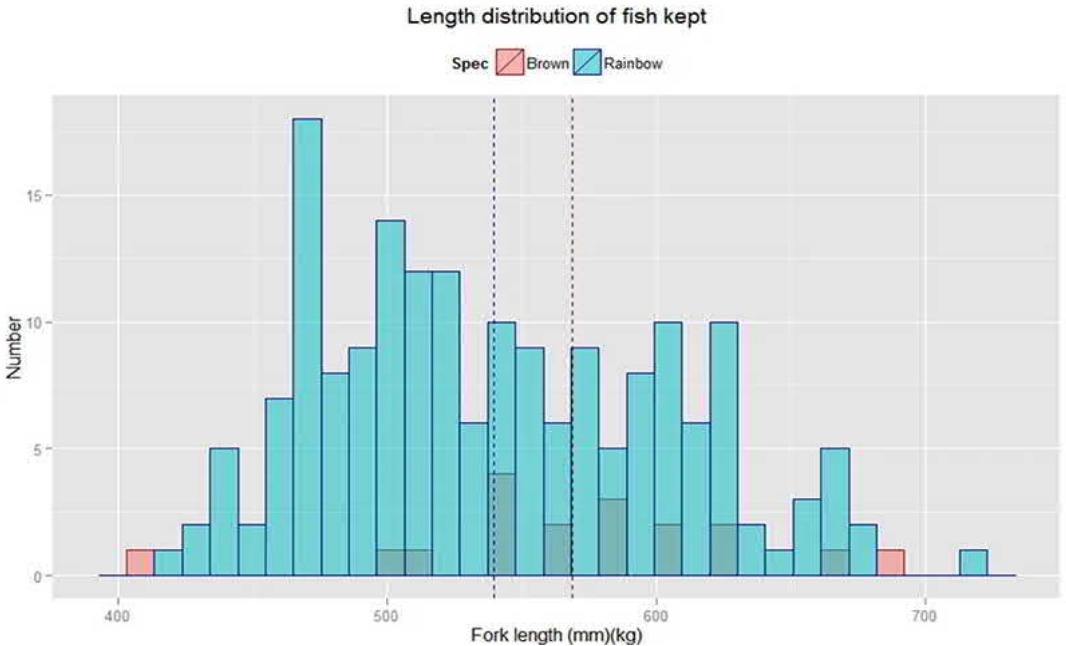




Derek with 7.8lb rainbow

While on the topic of Lake O; Bert Robinson recently shared with me a link to a report setting out potential management scenarios for the Lake Otamangakau fishery compiled by DOC/Taupo fishery scientist Dr Michel Dedual.

[Read that here.](#)



Rob's Christmas Turkey Fishing Expedition

Just before Christmas, I took off for the Punui River down over the Lethbridge Road and onto Newman Road. I was wandering upstream and it was scorching hot. I was fishing awesome riffles when I heard a heavy flapping above me followed by barking and excited boys' voices.

I looked up the bank and parked in a flimsy willow tree was a sad looking Turkey hanging precariously. The boys arrived with a spaniel in tow that was determined to eat the turkey. The spaniel saw me and felt I was a far more interesting target and decided to have a go, bouncing up and down the bank growling and barking.

The dog then went back to the turkey and the turkey flopped into the river near me. I asked the boys if they had shot it and they said nah.

After a while the hunting party left and I decided I had been cooked in the sun enough. I exited the river and found a forlorn turkey in the river which I collected on the way out. It looked like it had been hit by a car.

So being a vet I packed it into the back of my car and took it home. I made an enclosure for it and named it "Gary" after Garikuhine; Shona for turkey.

The chickens were appalled and moved out and wife was a'feared for her life as Gary would hiss furiously.

Well, a new club record i think was set - go out fishing and come home with a turkey for Christmas.

Why do I do this to myself!

Rob Gordon



Gear - Vests, packs, bags, wading staff - Dirk du Preez

Everyone will have their own preferred method of carrying all their necessities when out on the water. Most of us would have started out with an old traditional vest. Mine was a hand-me-down which came via the old man that mentored my old man and then eventually to me. Nothing special. But back then all I had on me while fishing smaller dams was a small fly box, some tippet, lunch and water.

Nowadays I'm carrying a few more items, some of which I probably don't need ([see video on stuff you don't need](#)) and really appreciate organisation. I've ditched the old traditional vest and tried hip packs, sling packs, lanyards, backpacks and I've made my way back to a vest - a more modern one though.

Dom Swentosky from Troutbitten wrote a good article giving his opinion on why he prefers using a vest. [Read that here.](#)

He also did a [100 day review](#) of the Simms G3 Guide vest - sounds like a pretty bullet-proof vest and capable of loading a lot more stuff than you probably need. I almost bought this vest based on this article but it costs an arm and a leg and I eventually decided after trying it on that I don't need a vest with 24 pockets and something so bulky.

An insightful article that this links to is Dom's use of the wading belt as a utility belt - attaching his wading staff, net holster, water bottle and camera all to his belt. The main reason I went away from a vest in the 1st place was that I could never carry enough water with me for a whole day's fishing unless I take a backpack; and backpacks and vest don't go together very well!

[Re-thinking the wading belt.](#) What a gamechanger!

A wading belt is an essential gear item. Something that can save your life if you end up arse-over-tits in the Tongariro. And the standard issue stretchy belts that come with your waders aren't great. Get yourself a more sturdy belt that will allow less waters into your warders if you do the occasional involuntary swim downstream. They're also much better at suspending stuff like water bottles off as detailed in the article above. I've upgraded to the Smith Creek webbing belt - a significant improvement over the stretchy Patagonia version that came with my waders!

The wading staff itself is super important piece of kit - something I have avoided using for various reasons up until recently when I stepped on a rock that gave way and I sprained my ankle! I decided while lying, embarrassed, on my back in the shallow riffle, writhing in pain, that I should probably invest in a decent wading staff - which lead me to another Troutbitten piece worth reading.

[What about the wading staff??](#)

Trophies

Dave Winchcombe Cup

Heaviest trout caught outside Auckland Waikato F&G region

Month	Name	Weight	Rainbow or Brown	Where caught
March	Geoff Mears	5lb 8oz	Rainbow	Rotoiti
May	Ken Collier	6.5lb	Rainbow	Rotoiti
June	Dirk du Preez	7lb	Brown	Tongariro
July	Ken Collier	5.75lb	Brown	Tongariro
November	Malcolm Cowie	22lb	Rainbow	Ohau River
December	Mitch Smith	8lb	Brown	Otamangakau

Gamin Cup

Heaviest trout caught in Auckland Waikato F&G Region

Month	Name	Weight	Rainbow or Brown	Where Caught
August 20	Gavin Hall	5lb 12oz	Rainbow	Waihou
October 20	Craig Corbett	6lb 8oz	Brown	Whakapapa
March 21	John Spence	5lb 1oz	Rainbow	Arapuni
December 21	Richard Wagstaff	5lb	Brown	Waikato

Orange Blaster

Month	Name	Problem
January	Gareth Godfrey	Wrapping line around his prop, breaking his rod and resorting to satanism to catch a fish
March	Rodney Wilkinson	Getting new 4wd stuck in the sand on an incoming tide while retrieving his boat at Kennedy Bay then forgetting to tie the boat on at Papa Aroha.
May	Derek Burtenshaw	Taking his hands and eyes off his rod for 30seconds and losing it to a monster trout and the fathoms deep of Rotoiti
September	Richard Wagstaff	There must have been something!

Taupo Rod
 FLY SHOP
& Tackle



Trip & Event Calendar

31 January	HAC Meeting – BBQ night. Guest speaker to be confirmed	Gareth Godfrey
28 - 30 January	Lake Otamangakau Trip	John Davidson
TBC	Casting instruction sessions with Brian Apps and Charles Friedlander	Gareth Godfrey
TBC	Fly tying sessions	Gareth Godfrey

For all trip enquiries regarding trips/events/bookings please contact Gavin Hall at gavinator_nz@hotmail.com

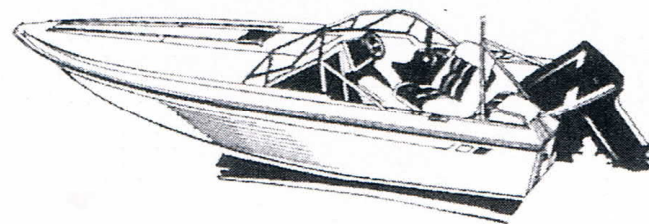
The proposed Arapuni Triploid Trophy trip, staying at the HAC Lodge, is still on the cards—if you are interested in this please put your names forward (email Gavin) so we can get an idea of numbers etc and then confirm dates.

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"A free Disclosure Statement is available on request"

Arapuni Lodge

The Hamilton Angler's Club owns this facility on the South Western end of Lake Arapuni on Landing Road. It can sleep up to 10 and is fully self contained. There is a boat ramp adjacent to the Lodge for easy launching of small craft and a good swimming beach. It's an ideal spot for some relaxing fishing or a family weekend away.



Rates

\$10 per person per night or \$50 a night for exclusive use of the Lodge to club members.

Contact

John Spence , Lodge Administrator - 07 871 7711 or 07 871 8707 (after hours)

spencemarine@xtra.co.nz



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