



# **NEWSLETTER**

## **JULY 2019**



**Next Meeting: Monday 29th July**

Waikato Sport Fishing clubrooms - Grantham St

**Guest Speaker: Guy Fearon - hand made knives, how to go about it.**

Cup of Tea/Coffee and Socialise 7:15pm Meeting 8pm

Fly Tying 7pm Start

Cover - Andy Vanner with a stunning 9.01lb Tarawera rainbow

## AND COMING UP .....

August 16,17,18..... Winter Trophy Trip TALTAC

September 13,14,15... Taupo Rivers Trip

## IN THIS ISSUE

Page 3	Presidents Report
Page 4	Club News
Page 6	Don't Forget Your Rubbish; Colin Tan
Page 8	Roto Vegas Jackpot
Page 9	Fly Tying Zone
Page 10	Look Mum Two Hands; Charlie Friedlander
Page 14	Dave Winchcombe Cup, Gamin Cup
Page 15	HAC Trip and Event Calendar,
Page 16	Orange Blaster



Gyotaku  
Colin Tan

## **President's Comment**

Following on from last month, the river does definitely change, I had two days early July on the Tongariro accompanied by Hardie, the weather report said rain and snow, two blue sky days were delivered (both with wind), fish were hooked with a couple landed, a number of previously easy fishing spots had disappeared but in balance the river flow had radically changed to reveal the chance to fish in other places which previously were difficult – take nothing for granted and go exploring.

For those not able to make it onto the water have a look at Country TV on Sky Channel 81 at 9pm on Sundays to watch Sports-fishing on the Fly with Don Frieschi who will take you fly fishing on Lakes and Rivers around the USA, he also shows how to tie the most successful fly used on that outing (the program is repeated about 4 times thru' the week).

There was a good level of interest in the introductory fly tying demonstration presented by Gavin at the last club night, this will be offered again on the 29<sup>th</sup> but with better lighting to assist all participating, look for details in the “Fly Tying Zone” section of this newsletter.

As a follow-on from the recent efforts to raise the club's visibility the committee are currently busy researching options towards bringing our web-site up to date with a refreshed engaging presentation, improved interactivity, expanded content outlining all club activities including trips and competitions, plus user friendly links to topical features. A sub-committee has summarised an expanded list of the features we would require and will be working with a local “professional” IT provider to ensure our needs will be satisfied by their proposal before a decision to proceed with investing club funds in this direction. Watch this space for progress updates.

Our guest speaker this month is Guy Fearon and he will be talking about the how to's and where for's of handmade knives and how he got started in the business.

**Cheers**

**Ray**

“Nylon’s environmental impact is undoubted and every year countless birds, fish and other creatures are entangled and trapped in discarded nylon. It also requires three times more energy to produce than cotton! Fluorocarbon is even worse and has a reported lifespan of thousands of years. Our responsibility to secure and dispose of waste tippet is more critical than ever.”

Simon Chu

## Club News

We had another great club meeting in June. It kicked off with our first fly tying event taken by Gavin. This will be an ongoing feature of our club meetings for the next few months so bring along your fly tying gear and join in. If you have any requests re patterns ask us we may be able to accommodate you.

Craig Fredericks and Kane Steward were present and picked up their Literary and Photography awards that they weren’t present to receive at the AGM. Rick Bradley got the annual Orange Blaster Award as well and managed to win one of the best raffle prizes we have had for ages, a brand new Sierra wading jacket, he’s a jammy bugger that Rick and as far as I’m concerned should be banned from buying raffle tickets for some time. Speaking of raffles this months prize is the mook, (magazine/book), Tongariro te Awa A Pictorial Journey by Grant Alley. Grant is the owner of the Creel tackle shop and café in Turangi and the mook has stunning photos of every major pool on the river and more.

We have our usual winter and spring trips planned, (see trip calendar), with the Winter Trophy trip kicking off on the 16th of August run by John Davidson and Craig Fredericks Taupo Rivers Trip being run in September. I will be running a Tongariro River trip in early October with the theme of Spring Clean. This has been inspired by Colin Tan’s article Don’t Forget Your Rubbish and there will be a prize for angler who brings the most waste tippet back that they have found on the competition day along with the usual prizes for biggest fish etc. All of these trips will be based at TALTAC so if you aren't a member remember you are only allowed to stay twice as a non-member before joining.

Although most of us concentrate our effort at this time of year on Rotorua and Taupo fisheries Gavin Hall has shown that there are nice fish to be caught on our local streams having been successful with browns and rainbows up to 4 1/2 pounds on our the Pirongia streams.

Our guest speaker at last months meeting was Pat Swift, legendary fly manufacturer, fly tying material wholesaler and trout jigging pioneer. Pat got his start in the tackle trade here in Hamilton in Bill Bartell’s Sports Store in Barton Street in the 70’s. Those of us who were around then knew that Bartell’s was the only place to buy your fishing gear and you’d be surprised to find out how many people got their start in the tackle trade at Bartell’s.

Pat gave an in depth overview of the technical side of trout jigging in the Rotorua lakes.

To be consistently successful it seems that you need a high quality sounder charter plotter set up on your boat and a bow mounted electric motor such as a Minkota that will allow you to hover over the structure where the trout are holding. The GPS function on the sounder allows you to download data that your sounder has recorded and ultimately create maps of the lake bottom.

The new generation sounders with CHIRP technology can identify trace, flies and sinkers at depths up to 30 metres and individual trout. This enables the angler to identify individual fish on the edge of smelt schools and target them at the right depth.

Pat uses 15lb colour coded braid, up to 17 meters of 12lb nylon shock leader and prepared backbones with 3 flies on short traces. His preferred flies are smelt flies such as Grey Ghost, Yellow Lady, Ginger Mick and Jack Sprat on the top 2 traces and bully/koura flies such as Woolly Bugger or Rabbit on the bottom.

I was staying at a friends bach at Motuoapa with my daughter and grandson at the end of last week and was lucky enough to be there when the river was dropping after a spate. There were some good runs of fish going through and in between trips up the mountain, walks along the river, games of monopoly and other things you do with a modern kid in a wifi and TV free zone I managed to sneak in a day and half of fishing, (I arrived early). I landed around 10 beautifully conditioned fresh run fish, (some photos hereabouts), that were between 3 - 4lbs. Most were caught on a new 11 foot 4 weight Epic trout spey rod I have just built from a kit. [dh11-trout-spey-kit](#) This is my third rod build and I was pretty stoked with the outcome. All the fish were caught on bead head olive woolly buggers, a pattern I will be teaching on Monday night. I honestly think this is the only fly you need on the Tongariro. Meantime get down to the Tongariro, the fish are there, they're in great nick and they're waiting to be caught.

**SUBS** - If you haven't paid your subs this is the last Newsletter you will receive as you will be deleted off the email group until you pay - you have been warned!

**TEA DUTY** - Russel Jennings, Rodney Wilkinson and Stephen Martin are in charge of the teapot this month.

## Contact

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# Taupo Rod & Tackle

FLY SHOP



## Don't forget you rubbish!

Normally, I prefer to contribute by submitting photos to our newsletter. But a recent experience on the Tongariro River has made me put the figurative pen to paper. My family moved to New Zealand when I was five so that we could have a better life and so that we can also learn and experience things that would have been impossible should we have stayed put. I want to be able to pass on this to my daughter so that she can experience and enjoy the many things and opportunities that New Zealand has given me which include the love for the outdoors.



During a recent fishing trip to the Tongariro, I was sitting on a riverside log enjoying the fog and a hot chocolate to celebrate the Rainbow trout that I had just landed. Looking at the ground, I was surprised to see many pieces of monofilament and fluorocarbon that was made visible by the dew that was on them. I then spent the next 10 minutes wandering around the log and well.... a picture says a thousand words. I even managed to retie an entire double nymph rig from the tippet I picked up.

This is not an article to lay blame, but one to increase awareness of the things that seem to be impacting on our once pristine environment.

We can't avoid plastic at this stage in time for our favourite pastime, but I am sure we can limit its impact. Help me keep our rivers clean for our

future generations.

Find attached several items that can help contain waste tippet and keep it out of the environment until we get home to melt/cut/dispose of them.

<https://www.theessentialfly.com/monomaster-waste-fishing-line-holder.html>

<https://fishpondusa.com/piopod-microtrash-container>

<https://smithcreek.co/trash-fish.php>

Or if you are a DIYer, a pill bottle with a bicycle tube cut to size and held on with 2 O-rings can also be used.

Colin Tan



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## Roto-Vegas Jackpot

A lot of us spend time chasing fish in the Taupo region at this time of year, for good reason, however there are some stunning fish to be caught in the Rotorua Lakes. The fishing comes on earlier at Rotorua, the fish tend to be bigger and it's close enough for a day trip.

Dave McCaffrey caught these two great fish at Rotoiti recently. The one on the left was 7lb and was caught on a lumo marabou fly. The one below was 61/2lb and was caught on a woolly bugger.



There's always the chance you are going to catch the fish of a life time in the Rotorua Lakes. Andy Vanner caught a pretty impressive fish at Tarawera recently, this big one went 9.01lbs and the little one, by comparison, was 3.5lbs, (that's about an average Taupo trout)





## Fly Tying Lesson - Bead Head Woolly Bugger

At our July meeting I will be teaching two variations of the bead head woolly bugger starting an hour prior to the meeting. If you read articles anywhere titled “If I could only have 1 fly” chances are someone's going to say woolly bugger; it's the Swiss Army knife of flies. You can tie big buggers in size 2 to imitate large bait fish or koura and you



can tie tiny buggers in size 12 to imitate damsel flies. You can add rubber legs and flash, change the colour, tie them with or without beads. You can even add foam eyes and tie boobie buggers! The possibilities are endless.

I can honestly say I have caught more fish on the Tongariro on woolly buggers than any other fly and I'm sorely tempted to fish a season with just buggers, partially because they are so easy to tie. So bring along your tools and tube of super glue and we'll tie some buggers. Here's some tutorials to watch meantime. Now bugger off!

[Orange bead woolly bugger](#)

[how-to-tie-a-woolly-bugger/](#)

[Building a better woolly bugger](#)

[Charlie's flybox woolly bugger](#)

By the way that's a different Charlie's flybox not mine


## We Need Tiers

Currently we are trialling running fly tying tutorials for an hour prior to club meetings. We need some tiers to demonstrate; doesn't have to be anything too complicated. Basically we are looking at practical patterns that anglers would use in the waters club members fish. If you think you can help contact Gavin Hall [gavinator\\_nz@hotmail.com](mailto:gavinator_nz@hotmail.com) or talk to him at the next meeting.

## Look Mum Two Hands

Who would have thought that a broken wrist circa 1974 would have led me to discovering the most rewarding style of fly fishing 40 odd years later? As a young guy I broke my right wrist and in my haste to get back into surfing I wrapped the cast in plastic gloves and gaffer tape went surfing and never let it heal properly. Fast forward to five years ago and I was finding it increasingly difficult to cast the single hand gear required to fish rivers such as the Tongariro owing to deterioration in my right wrist joint and subsequent pain associated with a day's casting. At about the same time lighter spey fishing rods were being adapted for trout fishing. It seemed a no brainer, these rods are driven by your left hand not your right. I did a bit of research bought a rod, reel, skagit line, shooting line, sink tips and in my usual fashion jumped in at the deep end.

Of course, it wasn't that simple just because you can cast single handed doesn't mean you can cast a double handed rod. For a starter all that muscle memory tells you to drive the rod with your dominant, in my case right, arm; when in fact your left arm provides the power and your right is there to guide the process. Then there is line weight to consider; your standard single hand rod is rated as say a 6 weight on the AFTMA scale whereas a 6 weight spey rod is going to be 3 line weights heavier at around a 9 weight and a 6 weight



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switch rod, which is kind of a shorter spey rod is going to be slightly lighter. Most double handed rods have a grain window – which means they can cast a variety of weight lines. At the lower end is your Scandi, (Scandinavian), shooting head which turns over poly leaders and small flies delicately, great for small streamers, soft hackles and wee wets. At the other end are the heavier, short Skagit heads that can turn over 12 foot of tungsten tip and a big heavy fly; perfect for the Tongariro and streamer fishing on the Whanganui. Now if that paragraph has left you a little confused don't worry it's taken me a few years to sort it all out!

Anyhow after 12 months of flailing around, watching endless YouTube videos and just about throwing my rod into the river in frustration I paid a Spey fishing guide to take me out for a day and sort out a few casting issues. Money well spent! I won't say that solved all my problems, but it put me on the right track. At the same time the sport of trout spey was evolving quickly and new rods and lines were coming onto the market to better meet the needs of the trout spey angler. Keeping in mind that the sport had developed from steelhead and salmon gear; a few folks here were sold rods by a local importer and manufacturer that were better suited for steelhead fishing.

Much of my fishing effort was, and still is, centred on the Tongariro. Initially I concentrated on trying to get fish in places that I had had success with streamers and sinking lines. I stressed out because my 12-foot tungsten sink tips weren't getting deep enough. Then I started picking up fish, but in different places and I wasn't losing many flies. Have you ever heard that saying, "if you're not losing flies you're not getting deep enough"? It's crap, why? Because I catch plenty of fish and don't lose many flies and think about this; trout's eyes are on top of their heads – they look up. Trout sit in the tail of pools, they sit in shallower water off to the side of the current, they sit in behind boulders in runs. They also come up and chase the fly, you sometimes get nip, nip whack, hook up!



**A bunch of rods that Brian Apps and I had been testing various lines on down at Malcolm Street Beach, all part of the fun of fishing double handed rods, casting double handers is plain fun.**



With a double hand rod you can exploit water that wet liners don't fish because they lose too many flies and are constantly getting hung up on the bottom, you can fish runs where your back is hard up against the scrub because you don't need a back cast and you can reach water with an effortless cast that no nymph is going to get near. Not only that you can get some depth with that sink tip by angling your cast upstream, throwing in a mend and taking a step down stream. Beside that double hand casting is just fun and is easy on the body, no more aching wrist for me.

**Tongariro jack on the Epic DH11 4#**



So, after 5 years what have I learnt? Double handed rods may not be the most efficient way to catch trout. If I wanted to catch a lot of fish, I would probably use a Euro nymphing and/or indicator nymphing rig; neither of which appeal to me. However, I rarely have a blank day and when I do most other methods blank as well. I certainly catch enough fish to keep me happy. I tie small trout intruder flies and bead head woolly buggers but, to be honest, the humble woolly bugger is probably the only fly you need. I currently fish 2 rods, an Epic 11 foot 4 weight trout spey rod that I built from a kit which I have a 275g OPST Commando Skagit head and use 12 foot Commando 96g sink tips on and a Vision Onki 11 foot 6 weight switch rod that I use a 325g OPST Commando Skagit head and 132g 12foot sink tips. I use OPST laser running line on both rods. The 4 weight is my main rod and will handle just about any fish I will encounter, however when conditions get a bit gnarly, (wind, high flows), the 6 weight gives me a bit more control. If I could only have 1 or was a beginner I would probably go for the 6. I like the OPST system, they made the original short Skagit, trout spey lines; but Scientific Anglers, Rio and Airflo all make trout spey systems.

Check out the OPST lines here and follow them on Facebook

<https://pureskagit.com/videos/>

This video from Simon Gawesworth of Rio may demystify things somewhat

[Simon Gawesworth Trout Spey](#)



**Brian Apps rod and line testing on the Waikato river.**

Here's some information on Rio's new trout spey lines

### [Rio Trout Spey Lines](#)

Check out the casting videos by Tom Larimer on the bottom of the Airflo Scout link

<https://airflo.skagit-scout-2/>

Tom Larimer describes the difference between Spey and Switch rods below

### [Spey vs Switch rods](#)

Ed Ward on the Circle cast – he's my casting hero. Co-inventor of the OPST commando head search for Ed Ward casting, you can't go wrong.

### [Ed Ward Circle Cast](#)

I haven't mentioned much about fishing wee wets/soft hackles on Scandi lines; that's a whole other topic for another day. Suffice to say I don't see myself going back to fishing a single hand rod over a 5 weight anytime soon; possibly ever. Double hand rods are a joy to cast and catch fish on, the learning curve is a little steep initially but the rewards immeasurable.



**Me and my grandson Ruben, hopefully inspired to take up a double handed rod.**

Charlie.

## Dave Winchcombe Cup

Month	Name	Weight	Rainbow or Brown	Where caught
April	Gavin Hall	8lb 8oz	Brown	Tongariro
May	Andy Vanner	6lb	Rainbow	Tarawera
June	Kane Steward	5lb 8oz	Rainbow	Tongariro

Below is a photo of our proposed catch card, it is intended that members wanting to enter either the Winchcombe or Gamin Cups will fill one of these cards in and hand them in at a meeting. The committee will formalise the process in due course. Ultimately the cards will be an online form on our new website.

 Jack  Hen Rainbow:  Jack  Hen', 'Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_', 'Where Caught: \_\_\_\_\_', and 'Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Witness: \_\_\_\_\_'."/>

## Gamin Cup

Month	Name	Weight	Rainbow or Brown	Where Caught
April	Gavin Hall	5lb 8oz	Rainbow	Waihou
June	Gavin Hall	4lb 8oz	Rainbow	Ngakoahia



# HAC Trip and Event Calendar

Monday 29th July	HAC Meeting - Guy Fearon; Handmade Knives, how the business started!	Ray Pryor - 021485692 (rayjpryor@kinect.co.nz)
Monday 5th August	Committee Meeting -	Clubrooms
16/17 August	Club 'Winter Trophy' trip to the Tongariro River staying at Taltac	John Davidson - 021909928 (jaejdav@gmail.com)
Monday 26th August	HAC Meeting - Euro Nymphing with 4 club members : different set-ups.	Ray Pryor - 021485692 (rayjpryor@kinect.co.nz)
Monday 2nd September	Committee Meeting -	Clubrooms
13/14 September	Taupo Rivers Trip' staying at Taltac - members will be fishing in 'pairs'	Craig Fredericks - 0211244113 (chrfredericks@orcon.net.nz)
Monday 30th September	HAC Meeting - Guest Speaker - Adam Daniels, AWF&G - Season Opening	Ray Pryor - 021485692 (rayjpryor@kinect.co.nz)
Tuesday 1st October	New F & G Licence Required - Season Opens	
Monday 7th October	Committee Meeting -	Clubrooms
11/12 October	Trip to Tongariro River 'Spring Clean' staying at Taltac - Fun Competition.	Charlie Friedlander - 02688801 (chasanne@gmail.com)
Monday 28th October	HAC Meeting - Guest Speaker to be announced	Ray Pryor - 021485692 (rayjpryor@kinect.co.nz)
1/2 November	Club 'Summer Trophy' Trip (1) to Lake Otamangakau staying at Taltac	John Davidson - 021909928 (jaejdav@gmail.com)
Monday 4th November	Committee Meeting -	Clubrooms
Monday 25th November	HAC Meeting - Guest Speaker to be announced	Ray Pryor - 021485692 (rayjpryor@kinect.co.nz)
Monday 2nd December	Committee Meeting -	Clubrooms
6/7 December	Club 'Summer Trophy' Trip (2) to Lake Otamangakau staying at Taltac	Derek Burtenshaw - 0212897070 (djburt@xtra.co.nz)

## A 4lb Tongariro fatty taken on the Epic DH11 4 weight



# Orange Blaster

Month	Name	Problem
April	Russel Jennings	Shortening Terry Goupillot's fly line by running over it with his outboard motor.
May	Andy Vanner	Breaking his rod tip in the car door and getting as far as Taupo before realising he had his TALTAC room key on him.

On a recent trip to Wellington Anne and I went to Zealandia reserve where they had Takahe. As a conservationist I was well impressed being so close to an endangered species; as a fly tier, however, I was drooling over those feathers. Their iridescent feathers put those of their relative the pukeko to shame. Imagine these in a Craig's Night Time or Mrs Simpson perhaps? I wonder what they do with them when they die? Charlie

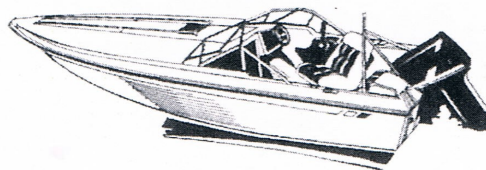


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It's an ideal spot for some relaxing fishing or a family weekend away.



### 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 / a/h 07 871 8707

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