

A fly fisherman in a light-colored shirt and shorts is standing in a shallow river, casting a line. The river is surrounded by lush greenery and large rocks. In the foreground, there are some green plants and branches.

T.A.L.T.A.C.

# NEWS LETTER

SINCE 1955

## REMINDER

TALTAC's Annual General meeting will be held on Saturday 25th February 2012 at the clubrooms commencing with a 'Meet and Greet' at 5.00p.m. We would love to see you there. We are extremely privileged to have Michel Dedual, a scientist with the Department of Conservation as our guest speaker.

# MEMBERSHIP



## TALTAC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2012

I/we wish to retain membership of TALTAC and enclose subscription(s).

I/we wish to resign membership of TALTAC (please return your security key, should you have one, and your deposit will be refunded).

	2012 Subscription	NZFFA* Levy	Amount
Life Member		\$3.00	\$ _____
Adult	\$40.00	+ \$3.00	\$ _____
Couple/Family	\$55.00	+ \$6.00	\$ _____
Junior	\$ 5.50		\$ _____
Subscription arrears, if any			\$ _____
Donation to Club funds			\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b> - for which cheque enclosed herewith			\$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No.(pr.) \_\_\_\_\_ (bus.) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Other Skills\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*The New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers - the voice for all concerned freshwater anglers!

\*\* The Club would like to have a database of skills/occupations which members are willing to offer should the necessity arise, i.e. painting, gardening, building, plumbing, electrical, accounts, handyperson, locksmith, you name it, we might be able to use it.

**Please send all payments to TALTAC, P.O Box 149, Turangi.**

# YOUR COMMITTEE 2011



<b>President</b>	Graeme Shirley, 37 Gunbar Drive, Tauranga	07 544 4578
<b>Immediate Past Pres.</b>	Brian Barsdell, 12 Strange Grove, Matua, Tauranga	07 570 1553
<b>VicePresidents</b>	Marion Hall, 2 Fernwood Court, Wellington	04 477 0061
	Rob Martyn, 1/30 Pleasant Rd, Glen Eden, Auck.	09 813 4570
<b>Committee</b>	Stuart Connolly, 498 Riddell Rd, Auckland	09 575 8669
	Robyn Gray, 8 Surrey Street, Wilton, Wellington	04 475 9572
	Barry Waite, 1473 Rangiuru Road, Te Puke	07 573 8534
	Adrian Rickards, 15/30 Ambassador Glade, Orewa.	09 427 9559
	Graham Whyman, Town Centre, Turangi	07 386 8996
	Tony Burt, 1449 Rangiuru Road, Te Puke	07 573 7670
	Ken Haines, P.O Box 88 012, Clendon, Auckland	09 264 1181
	Charles Andrews, 567 Featherston St P. North	06 357 0793
<b>Secretary/Manager</b>	Tom Watson, 15 Ann Street Hamilton	07 849 6744
	Mary Nisbet, 239 Taupehi Road, Turangi	07 386 5573
		OR 07 386 8879
<b>Hon. Accountant:</b>	John Billing, 15 Cutfield Road, New Plymouth	06 758 8821
<b>Hon.Reviewer</b>	Mack Butts, 10 Penrhyn Rd, Epsom, Auckland	09 630 0663
<b>Postal Address</b>	P.O Box 149, Turangi 3353	<b>Clubhouse</b> 07 386 7562

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# PRESIDENTS REPORT



Hellow Member's,

The Club's financial year is nearly finished but there is still plenty of fishing to do yet. Those Members who have persisted have been rewarded with some very nice condition fish - not big, but certainly bigger than the last few years. They have nice coloured flesh and smoke up beautifully. All the signs indicate a turn around in the fishery and the Committee is hoping to have a guest speaker at the A.G.M. on the 25th February 2012 to speak on "where to from now".

A big thank you goes to Pauline McIntyre for the effort that she has put into cleaning. She has done all the cups in the kitchen, the windows and floors etc. - well done Pauline. It is a pity that some members who use the fish cleaning room are not so particular - there is water, scrubbing brush and pad together with easy clean walls but still some members leave it in a mess!!!

How blood gets above the window is a mystery!!!

Long time Member, Peter Coker, has retired from fishing and has very generously donated all his fishing and fly tying gear to the Club for sale with the proceeds going to TALTAC. For members looking for that type of thing in excellent order this is your chance, at the same time helping the Club.

Thank you so much Peter.

On behalf of the Committee I wish you all a Very healthy and Happy New Year. See you all around this year.

Tight Lines  
Graeme





**A reminder that TALTAC's Annual General meeting will be held on Saturday 25th February 2012 at the clubrooms commencing with a 'Meet and Greet' at 5.00p.m. We would love to see you there. We are extremely privileged to have Michel Dedual, a scientist with the Department of Conservation as our guest speaker.**

Peter Coker from Whitianga had donated all of his fly-fishing equipment to TALTAC as he is no longer fishing. Peter would like the profits from the sale of these items to be donated to TALTAC. Thank you Peter. Most kind of you Peter, very generous.  
See the items listed in this issue.

We have had many problems with rules, how things are done at the club. Clean up after yourself and this includes stoves and benches as well as your dishes. Your room is to be vacuumed on departure. Remove all of your belongings from your room, the kitchen, the drying room. "Please". And last but by no means least, keys. I beg you to engage your brain before departing, check they are in the key safe, that is the keys not your brain! Just take a moment show consideration for those who will follow you into the club. How would you feel if you had to chase a room key, or clean your room before you went in?

At times the need for the sharing of a cabin is unavoidable please do not put me in an uncomfortable position. I try my best but it is not always possible to have single cabin occupancy. And no you can not pay for both beds that is totally unfair on other members.

We are very fortunate to have been given 2 concession cards for TALTAC members wishing to visit the National Trout Centre. This is well worth the visit, a great place for everyone to see. Please contact Mary if you wish to borrow the card.

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter.  
"What are you doing?" she asked.  
"Hunting flies," he responded.  
"Oh! Kill any?" she asked.  
"Yep, 3 males and 2 females," he replied.  
Intrigued, she asked, "How can you tell them apart?"  
He responded, "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."

## **Subscriptions will increase as from the 1st January 2012 by \$5.00.**

A Family/Double membership will be \$55.00.

Senior membership will be \$40.00.

Junior membership will remain unchanged.

NZFFA levies remain unchanged at \$3.00 per member that is if you are not already paying it with your local angling club membership.

Your support with this transition will be appreciated.

All subscriptions are due on the 1st January.

## **DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?**

TALTAC's preferred method of communicating with the members is by email.

1. It saves the club money on newsletters and notices
2. It's quick and saves a lot of time for our hard working club manager
3. It's easy to communicate your ideas and comments on to the committee
4. We can send 'Short Cast' newsletters to keep you informed

Please help us by emailing your contact details to [taltac@xtra.co.nz](mailto:taltac@xtra.co.nz) and don't forget to send us an update if you are changing email addresses.



What a fast year it has been !! Time seems to be flying by. This year has been an up and down year. The year tends to have been wetter at the beginning and also at the very end. A good flood in January with a prolonged warm dry spell towards the end of the Winter / early Spring. The Spring has been rather wet and windy as well. Just Mother Nature doing it usual unpredictable thing. The most predictable thing I say about our weather here in NZ is that it is "UNPREDICTABLE".

Things were shaping up to be a good Winter on the rivers but we ran out of rainfall in July and August and part way into September. This had the effect of the fish trickling through the rivers. Plenty of anglers fished the Waiootaka River this year with some good runs going through there at times and the access was easy due to the clearing of large amounts of willows and blackberries.

The main river (Tongariro) saw very few anglers throughout the year with the majority fishing around the S.H.1 road bridge with many saying the fish are not going past there. For those that did go into the upper river, fish were there but not many anglers which provided you with some solitude fishing. The runs came started coming through from about April and trickled through to the Spring. The wetliners seemed to have a good year this year with the big flood in January bringing a lot of silt and fine gravel to the river and seems to have flattened out the tails of a lot of the pools. This silt still remains in the river. The Tongariro also had a bit of a revival from the Swirl area downstream as the Willow trees were cleared en-masse on the true left bank. This opened up the access with many enjoying this.

The Hinemaiaia River was quite popular this year due to the ability to fish a considerable stretch of water above the State Highway road bridge which had been opened up for anglers. This seemed at times very popular.

Most anglers tended to report the condition of fish slightly better this year with a few grumbles at the start of the year but as always the fish still come through. Good numbers of browns in the Tongariro through the summer and through to May.

In the Spring there were some very good Mayfly hatches on the Tongariro which coincided with some great nymphing for those that were using Pheasant Tails. Just recently there have been some good evening rises on caddis but this is dependant on weather and wind conditions and what I would call a bit intermittent. The weather at times a little cool and lots of wind. Also just recently there have been some good reports of green beetles around Kuratau and the Western shores of Lake Taupo with good reports of smelt this year so far, especially around the southern shores of Tokaanu and the tailrace. The Motuoapa side of the Lake has fished quite well for one of the local anglers with plenty of trout caught during the year and the flesh colour has been nice orange flesh on these fish. The trolling has been quite good during the year but the boating activity was not that good over the summer period.

Lake Taupo has remained reasonably high all year in comparison to previous years with the dry period in the middle of winter occurring more in the Spring. This is due to the wetter year that we seem to have experienced this year and feels like warmer conditions.

Lake Rotoaira opened and some very nice fish were caught that were in great condition at the start of the season however just recently sounds like a few smaller fish caught .

Lake Otamangakau has opened with few reports. Sounds like one day has been fantastic then not so good. Appears to be a bit up and down in terms of the fishing. Sounds like some nice browns getting caught with quite a few happy anglers. Many seem to be waiting for January and February with some nice settled weather.

# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TROUT?



This is a common call from those anglers that traditionally arrive April to July.

Well! As per the last six or so years the trout (rainbow) arrived late again. October to be exact. The last "Target Taupo" issue had an item by Glen Mclean which attempted to address the problem. To the anglers that target 'Brown Trout' this didn't present a problem as they have increased in number as the rainbow declined. Some feel that this in itself is part of the problem as it is well known the brown predate on the rainbow.

A recent call for submissions to a fishery management plan produced 90 submissions that's all we could get from 12,000 anglers??

Maybe the majority are happy with the late runs. Verbal response shows a different side with anglers some very negative feelings after a hard day on the river.

The Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee had taken onboard these comments and in an attempt to provide a positive response had given the Department of Conservation a mandate to initiate research in restoration of the early runs with the release of 10,000 fingerlings into the Taupo fishery. The fish, from early spawning stock, have been sourced, and release areas – methods – tagging etc. is being organized with liaison with fishery managers, Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee, and Michel Dedual Department Scientist. The next Target Taupo will have an article "Restoring the early runs in Taupo River" Act2. penned by Michel Dedual.

I would suggest you ensure you have a copy sent to you by emailing your name, address with postcode and licence number to [HYPERLINK ""](#), if you haven't received one by the start of February. The action taken by Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee, will we hope, speed the research into the problem although the committee feels the cause may run deeper. In the mean time enjoy what is a "Trophy Brown Trout" year ahead and to do your part in the Rainbow run restoration, put your brown in the smoker, they taste great smoked with manuka sawdust.

The Annual General meeting is privileged to have Michel Dedual as guest speaker; his presentation would be well worth the effort of attending and to be informed.

Graham Whyman





# NOT CATCHING FISH

BY CYCLOPS



There is a brave new world afoot in fly-fishing. This reawakening, this newest twist on our pursuit of ultimate sport does not gallop in with appropriate fanfare and dancing in the streets. As a matter of fact the idea really isn't new at all.

Quietly, with the gentle dignity of the sun rising in the morning sky, fly anglers are rediscovering the joy of Not Catching Fish. A contradiction in terms you say. I think not.

Our society has become so slick, competitive and success orientated that cellular phones are becoming as common a sight on trout waters as landing nets. In this, an era where haughty individuals discuss fishing with barbless flies or releasing fish with a deft, mid-stream roll cast, how scandalous can it be to admit that most of the charm in fly-fishing has nothing to do with actually catching fish.

Since the advent of catch-and-release fishing, most purveyors of 'the gentle art' no longer spell success in terms of finny corpus delecti. Accordingly, the exact benefits of a day spent fishing have become less distinct, less tangible.

We have a fail-safe mechanism built in to the rich literature of fly-fishing that brazenly celebrates the less obvious rewards of angling, the by-products if you will, of not catching fish. Literary giants like Sparse Gray Hackle and Tight Loop tell us how the fly-rod can, like a magic wand, transport us beyond the confines of lake or stream. Their greatest strength is their ability to remind us of our own humanity. And, if we care to admit it, fish can do a pretty good job of that too.

Fishing memories and the yarns that spring from them hold a sacred place in the angler's psyche and the lore of our sport. Images of angling adventures gone by, however exaggerated, allow us to develop a deep emotional connection with the sport. Sometimes these images involve catching fish – sometimes not. Fishing is a marvelous stage upon which life's most poignant dramas might unfold. One such incident tugs at me doggedly.

It began as a morning I would remember for catching a lot of fish. As it turns out the fish were merely props, the stream a watery backdrop for the sequence of events about to unfold. I had, admittedly, become spoiled having the river to my self all morning, so when a spin fisherman took up his station on the bank directly across from me I got a sour feeling. Worse yet, he wanted to chat.

I disliked this guy from the start. Equipped with spin casting gear, lure and a cooler of generic brew, his long straggly hair set off his black attire. Tattoo, sheath knife and chain reaching into his back pocket betrayed a life hard-ridden. I wondered where he had left his Harley.

After an opening gambit broaching such subjects as the weather, was that a dry fly I was using, and how he wasn't getting 'squat' on his lures, he wanted to know if he could have a few of the fish I was letting go. In a rather sanctimonious tone I assured him, "No. I prefer to release all my fish". "And beside", I added for the benefit of his education, "how could anyone kill a creature so stunningly beautiful?" The boundaries were set as he continued chain-smoking in silence.

Then I hooked into something big – really big. It was all I could do to contain several strong runs as the line melted off my reel like butter. None of this was lost on my interloping friend who was now straining to watch the action. It was no small feat to keep the fish tethered, but after sulking in deep water and a near miss with a submerged root cluster. I finally began to gain some ground.

Then it happened. The great fish shrewdly wrapped my leader around a boulder out in deep water and it was over – or so I thought. My only option was to break the tippet. As the reality of my predicament sunk in, a loud splash directed my attention toward my spin fishing nemesis, who had flung himself headlong into the river. With Indiana Jones bravado he plucked my line





from between the rocks and, unbelievably, the fish was still on. Moments later my grinning friend and a huge brown were panting and dripping before me.

At that moment I was strangely overcome by a mixture of gratitude and shame. I needed to clear my aching conscience for sorely misjudging this fellow and salvage what self-respect I could. In a grand gesture I offered him the fish.

"No thanks" he responded as we watched it merge again into the inky depths. "You were right about these things being too beautiful to kill". That really hurt.

There seemed no point in fishing after that, so we retreated up the bank and enjoyed a couple of cigars I had been saving for a special occasion. It seemed to be the right thing to do at the time and we relished the fine sheroots. Though I never did learn his name, he turned out to be a pretty nice guy. A better man, it seems, than I.

When you ask a child what they're doing, 'nothing' is a fairly standard reply. For a kid doing nothing is a perfectly acceptable activity. It means they are taking some time to knock around for a while, to let the colours and the feelings of the world saturate and captivate them, to lay rapt in awe at the teeming life in a puddle of water or shapes in the clouds overhead.

But what a shameless, wasteful sin it is for an adult to be doing 'nothing' in this day and age, how we envy our children. We push, push, push all the time in hopeless pursuit of achieving this goal or that, when the real message is in the process. We're so intent on reaching our destination that we forget to enjoy the trip. Unfortunately, too many of us nurture this attitude in our fishing.

There are times when I sabotage myself against any possibility of catching fish. Consciously, even enthusiastically, I plan on catching fish. But soon I find myself preoccupied, distracted from the start as if my subconscious has other business to attend to. These have been some of my most glorious days spent Not Catching Fish.

I used to fight against it, bravely forcing myself to fish all the harder with great consternation and gnashing of teeth. I was there to catch fish and by God I would. Only when I quit trying did I start to enjoy myself. I learned to give myself permission every so often not to catch fish, to let myself go and just enjoy the day wherever it may lead.

You could indulge in Not Catching Fish while, to the casual observer, you are fishing. It has more to do with where your mind and heart are than what your hands are doing at the time. If you go through the motions of fishing while Not Catching Fish make peace with the inevitability of missing fish. As anyone accomplished in Not Catching Fish will tell you, as soon as you take your eyes off your dry fly or strike indicator, you will get a strike.

In the prologue to his classic "Fishless days, Angling Nights" , Sparse Gray Hackle addresses the concept thus: " ..... he who is content to not catch fish in the most skillful and refined manner, utilising the best equipment and technique, will have his time and attention free for the accumulation of a thousand experiences, the memory of which will remain for his enjoyment long after any recollection of fish caught would have faded."

I wouldn't be without the experiences I've had while engaged in Not Catching Fish. The afternoon I almost ate myself sick with wild blackberries, the waterfall I discovered bubbling out of the earth on a hidden mountainside and all the native birds I've seen. These have become part of who I am.

What a pity had I squandered these times in exchange for a few fish.

## Become a Friend of the National Trout Centre

Your membership as a Friend of the Tongariro National Trout Centre provides an opportunity to support the Trout Centre in a number of ways.

### Your generosity will provide valuable help towards:

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- Support our Educational projects
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### Annual Membership Prices:

- Life Member: \$500
- Family Member: \$50
- Individual Member: \$25
- Child Member: \$10

Check out the website [www.troutcentre.com](http://www.troutcentre.com)

## New Zealand Fly Fishing Team clinics

The NZ Fly Fishing Team has now run two successful clinics on the Whanganui and Lake Otamangakau. The last clinic is set down for 11 and 12 February 2012 on the Tukituki River in Hawkes Bay. The clinics are run over two days with no more than one team member to two anglers. The focus of that clinic is river fishing, with a particular emphasis on dry fly fishing, Czech nymphing, fishing wee wets, and fishing a nymph under a dry fly.

The clinics have been very well received to date. We have four places left in the February clinic and would like to fill them before Christmas. Anyone interested in attending or finding out more information can contact on

[www.sffnz.org.nz](http://www.sffnz.org.nz)

View page team clinics

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# FLY FISHING GEAR FOR SALE



Peter Coker from Whitianga had donated all of his fly-fishing equipment to TALTAC as he is no longer fishing. Peter would like the profits from the sale of these items to be donated to TALTAC. Thank you Peter. Most kind of you Peter, very generous. Contact Mary if you would like to purchase any of the product listed below.

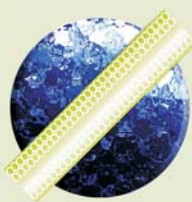
Peter Cokers Fishing gear		Suggested price	Reserve
Lot 1	Chenille & Glo Bug Yarn	\$8.00	
Lot 2	Glo Bug Yarn 2 Pkts	\$8.00	
Lot 3	Hackles	\$5.00	
Lot 4	Pheasant Tails	\$5.00	
Lot 5	Selection of tails	\$10.00	
Lot 6	Cape (Chinese)	\$15.00	
Lot 9	Olympic reel and bag	\$20.00	
Lot 10	Pukehoe Cape (Genuine)	\$10.00	
Lot 11	Neoprene Gloves (small)	\$10.00	
Lot 12	Mixed feathers	\$5.00	
Lot 13	Small wading Jacket	\$10.00	
Lot 14	Mixed bag, deer hair possum	\$10.00	
Lot 15	Hackles (selection)	\$10.00	
lot 16	Capes Mixed, Hackles	\$25.00	
Lot 17	2 Capes, + feathers	\$30.00	\$30.00
Lot 18	Mixed Feathers	\$10.00	
Lot 19	Selection of feathers	\$10.00	
Lot 21	Hackles + pair Duck wings	\$10.00	
Lot 22	Hackles, dry Fly Mallard	\$10.00	
Lot 23	Duck wings, Pheasant feathers micellaned	\$15.00	
Lot 28	Dry flies (25)	\$20.00	
Lot 30	Small Weighing Scales, wet stones	\$10.00	
Lot 33	Reel with Spare Spool (rim fly)	\$20.00	
Lot 35	Wooden fly box with selection fly tying ma	\$50.00	\$50.00
Lot 36	Selection of fly boxes (5)	\$15.00	

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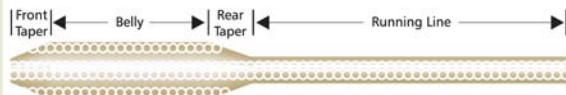
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WF8	0.5'	8.0'	29.0'	7.0'	56.0'	44.0'	100.0'
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