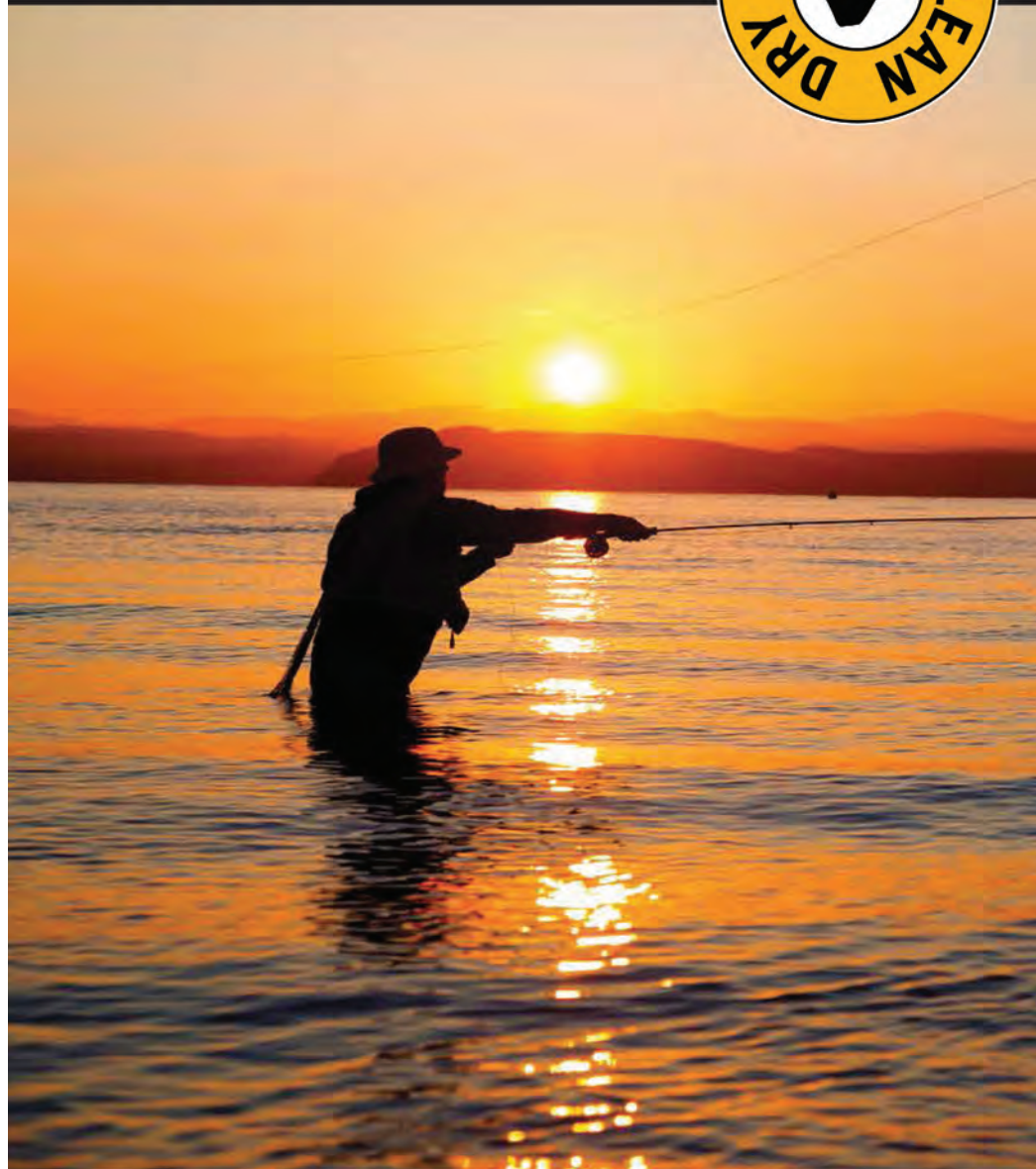



# PROTECT OUR LAKES & RIVERS



OUR PLAYGROUND, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

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

# NEWS LETTER

SINCE 1955

TONGARIRO & LAKE TAUPO ANGLERS CLUB P.O.BOX 149, TURANGI.

SEPTEMBER 2015



## YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2015

<b>President</b>	Ken Haines	kennin@xtra.co.nz
<b>Immediate Past Pres.</b>	Marion Hall	marionrainbow@xtra.co.nz
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	Rob Martyn	rob.martyn@gmail.com
	Mac McMullen	gtmcmullen@gmail.com
<b>Committee</b>		
	Robyn Gray	r_gray@clear.net.nz
	Graham Whyman	sport.life@xtra.co.nz
	Liam Burt	liam.burt@xtra.co.nz
	Charles Andrews	thenest@xtra.co.nz
	Tom Watson	watwood@xtra.co.nz
	Pauline McIntyre	g.mcintyre@xtra.co.nz
	Graeme McIntyre	g.mcintyre@xtra.co.nz
	Dave Nicholls	dnicholls@realcold.co.nz
<b>Secretary/Manager</b>	Mary Nisbet	taltac@xtra.co.nz
		07 386 5573
	OR	07 386 8879
<b>Hon. Accountant</b>	Michael Cheyne	michael.cheyne@xtra.co.nz
<b>Hon. Reviewer</b>	John Billing	jkb@rmy.co.nz
<b>Clubhouse</b>	P O Box 149, Turangi	07 386 7562

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2015

Hi everyone

Well the fishing seems to have been excellent in the Tongariro this winter so far and there have been a lot of happy fishers wending their way home with chilly bins full of good trout.

Your committee held a meeting in early August. It was a pretty busy session with a number of good decisions being made.

We are continuing to improve the cottage with Graeme McIntyre reporting that the south wall has been completely re-clad with timber and the north wall is nearly complete with just a small amount of finishing to do. We are also going to install a fibrolite type ceiling under the veranda roof to prevent birds from sitting on rafters and making a mess all over the floor. We'll be painting the completed areas and the west wall and veranda in the summer. To date we have spent \$8,250 on the cottage with more to be spent to bring the inside up to scratch.

We are also taking action to resolve the issue of smelly fish waste which has plagued us for years. Members don't seem to know that if they are at the club on a Friday they should empty the fish bin and put it in the main rubbish bin to be collected. Consequently the bin is often overflowing and the stench is very bad.

We have decided to move the old freezer out from inside the fish cleaning shed to sit against the outside front wall, build a canopy to protect it, have an electrician install a power point and have 20litre plastic liners placed inside for fish gut. These can be lifted out and placed in the normal waste bins on a Friday. If we do happen to miss a collection there will be no smell. We'll replace the old freezer with a new one inside.

Those of you who have been to TALTAC will have noticed the fabulous cover Mac McCarthy has made for the BBQ. Thanks Mac it's fantastic. We just need members to clean the BBQ when they have finished and to use the cover!!

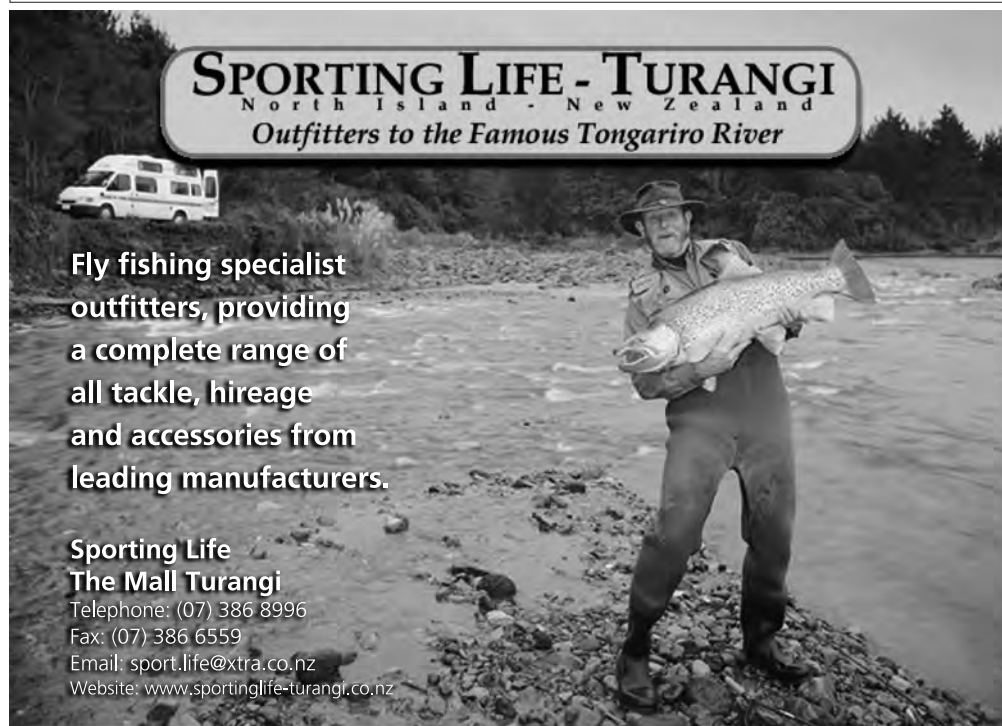
We're also looking to install or build a bike shed for locking away the increasing number of bikes that members are bringing to the Club. It would great to have more visitors in the summer months.

Our future planning exercise is progressing well under the control of Rob Martyn and we hope to have some finality before the AGM in February. One very important factor we have to consider is the new Health & Safety Act which comes into force in October. There are some pretty hefty fines for organisations that transgress and ignorance is no excuse. This could impact on some of the ways we allow members to do jobs around the site and it will necessitate the committee having a look at all the things we do and how we need to change our attitudes to comply, frustrating as it may seem at the time.

Our next committee meeting is on 14th November so if there is anything you want to raise with me please email me beforehand.

Ken Haines

Club President.



**SPORTING LIFE - TURANGI**  
North Island - New Zealand  
*Outfitters to the Famous Tongariro River*

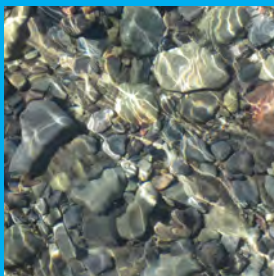
**Fly fishing specialist  
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**Sporting Life  
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Email: sport.life@xtra.co.nz  
Website: www.sportinglife-turangi.co.nz

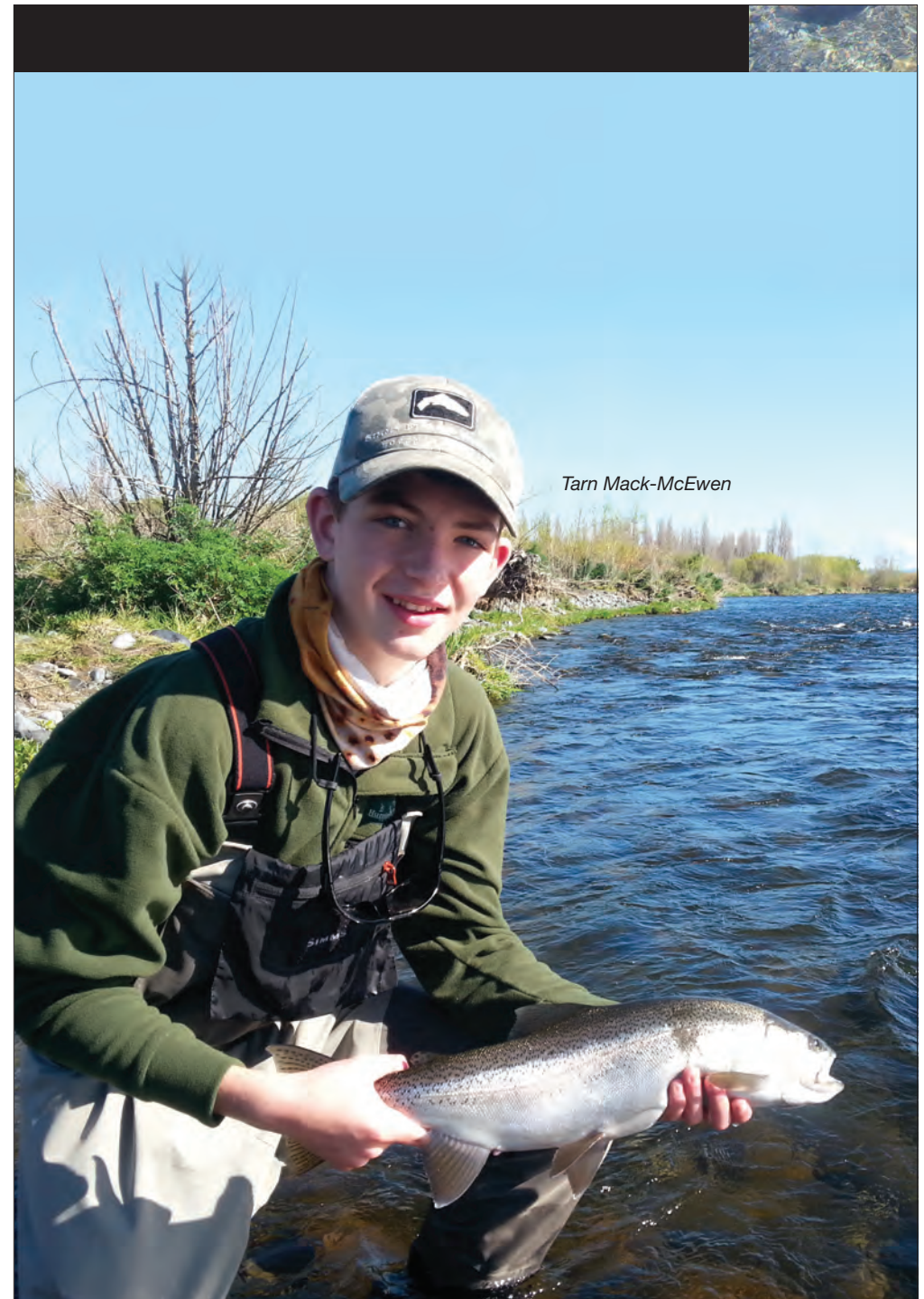
## CLUB NEWS

- I will start by offering an apology for the delay in getting a newsletter out. But with no content it is difficult. If you have a problem with this speak to me and don't blame those who are not involved.
- We wish to extend a very special thank you to Mike Tollenaar who made, donated and installed our wonderful new Competition Board in the kitchen. Mike it looks amazing, we truly appreciate it.
- The club appreciate every task that is carried out by members who support and improve our club, and those of you who do this on a regular basis are absolutely wonderful. Naming names can get one into strife, so forgive me for not going there. But a very BIG thank you.
- We have a team of very willing workers tirelessly upgrading the outside of the cottage under the trusting guidance of Graeme Mc Intyre. If you see them please feel free to offer a hand, show your support these members are giving so freely of their time.
- A timely reminder that "ALL" subscription are due on the 1st January every year. If you are unsure of your membership please contact me. Also remember "you" are completely responsible for anyone you nominate to the club, they must have stayed at the club as well.
- Please remember that this is your club and for it to run effectively we have to have your co-operation. Clean it, put it away, remove it if no longer required, "recycle" bins provided, and clean your room on departure. You do know the rules but if you want more please go to a motel.....they will provide you with all that you need.
- We are currently offering free lessons on how to clean/gut a trout. Council law states we cannot operate a killing shed or we will be closed down. I have not seen so much blood on a Sherlock movie. How can you get the blood to travel that far is amazing? Seriously we can offer support OR clean up your mess!!!
- Another reminder that animals are not permitted in any of the club facilities, bedrooms, kitchen, lounge or cottage. You do risk your membership.
- The following from a regular group who visit the club:  
***Thanks for the Cottage again Mary, gave it our usual TLC, washed the floors, wiped down & pledged wood surrounds & window ledges, double vacuum, cleaned shower & bathroom, left it immaculate for next member.***  
I personally thank you Rick and your team. Your efforts are appreciated and don't go unnoticed.
- Recently a member arrived at the club and decided to re-arrange the booking board to suit himself. This is not a very wise place to venture. We are a club, a group of people who work together: the world is not about you. A phone call would have made rescheduling of one whole month bookings unnecessary.
- If you have a problem please feel free to contact me. Problems are not solved with idle chatter over the kitchen table, speak to the right people. Do not place blame those who are not responsible. We are a team, come on this is our club, and respect is the best policy.
- I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, kind words and kind wishes to Tom following his wee event. Everything is going very well thank you. Bless you all.

## Neil Cameron Photo Competition



1. The subject of this competition will be "The Spirit of Trout Fishing in the Taupo Fishery".
2. This competition is restricted to the Taupo Fishery.
3. A limit of 3 pictures per photographer per year and will have a minimum of 3 megabyte jpeg file.
4. TALTAC have the right to publish in the club newsletter, all photos submitted.
5. Attach a short description of each photo ie. location etc.
6. Photographs will only be accepted by financial members.
7. The judging will be carried out by an independent person.
8. The competition will run from 1st January to 31st December each year.
9. Email all entries to [big.m@xtra.co.nz](mailto:big.m@xtra.co.nz)



Tarn Mack-McEwen



The Spring has sprung and it appears most anglers have had a fantastic year for fishing the rivers this year. Some say the “Best” in years. Mind you I always say that no matter “how bad the fishing is it still beats working or dying!”

Looking back in reflection one must see what has happened in the “past” to see what potentially created this year. The last three summers have seen drought conditions with high sunshine hours over the summers. The Winters have also seen relatively calm stable conditions with a lack of floods (remember the times where the rivers were always slippery with plenty of slime and anglers praying for flushes to clean out the river?). Due to the lack of flooding, plenty of slime to create massive amount of nymphs, lack of floods to scour the riverbed of eggs, we have experience ideal conditions for plenty of trout to proliferate, especially the rainbows. A high survival rate and a good start thanks to the teeny tackers being able to feed prolifically on nymphs. Remember the Feb-April periods with heaps and heaps of juvenile rainbows I refer to as “River Rodents or Subway fish?” usually in the 6 to 12 inch size group. Well, having had a good start in the river and a great time in the Lake we have seen the results this year.

The conditions have also been ideal for food production in Lake Taupo over these last three years with a few years back plenty of “green slime or phytoplankton” was evident which appears to have been a great source of food for the smelt, in turn with the smelt doing great, the trout also doing equally as good. Predictions of this year could be seen from the boating anglers towards the end of last year. The interesting this is that like in the “doom” years we still have had all of the supposed contributing factors for the decline ... we still have catfish, we still have shags, we still have the power company fluctuating the level of the lake .... So were any of these things to blame for the decline ? Not really considering they are still there now. Anglers must remember the fishery comes and goes at the wims of Mother Nature and those over the “doom” years must remember like everything, things go up and things go down. Overall there is also an average. Sometimes we spike above the average and sometimes we spike below the average but the average is the average.

Conditions of fish have been reported as fantastic and sizes appear to be up but also remember the size limit change in 2008 dropping the fish size from 45cm to 40cm to increase the harvest must also be taken into consideration.

The Hinemaiaia River has been a heavily fished river this year with many anglers reporting “great catches and lots of fish”. The Tongariro has also been very popular with lots of fish and great conditioned fish, but also on reflection this year has also been a wetter year than the previous ones which appears to have got the fish into the rivers earlier. On studying past articles in Target Taupo magazines there have been plenty of studies done on the relationship of rainfall and fish movement through the traps.

The higher rainfalls created plenty of floods in the Tongariro but also provided dirtier water for the anglers which in turn made it easier for most to catch fish, however when the sun comes out and the river clears up then as I have said in the past “this sorts the men from the boys”.

There has been a resurgence in wetlining this year due to the higher, dirtier flows and also anglers are trying the “switch” method. These higher flows are ideal for wetlining conditions but also adapting to any condition will cause you to catch fish.

Nymphers have also tried the Czech method with some unable to contain themselves at how many fish they have been able to catch.

As I am writing this the days are getting longer and as a result of the sunnier warmer days we have seen Mayflies hatching with the odd angler just starting to report seeing the fish feeding off the top.

As a result of the rain the level of Lake Taupo has been high for most of the Winter. The earlier part of Winter saw some great river mouth fishing but as the level has been high for the last few months then this has seen the river mouth fishing taper off in general. Those still prepared to get out and do it have been rewarded.

The Lake has fished quite well for the “odd” boating anglers that have been out trolling with some catching some beautiful fish but also due to the flooding, those at the Southern end have also caught plenty of smaller fish flushed out of the rivers. The results of the floods should have seen spent fish washed out back to Lake Taupo early and will give them plenty of time to feed up in time for those heading this way for the Christmas / New Year period. Jigging usually kicks off in October so dust off the boat covers, test run the motor and get ready to have a good time.

At the time of writing Lake Otamangakau had not opened up but this will open on 1st October. The few reports from Lake Rotoaira had seen one angler happy with securing a 5lb rainbow from there. people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.



The Spring has sprung and it appears most anglers have had a fantastic year for fishing the rivers August 2015 has been a mixed weather bag, but when fellow club member and fishing mate Tony Fox suggested he was taking the last week off to fish the Tongariro, the decision to join him for the last couple of days was a no brainer. To top it off, we promised each other for the last night at the club, we would cook up a storm and top it off with some quality central Otago Pinot Noir and a dash of Port to top off Tony's Feijoa crumble and cream. As I have often stated, the 80/20 rule to me for being a member of TALTAC, is 80% meeting new and interesting people, popping some corks with them in the evenings while talking a lot of enjoyable garbage (well.....some of it anyway!) and 20% fishing. Others may debate those ratios, but they are certainly mine.

First stop was into Rod and Reel in Newmarket Auckland, to get a new seasons licence for Taupo, as Tony usually likes a night fish on the TT and I wouldn't arrive in Turangi till after 5pm. Proprietor Peter Scott happened to mention he had returned from the Hinemaiaia the day before and fishing had been insane. His off-sider Chris was also going to be there the same time to take in the happiness on offer while it was still strong.

Some quick texting to Tony and he had obviously hit the sweet spot weather wise as the "Big T" had been slightly above normal showing 45 cumecs and dropping and the water had been tinged with colour. Topping it off, his first 3 days had been the best he had experienced for years and his good luck was making me wish I should pull a "sickie" and head off mid week. Funny how customers and fellow staff members can stuff up the best of intentions, so a mid Friday departure ended up being the call of the day!

Anyway. So much for the preamble. I think you get the picture as I am sure you ALL have similar recounts you can relate to. That's a fisherman (sorry....fisherpersons) privilege.

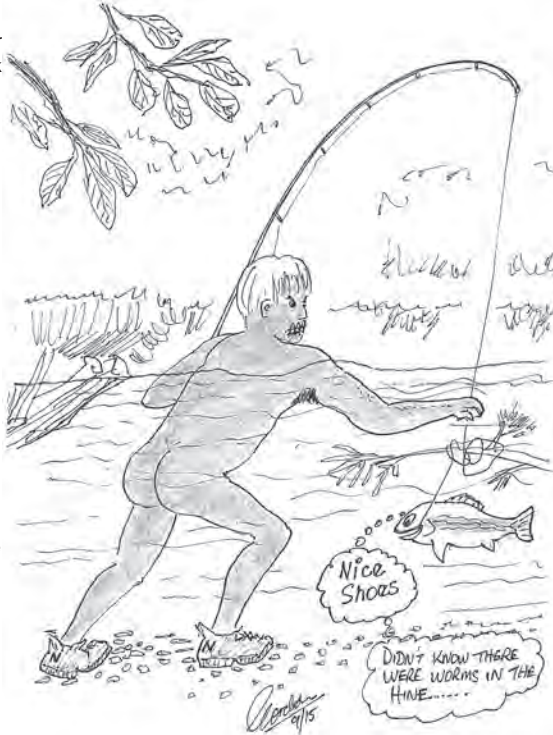
Friday night at the TT with lumo's was a nice but unfortunate experience. We would have been better to sit on our haunches on the bank and scratch our ears with our feet while howling at the full moon overhead. Silly buggers. I think sipping on a nice vino beside the fire talking about the ones that got away would have been better. Not the ones that weren't there.

Saturday dawned at 5.30 by order of my fellow fishing mate. The plan was to head up river where the stronger fish will be. Tony to the Boulder pool and I would check out the Sand and Fence pools. Separate locations and separate vehicles. The day couldn't have started any worse for me. New rod with an old line – bad mistake. A series of tangles and bad casts, loss of several rigs and some new cussing words and phrases appeared out of nowhere. To top it off, one hungry large hen hooked and it decides to "unhook" itself at my feet – close inspection of the hook after, showed a widened gape – so not only an old line but the hook was also a failure. Take 5 Gordon and head back while the head is still intact.

Meanwhile, back at the boulder Pool, Tony was slaying Jack after Jack. Obviously the "boys" were in town but the girls hadn't arrived. One hen decided she liked his fly but she must have been the lonely town tart looking for a cheap feed before a night on the river.

Back at the club, depression was starting to subside after some food and a hot drink brought some reality back into my day. So next stop early afternoon was the lower Bridge Pool which finally rewarded my day with 2 nice silver and well-conditioned hens. There is a God out there!

However, not so for Tony. He arrived back soon after with a smashed drivers window as a result of some local scum bag when he was parked at the Red Hut Park. Be warned. We later found out 3 vehicles had



been treated similarly in the same park – probably by the same scum bags. I have always thought that any car park placed near to a main getaway outlet like SH 1, is the thief's ideal escape portal.

So in short, the Saturday evenings promised meal (especially the feijoa crumble and cream), evaporated into nothing. Apart from the thousands of dollars of damage that smashed glass and fine glass fragments into the electronics and air conditioning inlets in Tony's vehicle can cause, it felt second fiddle to the missed feijoa crumble. I hope that the scum bag involved has toe nails that grow up and curl back into his scrotum all on a cold and dark August night while sipping a warm glass of snail slime.

Now, to the real guts of this story.

Tony and I were both going to call on the Hinemaiaia on the way back to Auckland on the Sunday and try and capitalise on all this hype we had been hearing about with all these monstrous hungry trout waiting to sample some Jafa benevolence. Well, as far as Tony was concerned, this was not to be for him.

Undeterred, I thought the least I could do under the circumstances was to pick up the thread of intention and go back to the bend on the upper Hinemaiaia that still owed me a trout from my efforts a few weeks previous. Because the pool I was going to fish was relatively close, being about 300m from where one parks with a clear defined track right to the small sandy beach on a right angled bend, I had no need to get into waders. So Jean clad with sneakers T shirt and flak jacket and parka and rod in hand, I set off.

The water level was up slightly with a slight colour present, but 3 dark shapes behind a small tree clump I had fished previously, offered the same promise. 5 or 6 casts later and 2 lost rigs, the day before was starting to repeat itself. Stay calm Gordon, those 3 dark shapes are still there. I was in the process of finishing tying my 3rd rig on when a fisherman from Putaruru appeared out of nowhere and asked after my success. I never got his name but he drove an earthmoving machine in Putaruru and we had small chat about what fly was working. His was definitely with glo bugs. A change of flies were made as I was trying natural nymphs. He must have realised my immediacy for the task in hand and left for the next pool downstream, which was within eyesight of where I was.

Now this is where it gets interesting. My first cast with the 3rd new rig found its mark with a feisty silver hen that leapt and squirmed all over the small stretch of fast water ahead of a small log jam. Then things started turning a paler shade of custard. The last leap made her land right in the middle of some branches on a freshly washed down tree submerged just below the surface on the opposite bank. A tight line did not move her and she continued to dash around just under the surface in the limited space available. Bugger. I'm not letting this one go so only one thing for it. Strip off and go fetch. Seemed simple enough but holding a rod in my left hand while trying to ford the stream completely naked, bare feet and all and up to ones armpits in a fast current, is not conducive to a comfortable spa in extremely cold water. After 2 attempts I had to back off and wind my line around a log to hold the fish steady while I put my sneakers on. My feet were hurting from the cold and the rolling small rocks in the stream bed. Also, floatation was starting to take over with the water at armpit level (I'm told fat floats so that wasn't a comforting thought to my personal safety). A different strategy was called for – still completely starters and the man from Putaruru just downstream from me, was obviously pissing himself with laughter wondering what the hell I was up to.

So, I located a waterlogged pole and used that to plunge into the stream bed up current from me to give me some support to lean into to take my weight so I could surge against the current to the other side. The sneakers by this time were making comfort on my feet more bearable, at the expense of the rest of my anatomy, which was definitely affected by the cold (you know what I mean don't you?). Success on try number 3. By this time Mrs Trout was extremely agitated by my presence hauling her out of the sunken branches that she decided it was time to make a determined dash for freedom which she succeeded in achieving. Bugger again! But at least I had my rig back. So rod in hand and water logged pole back in action, a reverse plunge procedure back to where my clothes lay on the small beach back on the other side.

Cold shrivelled and broken, all I could do was laugh loudly and mutter to myself what a candid and ridiculous but amusing situation I had just experienced.

I'm just so glad Tony wasn't there to witness or film it on his phone, which I'm sure he would have taken great amusing pleasure in doing so.

God I love this fishing caper for a good laugh.

Gordon





## CHECK CLEAN DRY – Yes the fight is still on!

### Didymo update:

- Didymo has now spread to over 185 catchments in the South Island since it was first discovered in NZ in 2004.
- No incursions in the North Island so far! There is no scientific proof it could not survive. Didymo has been grown in water from 15 North Island rivers including the Tongariro – Cawthron Institute.
- It is possible that high phosphorous levels in volcanic areas could inhibit growth but it would still be present and transferable to other North Island Rivers. (Rosemary Bird MPI Incursion Management Team 2014)
- We regard each river in the Taupo District as a separate waterway which is why we ask for Check Clean Dry to be used between each.
- TOO STRICT? What if Didymo had arrived two weeks ago into one of our rivers..... we may not know immediately and it could be transferred to several others - Tongariro tested monthly, Waimarino, Waioatoka, Tauranga Taupo, Hinemaiaia, Waitahanui every second month.

### Other Threats:

- Taupo has numerous weeds and pest fish present – greatest risk is the transfer of Hornwort into Lakes Otamangakau, Kuratau, Waikaremoana, and other North Island lakes. Really important to CHECK that you don't transfer any weed matter around as the smallest tip can regrow.
- Alligator weed, Koi Carp, and numerous other threats exist in nearby North Island waterways.

Report any unusual sightings to:  
Biosecurity Hotline 0800 80 99 66 (manned 24 hrs)  
DOC Fisheries Response 0272907758

Cleaning info [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/cleaning](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/cleaning)

Check Clean Dry still remains the best way to protect our precious waterways for the future.

We appreciate your support and commitment to the programme.  
For information, events support, and CCD collateral please contact Brenda.

Brenda Lawson  
DOC Freshwater Threats Ranger  
[blawson@doc.govt.nz](mailto:blawson@doc.govt.nz)  
0274516985 or 07 3760072



## LET'S PRONOUNCE IT RIGHT!

Something that has bugged some is the way most people refer to the Hinemaiaia river and don't know how to pronounce it correctly. Most will refer to it as the Hine, as they cannot or do not know how to say it correctly. Im no Te Reo exponent, but I do take note of some words when they bug me.

So, as an add on for the next newsletter, you may wish to add this.

Hine – ma – iaia is how the word is broken down in three separate words but rolled into one..... like so;

### Heenay – ma – eeah eeah

Hine can be girl or daughter or shin on a leg - ma is to indicate the relationship to what is to follow - and iaia is a tendon or vein.

So loosely translated could mean shin and tendon. Maybe some girl pulled a tendon in her leg running away from a horny Tangata??? No possible explanation as to what the result may have been though. Maybe there is more to the story?

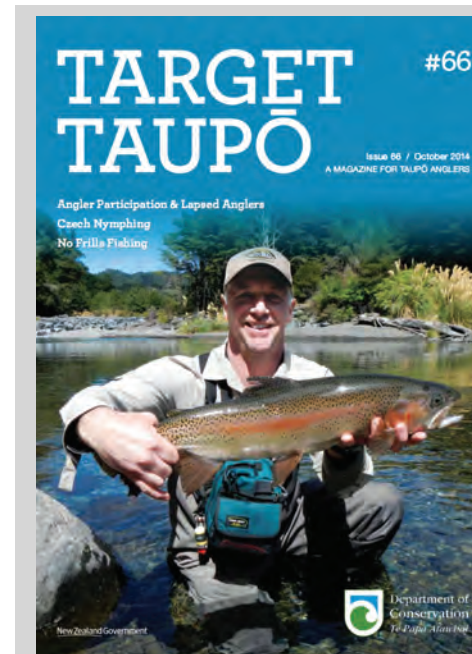


Jim and Gillian smoking up a storm

## TALTAC The First Fifty Years of the Tongariro and Lake Taupo Anglers' Club Turangi 1955 – 2005

### Available NOW!

From Mary, our Manager at TALTAC or  
Sporting Life.  
Price \$20-00 plus \$2.00 postage.



Many Anglers lament the demise of the hard copy of Target Taupo.  
Well, Here's a link to the electronic version!  
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/target-taupo>

## 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.