

A young boy is standing in a river, fishing. He is wearing a dark jacket and waders. He is holding a fishing rod and a red lure. The river is blue and has a rocky bank in the background. There are green trees and bushes behind the rocks.

# T.A.L.T.A.C. NEWS LETTER

SINCE 1955



## YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2014

|                             |                      |                           |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi everyone

I thought I would bring you up to date with what has been happening since I last wrote to you. The BBQ structure is well underway and will be completed prior to Christmas. The funding for this came from a bequest from "Aussie Bob" who many of you will remember from his many happy trips to TALTAC. The whole area is looking good with two stone walls giving a bit more privacy for our members. I plan to take advantage of all the work done by local tradespeople when I spend two weeks in the cottage in the New Year. We also plan to install fixed seating over the coming months.

Rod McGregor suggested to the committee that the two microwaves in the kitchen be moved onto brackets to save us oldies having to bend down trying to read the instructions. Rod also offered to provide the brackets and install them. The committee agreed and he has done a great job so thanks Rod for the suggestion and your financial and time involvement.

Club member Damon Taylor has established a Facebook page for use by Club members only. Details of this are printed elsewhere in the Newsletter. Thanks for your input Damon, I'm sure it will be used as much as the one you have operating in your other fishing club.

Committee member Graeme McIntyre together with Russell Bee and Ian Merson have started on the project to re-clad the cottage with timber weatherboards. This will be completed over the next year or so. They started on the eastern wall and have had a local electrician do some work on the meter board, fuse board and the fridge socket. The plan is then to have the southern wall completed in February as it's in the worst condition of all the walls.

We're also looking at a few other improvements within the cottage to make the kitchen more user friendly.

The shower domes in the men's bathroom have been a great success and have reduced the amount of steam escaping into the room to zero which has resulted in a dry floor. We're about to replace the broken extractor fan in there also. I'll be installing one in the cottage shower over the holiday.

You will find an invoice for your annual subscription along with this Newsletter. Many of our members (including me!) can never remember if they have paid their subs at the beginning of the year as we have never issued invoices. We have decided to do so as a reminder to members that our financial year runs from January to December and that subs are due. You'll be pleased to see there is no change to the amount you pay as we have managed our funds wisely over the years and we don't see any need to increase them.

Finally the committee is embarking on a "club visioning" process whereby we will be looking at all the things we do, how we run the club, what plans we might have for the future of the club, whether we need or want any new buildings, and so on. Included in this is a review of a threat analysis we completed back in 2008 when Didymo had raised its ugly head in the South Island. It identifies any threats we felt could impact on the club and includes actions we can take to prevent them happening or lessen any impact they may have on the club.

We will be considering all of this at our next committee meeting on 1st March.

In the meantime if any members would like to make any comments on the running of the club please send me an email.

That's all from me for now and it just leaves me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, have a great holiday and here's looking forward to a great year of fishing in 2015.

Ken Haines  
President.

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## CLUB NEWS

I wish to extend my most sincere thanks to all of you who work so hard, with so much pride to keep our club looking great. A special thanks to President Ken and the committee who offer me endless support. Thank you.

The tax invoice attached to this newsletter relate to 2015 subscriptions only. If you are unsure of the status of your membership and value your membership I strongly urge you to check. Phone or email Mary.

Website and Facebook: TALTAC gets connected, see the enclosed information.

With Summer on it's way it is timely to remind you all about the processes used when you have completed the cleaning of your fish, wrap the gut in the newspaper (provided), place it in a plastic bag (also provided) with the top of the bag tied ready to be placed in the external rubbish bin, this bin is located on the right hand side of the driveway, facing the road as come out of the cleaning shed. Please see if the bag inside the bin requires changing, if it does tie the black rubbish bag and place in the large black rubbish bin near cabin one.

The replacement rubbish bags are in the fish cleaning shed on the right hand side, along from the freezer.

Can you please ensure that the external bin does not get over fill or over powering. I am sincerely hoping that if this is too difficult you will speak to someone at the club or call Mary for assistance. Thank you.

Please remember those little things that are part and parcel of how our club operates; like cleaning up after yourself, returning keys, emptying the rubbish bins (it is not Jim's job), recycling; don't just put your rubbish in the first bin you see, paying subscriptions without a reminder and showing pride and support for your club.

This includes the cottage, if you stay in there, you clean up. This is not a motel.

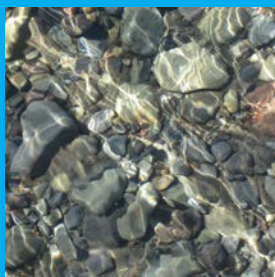
I trust you have all had a good year and you are hopefully going to have a summer break. I wish you a happy and safe summer. May it be filled with good friends and good food. Be safe whatever you do or wherever you go.

The Annual General Meeting of TALTAC will be held at the clubrooms on Saturday 28th February 2015. The meeting will commence at 5.30 p.m. followed by dinner and a social gathering. Bookings are heavy but please call we do operate a waiting systems.

This is a week-end well worth attending. Good company, good food, good fun.

***Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year to 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)

## TALTAC GETS CONNECTED



Recently, the club management committee approved the establishment of a web site for TALTAC. This is now fully operational and can be found at [www.taltac.org.nz](http://www.taltac.org.nz) or by typing "taltac" into google or other search engines. The TALTAC website is intended as our 'official' public face on the internet and records our mission, purpose, activities, facilities and history. Also detailed are the president's reports for past years and an archive of club newsletters. The current holders of club trophies, with catch details are also tabled for the record. We anticipate updating this website content annually after the AGM. All of this has been beautifully presented on our website which was very kindly built by Dean Merson.

In addition to the public information website, we also wanted to present a forum for club members to share trip details, plans, stories, images and events in a more informal, interactive way. To achieve this, the management committee has also recently approved the establishment of a Facebook Closed Group page which will provide such a forum for the club. Damon Taylor volunteered to build and develop the facebook page and he has also been authorised by the management committee to manage and moderate the content of the new facebook group. To participate in this exciting new forum, you will need to either have an existing facebook account or sign up for account at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). Once you are signed into facebook type "taltac" into the search field. If the correct TALTAC group entry does not show up, you may need to click on the "Find Group" bar.

You can then click on the "join" button. Damon will then approve join requests, noting that we have a policy of limiting access to current financial members of TALTAC to preserve privacy of our content to club members only.

We also plan to make the club newsletter available through this site, so that the current newsletter can be accessed for download at any time by club members.

I urge all members to participate in these exciting new club communication developments. Happy surfing!

Finally, I would like to thank both Dean and Damon for the huge effort and time and skills they have donated to the club to make these new developments possible.

Rob Martyn



It has been a very dry year for us here in Turangi. The river has had very little high water through it all year. As a consequence the stable river has provided some ideal fly fishing opportunities for anglers. Anglers have been able to go to the same spots and do the same thing which in turn has made it easier for some rather than the continuously changing river and flow rate changes. The drier year has seen fish move into the river and they appear to have been caught in the town area but the Waipa trap data has seen a slow response with November tipped to be the bulk of runs moving through this trap. However in saying that the catch rates for anglers are up from last month. I guess the fish haven't bothered to move too high up possibly due to the lack of rainfall. The interesting thing is most anglers you talk to, the fishing is no good, but going by the angler interviews conducted by DOC the figures tell a different story (see the September Monitoring Report).

With the stable river conditions there should be a high survival rate for the trout – both good and bad ... depending on the way you look at things. The trade off between numbers of fish and quality is at play here. We should see the results of this year in about three years time. The stable river has provided slippery conditions for most of the year but since there has been a lack of floods the river is chokka full of caddis and mayfly nymphs. The dry fly fishing in the next month or two could go off (DEPENDING ON FLOODING and WEATHER!)

So far this year anglers have reported a mixture of fish. The mixture being plenty of smaller ones but also some much bigger well conditioned fish. The bigger fish will be the older fish. So far in the last month anglers have reported fish out in Lake Taupo spewing smelt and the fish have been in good condition.

The Hinemaiaia River has been the stand out river with LOADS of fish but the downside to this is the congestion of anglers fishing for them. Apart from that the Tongariro has seen the congestion in the pool directly beneath the S.H.1 road bridge with the rest of the river basically devoid of anglers (great for those who like fishing by themselves in peace and quiet). This is also a reflection on the licence sales continuing to drop for the fishery. The latest Target Taupo magazine has an article on angler participation and lapsed anglers, however this never touches any of the following points .... Competition from a wide variety of other sports available to people these days, global financial crisis, older anglers that have passed on, the change from a "daily"

licence to a 24hr licence, finance company collapses, mass exodus of middle aged people to Australia to work, general cost of living increases over the last 10 years, so plenty of other factors here.

Just in the last two or three weeks there have been some great hatches of Mayflies on the Tongariro and anglers have reported catching fish on the Sporting Caddis right on dark. Prognosis is, November is going to be fantastic (if we don't get any floods). This should be due to the bulk of fish moving into the trap, plus the dry fly action should be

great if the weather stays stable.

Boat fishing has been a little on the quiet side due to strong winds with anglers unable to get out. Labour Weekend saw plenty of boating anglers through Sporting Life but most were unable to get out due to the wind. Once the wind settles then there should be some good fishing going by the smelt that appear to be out there.

November has seen wind, wind, wind, wind, wind ..... not great for either boat fishing or dry fly fishing. The wind has been cold and has caused the rise to taper off in the evenings on the river. Anglers have reported good Mayfly hatches and Caddis Hatches. Sheltered spots have been handy but few and far between with the wind.

The wind has made it a little more difficult for the boaties to get out on lake Taupo. In saying that when you have been able to get out on the lake, anglers have generally reported some fish in fantastic condition. The picture supplied was from mid to late November and shows some stunning fish. Dave writes in his email.

*Good morning Jared*

*I had a magic fishing morning last Saturday harling from 5.30am to 8am. Hooked 17 landed 12 and kept 3. Landed two browns too. All the rainbows put up a great fight. Once fish must have pulled 30 metres of line in the first run! I normally troll at around 2 knots but I went near the shallows so powered up and one of the browns took when I was travelling at 4 knots. I don't handle the fish I release - I unhook them in the water with needle nosed pliers so they should all survive.*

*The fish were in very good condition and had lots of smelt inside - all had smelt in the mouths so were obviously feeding. It was very overcast and dark morning so the 'change of light' conditions lasted for the two hour period which I think explains the large number of takes. As a comparison, Sunday was a much brighter morning and I hooked 6 and kept 1 - it was in superb condition but not large at 41cms.*

*Here is a photo of the fish I kept. Not a very good photo with the old phone*  
Dave



The trout have been feeding hard out in Lake Taupo on an abundance of smelt and this should bode well for the river anglers next year, especially with the browns in the mid to late summer.

Keep an eye on the Sporting Life website [www.sportinglife-turangi.co.nz](http://www.sportinglife-turangi.co.nz) for daily reports and to see all of the anglers that have been successful at catching something. We've had just about a fish a day appear on the site continuously throughout the year. A few tips - just remember that the fish are always out there but it is the angle of the dangle that makes the difference, sometimes you have to hunt out and find the fish and doing the right things should get you fish.... And always listen to those who catch LOTS of fish. Always remember there is a wide range of sizes and quality of fish too !

## SOME STATS - TAUPO FISHERY

### Lake Taupo

Harling at either end of the day is producing some nice fish for boat anglers and this should continue to be productive over the next couple of months. There are still a lot of fish in the top 20 metres and these are well within the reach of lead lines and downriggers.

Encouragingly the trout are already feeding heavily on smelt with the stomachs of some trout full of small smelt and others full of unusually large smelt. With lots of very well conditioned maiden fish just under the legal length at this stage in the season, the lake fishing looks promising again this summer.

Although still early days, jigging has been productive for some around the lake with some very nice fish being caught and it will only improve as we progress towards summer.

### Tongariro

The overall estimated catch rate for the winter of 2014 on the Tongariro River was calculated at 0.29 fish per hour (1 legal sized fish every 3.5 hours) based on over 800 angler interviews conducted between May and October. This is down on the peak of 0.48 fish per hour observed during the winter of 2013 but is on par with the 30 year average (Figure 1).

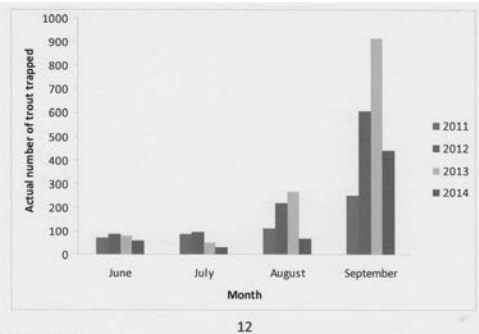
### Drift dives

Consistent with the increase in the number of trout passing through the Waipa Stream fish trap, numbers of spawning rainbow trout have been increasing in the upper reaches of the Lake Taupo tributaries. Densities of trout essentially doubled from August to September despite the relatively dry weather and the fish are running regardless. So far this year, the counts are essentially half what they were last year but appear to be one month behind meaning that we should expect significant runs during October and November consistent with what we are observing at the Waipa Stream fish trap.

Lake Taupo Several anglers have reported very large smelt visible in the lake and inside trout that they have been catching which is very encouraging. The runs of spawning rainbows into the rivers certainly seem to be one month later than recent years based on our monitoring programmes but the fish could well be feeding up hard on these larger smelt and making the most of the good conditions in the lake at present before they spawn. Harling first thing in the morning or during the evening is producing some nice fish while there still seems to be a lot of trout down to about 20 metres and well within the reach of lead lines during the day. It is still relatively early for jigging but some anglers have been getting fish at the 20m mark with Stump Bay in the south and Jerusalem Bay in the north producing some nice quality trout early in the season.

Overall, the rainbow trout run is one month later than expected given the trend of recent years and so we are expecting good numbers to come through the fish trap during October and November.

*Run of rainbow trout through the Waipa Stream fish trap during the months of June to September since 2011*



## LETTER REGARDING TALTAC BBQ

Hi Marion,

As usual we had a great trip with the boys last week and I caught a good lot of fish although the condition is not what it was say fifteen years ago. Still plenty of fun though.

I used the new BBQ twice for cooking the team breakfast and I wanted to pass on to you and the Committee that I think it is an excellent asset to the Club.

I have heard the grumbles about the location, why we need it and on and on but frankly these are usually the ones that huddle in the kitchen and don't enjoy the wider benefit of the Club like the lounge and the fire etc. Mostly the critics will never be supportive of progress.

The BBQ is done, looks fantastic and works well. The members need to respect the fact that while not everyone will use it many will and those that embrace the efforts of others to provide it will get hours of pleasure and camaraderie doing so.

You and others on the recent Committees have made massive improvements to the lounge, rooms and now work has started on the Cottage which will be awesome.

The days of just old boys on fishing trips in basic old conditions is over and progress is happening for the better. The facility is improving and opens the Club up to being so good for us all.

Thanks and hope to catch up one day for a wine and a BBQ - heaven forbid we may enjoy it!

Photo attached of a winter's breakfast.

Cheers

Kerry C





## CZECH NYMPHING 101

Czech Nymphing (or polish or Spanish) actually refers to a family of closely related techniques where there is direct contact with the flies from the elevated rod tip to the flies which are weighted such that they drift along in the current as naturally as possible. If too heavy they will sink to the bottom. If too light they will not sink enough or be hard to cast as generally a leader of at least 20 feet is used (indeed flyline is not necessary) and the flies are cast into water 20 to 40 feet from the angler. This is why these techniques are also referred to as shortlining. The rod tip is moved to keep contact with flies and at the end of the drift the flies may be swung or just cast back in one motion to another spot.

From a deep Nymphing perspective this technique has the advantage of creating less drag on the flies, consequently the flies' fish deeper and more naturally with more contact so takes are perceived more readily.

With a standard indicator Nymphing set up even an expert angler will hook or detect about 1/4-1/3 of the takes. Anyone who does some sight fishing will have had the experience where the fish takes and the indicator does not move. You will still miss them with this technique but the percentage will be better.

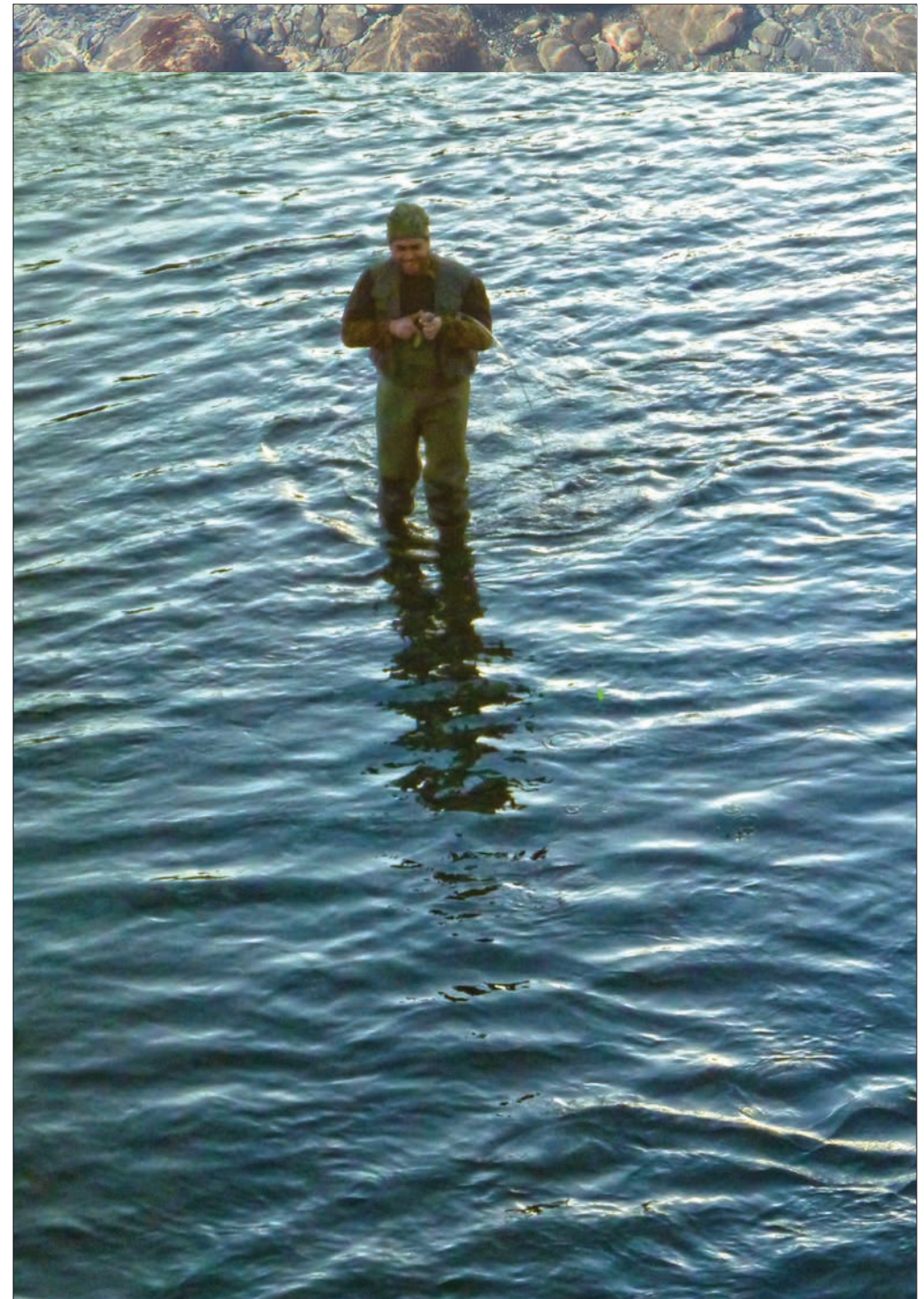
Equipment needed is a light rod of 4-6 weight for Taupo rivers; coloured monofilament such as yellow stren or double x and maybe a contrasting colour for the leader tippet join of say red or orange.

Tippet is whatever you fancy and then 1-2 flies are tied into the tippet of 4-5 feet. Takes are registered by movement of the coloured mono or feel.

Some further points. The technique is not just for catching small fish. It is only suitable for moving water. Not so good in slow moving glides. You have to be relatively close to the fish so not always applicable in some parts of the Tongariro but very suitable and staggeringly effective in the Hinemaia to Tauranga Taupo type of water. Flies do not have to be traditional Czech nymph flies and tungsten bead hare and coppers and pheasant tail variants are fine. You need few patterns but you do need weight variation and be prepared to change frequently to suit depth and current speed.

How to learn? New Zealand fly fishing teams periodically have clinics to raise funds for overseas trips or you can act as a controller in river competition held all over the North Island and watch the technique close hand for free!

These will start very soon so anyone interested in doing this feel free to contact me (Mark Clasper) on email [clasper@ihug.co.nz](mailto:clasper@ihug.co.nz)





## A PIECE OF HISTORY

As I write this, my father is battling terminal cancer and does not have a long time to live. He has dictated his life story to my youngest daughter who has typed it all up and has made it into a book. We went through Dads old photos and selected several that we scanned and have put in the book. Upon reading my Fathers story, I discovered that my Grandfather either purchased, or managed Taylors lodge in Turangi back in the middle 1930's. We found a photo which has been labeled in an old photo album as 'Taylors Lodge Turangi' but will need confirming to see if this was actually the lodge as it has the sign Turangi Post Office.

My grandfather's name was Sidney William Wood and he separated from my Grandmother in the mid 1930's and my Father sadly did not have a lot of contact from him. He had 'another woman' and kept lying very low as you did back then.

We are not sure if he lived there alone at the Fishing Lodge, or used this as a hide away with his lady.

Sadly Dad never went down there to visit him, so he can offer no more information.

We don't even know if my Grandpa was a keen fly fisherman, but it must be in our genes somewhere so I am going to believe he was an AMAZING fisherman!!!

I started fly fishing a few years ago as the result of a very keen fly fishing boss. His love of the sport was infectious, so I tried it and loved it. I felt I had a connection and just couldn't get enough!!

With me so keen on this new chapter in my life, it emerged that my brother had done a lot of fly fishing unbeknown to me!! I knew he used to go down to the Waikato River and bring back a trout sometimes that mum would cook up, but did not know how he fished or anything about where exactly he went. He was 3 years older than me, and I was always his 'geeky' little sister who was a nuisance. I didn't really know what he got up to in his spare time. Luckily our relationship has improved over the years.

When I started fishing, my brother and I got talking about fishy things and he produced a book that my Grandfather had given him as a young lad. "Trout at Taupo" by OS Hintz. Grandpa wrote the words inside the cover "Peter, see illus P67. Go then and do likewise. Grandpa"

I was amazed as I never knew my Grandfather had been into fishing also, let alone be involved with a fishing lodge in Turangi!

I love coming down to Turangi, and since I found out about Taylors Lodge this week, I will make a visit as soon as I can to absorb some of my family history. Sadly Dad is not well enough to come for a drive with me.

How I wished I had been able to go fishing up the Tongariro with my Grandfather beside me. He would have been so proud having his only grand daughter fly fishing.

I have a one year old grand daughter, and I will take her fishing with me when she is old enough no matter what. I owe her that.

I encourage everyone reading this to 'write their life story' We owe it to our future generations to know and understand the life we led, the experiences we have had, and why and how we made the decisions we did affecting our lives.

Fish today like there is no tomorrow.

Life is too short to procrastinate.

Don't put off until tomorrow what can be done today!!

Jo Sanderson

Hikutaia



## TALTAC CATCH CARDS

2015 will be my third year as keeper of the Catch Cards for TALTAC. It is always interesting to look at the results board each time you arrive at TALTAC. I try to keep the results up to date as much as possible. Obviously I can not keep the catch board updated immediately after you weigh in a fish.

The information following is up to date from about the middle of November. The reason these results are not final for the year is to advise all members that as from the beginning of the New Year there will be specific things I (or Mary) will not be doing in 2015. It is not my responsibility OR Mary's to make sure your entry is filled out completely.

At the time of writing one member will probably win a trophy as a result of my being lenient and me contacting Mary to get an email address and then me contacting the member get the information to complete a card. You have been warned and informed.

All Catch Cards that are completed in full will be eligible for trophies. Please ensure that you complete your card in full.

There will be only one exception and that is the Condition Factor. I will complete that for you, the C/F on the wall of the weigh cabinet is only an approximation. There is a specific formula for determining the condition factor.

There has been one more Trophy added to the cabinet this past year and that is The "Kit Secker Memorial Trophy" for the heaviest trout caught in the Breakfast Pool. You will definitely need to specify that your entry was caught in that pool.

One other reminder is that the categories for above and below the Birches is not meaning above the Birches Pool it is above and below the Major Jones Swing Bridge. There may have been fish caught say in the Kamahi or the Hydro; they are eligible for above the Major Jones Bridge, NOT the Major Jones Pool.

Just a bit of useless information on the Catch Card results for the year so far.

You had to catch a Brown trout better than 5.0 kg this year to be in the running. If you caught a Rainbow in the Tongariro that was over 2.5kg you would have been a winner. I know a member who caught a Rainbow in the fishery this year that weighed around 3.8kg. There were about forty fish weighed in so far for the year. If you catch a nice fish please weigh it in you never know you might have your name on the board for a while or just a short time. It has been good to see the number of entries from the Juniors this year both the girls and boys.

Cheers Rick

## MEMBERSHIP 2015

### TONGARIRO & LAKE TAUPO ANGLERS CLUB INC

P O Box 149, Turangi

### INVOICE

The Club's Financial Year runs from 1st January to 31st December  
Your Annual Subscription is now due as follows:

### Annual Subscription for 2015

|               |                                |    |       |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----|-------|
| Adult         | @ \$40.00 + NZFFA levy@ \$3.00 | \$ | _____ |
| Double/Family | @ \$50.00 + NZFFA levy@ \$6.00 | \$ | _____ |
| Young Person  | @ \$5.50                       | \$ | _____ |

Please pay by 31st January 2015.

#### Payment methods:

- Cash to Secretary Manager. (Do not post)
- Cheque made out to TALTAC.

**Mail to:** The Secretary Manager, P O Box 149, Turangi

- Direct credit to the Club bank account:  
06 0471 0062195 00

*Thanks for your assistance and tight lines.*

## 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.

### 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.