



Number 99

Tight Lines

Bulletin

Registered by Australia Post Publication PP232338/00003

Inside this issue:

President's Letter

<i>President's Letter</i>	1-2
<i>CFA Interclub</i>	2
<i>May Field Trip</i>	2
<i>March Luncheon</i>	3
<i>The Politics of Angling</i>	4-5
<i>April Luncheon</i>	6
<i>Jindabyne in a Heatwave</i>	7
<i>North & South</i>	8-9
<i>BP's Handy Hints</i>	9
<i>2009 Fly Tying & Auction Night</i>	10
<i>John Bridgewater</i>	10
<i>2009 Oberon Landowners Dinner</i>	10
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	11
<i>Remaining 2008-2009 "Penarth" Dates</i>	11
<i>Rod Fishers Directory</i>	12

Dear Rod Fishers,

Well, Gaden has been saved. While I am not convinced that the final negotiated outcome was not what the current State Government wanted when they slated the hatchery for closure it is a great outcome for all trout anglers in mainland Australia. Thank you to the many Rodfishers who wrote letters and made their feelings known to the powers in Macquarie Street.

Those that have read the current edition of Fly Life would have seen Nick Taransky's, (a Rodfisher member) letter in Backcasts. Nick makes a number of points in his letter and I paraphrase; we can no longer take our trout fishing for granted, we should recognise the hard work of people in the past and present that created the existing fishery and we have to remain vigilant and realise that from time to time we may have to stand up and be heard and fight to keep what we have.

Now onto happier things, I have been fishing! I had a few days trout fishing in the New England area (while on a trip to Borumba Dam in Queensland to make a DVD on fly fishing for Saratoga but that's another story). New England was amazing. I travelled with new member

Shaun Wormald and we fished a number streams in the area around Ebor and Dorrigo. Some streams held stocked rainbows with small numbers of browns, others were 100% wild browns. I caught fish from around 5lb to 2inches long. A good mixture of dry and wet fly, small parachute emergers and green nymphs were the best patterns for me.

Fishing wet I had considerable success using the induced take method outlined by James Leisenring in his wonderful book "The Art of Tying the Wet Fly". Worth a read if you have not yet discovered him.

On our last day we fished for about one and a half hours on a small stream about 30 minutes from Dorrigo. We would not have walked 800 metres from the car and each caught over 15 fish in that time. Not big fish, the biggest for me was a brown about 14 -15 inches, nearly all rainbows and all dry fly – wonderful.

The second trip was to New Zealand, my first there. Why it took so long I don't know! I went with another new member Bruce Wilson. We had a guide, Martin Langlands, and fished out of Darfield about 30 minutes from Christchurch. We

(Continued on page 2)



Our President, Andrew McKenzie with the 7lb New Zealand brown whose capture is described in his letter

Tight Lines by email

If you have given us an e-mail address you will now receive Tight Lines Bulletin by email unless you specifically ask us (info@nswrodfisherssociety.com) to continue to use the post.

Use of e-mail saves us the cost of printing and postage and you will get your Bulletin sooner and in glorious COLOUR!

Accessing the NSW Rod Fishers' Society Library

Your Society maintains a fine collection of fishing and angling books in its Library, most of which are available for loan to Members.

A full listing of our catalogue is available on our website (www.nswrodfisherssociety.com) or upon request by contacting our Librarian on 02-498 6408 (home) or 0418 293 495 (mob)

Books that are to be borrowed are either delivered or posted (if delivery is not possible) to Members. Borrowing periods by negotiation.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are always appreciated.

Please mail to the Editor or email to info@nswrodfisherssociety.com.

The NSW Rod Fishers' Society takes no responsibility for the views expressed by correspondents and gives no guarantees as to the veracity of their reports, weights and measurements.

Presidents Letter (cont)

landed in Christchurch had a quick look around, visited the markets and then went fishing.

Having no idea where to go we just picked a stream on the map. Stringing up the rods I thought I saw a rise at the top of the first pool. We moved slowly up the pool and Bruce said he thought the large rock in the middle of the pool was a fish. My first cast in NZ landed slightly upstream and to the right of the rock which dutifully moved up and scooped the fly.

About 20 minutes later I landed my first trout in NZ with my first cast and it was the first fish on my new split cane rod – it was a brown around 7lb. Legendary stuff! And the fishing just got better and better. Martin is a wonderful guide if you are up for the challenge and NZ is all good.

Finally I would like to mention that Ken Musgrove who has been editing and publishing this newsletter for ages is retiring at the August edition. We will all miss his extraordinary attention to detail and professionalism. Thank you so much Ken.

Well with some reasonable rain in many of our fishing spots I trust you are all catching a few!

Tight Lines.

CFA Interclub Weekend

The Annual Interclub Weekend in support of the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers has again been organised by John Humphries for the weekend of 1-3 May 2009. The venue remains the Black & Gold Cabins at Wallerawang with events to include fishing, photography and fly tying competitions. The weekend is the principal fundraising activity of NSW CFA and all members are urged to support John's efforts. Bookings and further information can be made and obtained by contacting John Humphries at morefish@big-pond.com or by phone on 4324 3495.

Fish Outta Water

Two Great Locations

Offering all the range and the excellent service that we have become famous for - original Superstore - 263 Condamine Street, Manly Vale and City Store - 478 George Street, Sydney in the "Mick Simmons" Building - next to Hilton Hotel - opposite the QVB - Heaps of new in store specials so why don't you check us out

Superstore Or Buy On Line at:

Telephone: 9949 9488 www.fishouttawater.com.au

Facsimile: 9949 9655 Email:

STD Freecall 1800655939 fishon@ozemail.com.au



RFS Field Trip

Flyfisher Cottage, Lake Narambulla

When: 2 nights / 3 days, Monday and Tuesday night, 18th and 19th May 2009.

Cost: The total cost of \$190 for the two nights has already been paid, and is to be equally shared by the participants.

Maximum number of participants: 4.

Lake Narambulla is situated about 15 km north of Goulburn, on the Hume Highway, about 2 hours drive from Sydney. It is a largish lake, well stocked with both brown and rainbow trout of good size. The accommodation is in a new fully furnished 3 bedroom cottage. BYO linen, towels, food, drinks.

Interested members should call the organiser, Gerhard Benz, on tel. 9387-6641 asap to secure a spot. Space is limited, so please book early!!



March Luncheon

The NSW Sports Club venue seems to be well received by members and the open aspect of the room we are allocated provides a light and cheerful atmosphere for the camaraderie that accompanies these welcome chances for like minded fly fishers to exchange information and exaggerations on a monthly basis.

A reduced number of members made this luncheon an intimate affair which allowed more time for each person to interact with our guest speaker, Peter Mahoney.

Peter Mahoney needs little introduction as he is the well known manager of the Compleat Angler, located on the 3rd Floor of the Dymocks Building at 428 George Street Sydney.

Phone 02 9241 2080...ask for "BIG PETE".



Peter supports the Club both directly and by providing discounts to members.

The shop is one of the best equipped fly fishing suppliers in Sydney, a point not missed by the "out of town" members who congregate, prior to the luncheon meetings, to drool over all the goodies that are not available elsewhere.

Peter also provides an excellent mail order service.

The presentation Peter gave was, as requested, centered on the Sage Rod models available, with some new and interesting units displayed and discussed.

Interesting questions resulted in the pros and cons of different models being thoroughly explored.

A printed handout, giving the complete details of all the rods displayed, was provided at the meeting.

If you would like a copy email Peter on sydney@compleatangler.com.au

The range available is as follows:

Sage Premium Rods

TCX Series: Super-fast action rods for distance casting or windy conditions

Z-Axis Series: Fast action rods

ZXL Series: Smooth, medium action rods with great accuracy and feel

TXL Series: Medium-fast action rods designed for ultra-light dry fly fishing

Sage Specialty Rods

Xi2 Series: Quick action rods with strong butt sections and soft tips

BASS Series: Short, stiff rods designed to cast bulky flies

Sage Budget Rods

Launch Series: Medium-fast action rods

Launch Series: Progressive action rods which perform well for the price.

The rod that sparked the most interest was the short 7'11" 4 piece BASS Series.

The sizing is not conventional line size but line weight...eg. 230 grain, 290 grain, 330 grain. The popular choices are 230 grain for bass fishing and 330 grain for barramundi fishing

Each rod comes with a matched Sage Bass fly line.

Peter Pengilly (at the right of the photo) is not ignoring "Big Pete" completely he is intrigued with the new **Wenger Tool** being passed around...what a great addition to your kit... Peter P finally got the line nipper release to work!!

The Wenger Company has been famous for their range of Swiss Army Knives since 1893. One of their more recent models, called the Nail Clip is becoming the "must-have" accessory for every fly fisher.



Line nipper; Serrated scissors (capable of cutting fine tippet and even braid lines); hook hone; knife blade; tweezers; Available in red, pink, blue, green, purple, white and soft-touch black.

Many thanks Peter for the great range of rods you displayed and your continued support for the NSW Rodfishers' Society.

Gadget.

The Politics of Angling

Anglers usually tackle their fisheries issues first via a local fishing club. If the local club cannot resolve the particular issue or believe that it has much wider ramifications, the club can (and Gaden was a case in point) refer the issue up to an umbrella organisation or peak body. If it is a national issue it goes further up to the national body and so on.

The following is a summary of the main organisations anglers should be aware of (and should be part of), starting at the national level and then working back through to the principal NSW organisations.

Recfish Australia (Recfish) is the peak national body representing the interests of recreational and sport fishing in Australia. Its mission statement is to be the “one voice promoting sustainable fishing and representing recreational anglers at a national level”.

The constituent members of Recfish are AFANT (Amateur Fishermen’s Association of Northern Territory), NSW-CoRF (NSW Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing), Recfishwest (Western Australian Recreational & Sportfishing Council), TARfish (Tasmanian Association of Recreational Fishing), VRFish (Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body - and one who clearly does not agree with acronyms), ANSA (Australian National Sportfishing Associations - itself a national organisation founded by Vic McCristal and others in the early 1970s) and AUF (Australian Underwater Federation - Spearfishing Commission).

Until the recent change of Federal government Recfish was fully funded by the Commonwealth. Its ongoing funding will soon become an issue. For the time being the Recfish Board continues to meet quarterly and the organisation holds a General Meeting and Conference annually. The website is www.recfish.com.au.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI). Recreational fishing in Australia is mostly governed by the States and not the Commonwealth. In NSW that means the NSW DPI. Fisheries as a separate department ceased to exist some years ago and its functions and staff were folded into the NSW DPI. NSW DPI is responsible for commercial aquaculture, recreational saltwater and freshwater fishing as well as habitat and species protection, breeding and stocking. NSW DPI has the responsibility of ensuring compliance with various fishing and environmental laws. Its website is www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries.

NSW Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF) The NSW Minister for Primary Industries appoints a council to advise on recreational fishing and expenditure from the recreational fishing trusts (i.e. the statutory trust funds created by the receipt of NSW fishing licence fees). In some states such as Victoria the licence fees once collected are not segregated and are lost in consolidated revenue. This is something we need to be mindful of given the parlous financial state of the present NSW State Government. Committee vacancies are advertised and the Minister selects committee members according to their experience and connections in the recreational fishing scene with a view to having a wide range of fishing types and areas represented. Essentially the Minister aims to have on this committee representatives from each of the freshwater, saltwater and spear fishing groups. The relevant website is www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/licence-fee/trusts.

Recreational Freshwater Fishing Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) and Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC). RFFTEC and RFSTEC are two advisory committees appointed by the NSW Minister for Primary Industry to provide advice on priorities for expenditure from the trust funds comprised of licence fees received from anglers. The two trusts are technically an extension of ACoRF but are made up, at least in part, of different members more closely aligned with the relevant area (i.e. freshwater anglers on RFFTEC and saltwater anglers and spear fishermen on RFSTEC). The advice of the respective Trust Expenditure Committees is handed up to ACoRF before it goes to the Minister for sign off. Vacancies are advertised and the Minister selects members according to their experience and connections (tell us something we don’t know or couldn’t guess). The Trust Expenditure Committees usually meet three times a year but meetings can be convened to discuss urgent business (e.g. Gaden). The relevant websites are www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/licence-fee/trusts/rfftec/aboutrfftec, www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/licence-fee/trusts/rfstec/about-rfstec and www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/licence-fee/trusts/trust-fund-reports.

Trout Allocation Committee. The Trout Allocation Committee is a NSW DPI administered committee made up of representatives of the NSW DPI and delegates nominated by each of the trout acclimatisation societies. The NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers also has a seat on this committee. The council meets annually to plan trout stocking strategies.

Snowy Lakes Strategy Committee. This committee is a NSW DPI administered committee made up of representatives of the NSW DPI, the trout acclimatisation societies, NSW CFA, Snowy Hydro, local chambers of commerce, local shire councils, local businesses and medi. The Committee usually meets annually to plan trout stocking strategies in the Snowy

The Politics of Angling (continued)

Mountains lakes of Jindabyne, Eucumbene and Tantangara. The Committee has been successful in developing an effective stocking regime based on scientific surveys and advice from anglers that has lead to a noticeable improvement in the quality of the lake fishing in the region.

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFA). The RFA is the peak State representative body elected by recreational fishers (including spear fishermen) and is made up of saltwater and freshwater angling and fishing clubs. The NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers (NSWCFA) is a member of RFA. Its website is www.rfansw.com.au.

ANSA NSW. ANSA NSW is the NSW branch of the Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA). ANSA NSW is a member of RFA and at a national level also a member of Recfish. Its website is www.ansa.com.au.

NSW Fishing Clubs Association (NSW FCA). The NSW FCA is the oldest and largest affiliation of fishing clubs in Australia. It has just under 200 clubs as members. Most of these clubs are saltwater based but some are inland clubs with many of the coastal clubs being involved in freshwater fishing as well. NSW FCA was very active in helping fishing clubs arrange public liability insurance when that type of insurance cover became extremely difficult for small not for profit organisations to obtain. Its website is www.nswfca.com.au

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers (NSW CFA). This is the peak body in NSW for freshwater angling clubs and associations with 28 member organisations including the NSW Rod Fishers Society. NSW CFA has an effective relationship with government departments and all the other state and national recreational fishing organisations. The recent satisfactory result of the Gaden closure proposal is testimony to NSW CFA's effectiveness. The Council meets quarterly and non voting individual membership is available. Its website is www.freshwateranglers.com.au.

Acclimatisation Societies. Historically it was via the various acclimatization societies that trout were first stocked over wide areas. Acclimatisation societies are still recognised in NSW fisheries legislation and include the Monaro Acclimatisation Society, Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society, Central Acclimatisation Society, Council of Southern Districts Angling Clubs and the New England Trout Acclimatisation Society. All but New England are members of NSW CFA. Each acclimatization society is made up of a number of district branches (e.g. the Cooma Branch of MAS). The acclimatisation societies are very active on local fishery and habitat issues and have a key role in assisting NSW DPI in stocking trout and native fish in streams across the state.

Native Fish Australia (NFA). This is a national association open to anyone who cares about the well being of Australia's native freshwater fish and the streams and waterways that they inhabit. In NSW its branches include Bass Sydney, Hunter Native Fish and NFA Far North Coast. Its website is www.nativefish.asn.au.

Hi-Tide 2KY 1017. Bruce Schumacher, the current Chairman of Recfish and most of the relevant NSW committees co-presents this fishing radio program every Saturday and Sunday morning. It has an open line segment each week.



FOR SALE - "BIMLOW" - EDITH

3 bedroom cottage on 2.1 acres. 12 km from Oberon in the heart of trout country. Recently professionally rebuilt laundry, bathroom and kitchen. New gas/electric stove. As new slow combustion stove. Unlimited water from bore. As new 6m x 12m Colorbond shed with power. 3 x 2,000 gallon water tanks. Ideal weekender.

\$260,000 - No Offers Please. Private Sale.

Interested parties should contact either Peter or Bridget Young. P.O Box 436, Oberon. N.S.W. 2787 Telephone: 02-6335 6205.

April Luncheon

Held at the popular NSW Sports Club, the 30 odd Members were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Mike Nicholas following a long battle in hospital, and that of Damien Laker, our web-master. We are conscious of our mortality and the delight of every day lived, particularly when angling, thinking about angling and doing all those sociable things associated with angling, notably for trout with flies.

Our own Dr John Smart spoke in a positive and witty way about certain perils associated with fishing. While his main topic was to do with snakes, he prefaced this with some reflections on the relatively higher danger from driving in a car, particularly going long distances at night, the effects of age on the reflexes, the effects of alcohol.

Safety starts with attitude. In general do not go out fishing completely alone. People should also know where you are going, so they know where to look if you go missing. On longer trips it is best to leave your intentions in writing and where your car will be parked.

John remarked that at 30 he skied the North slope of Everest but you need to re-evaluate what is suitable for your age.

Then the talk was sub-contracted to Brian Quinn, who leads several day walks in the Hunter region, with parties of mature walkers. He dazzled some of us with the array of possible communications equipment including satellite phones and emergency beacons. Sensibly one would schedule daily calls to the spouse. Likewise, have maps laminated in plastic and write on them with wax or other adhering pencil.

John then addressed snakes. The first rule is not to interfere with them. 95% of all snake bites arise from the snake being interfered with. It is good to watch where you are going as anglers tend to fish places that snakes inhabit. Snakes like warm rocks, so pay attention!

Sensible clothing is the go, and never go barefoot in snake country.

Long pants, waders and gaiters are the best. Bites are commonly at the end of a limb. If one is bitten, then apply a compression bandage, winding from the extremity of the limb upwards. Then stay still. Do not walk back to a car. The bandage is good for a day or longer, preventing the venom from spreading through the nervous system. The companion can then seek help and get the bitten person to hospital.

Transport should be brought to the victim, and no food nor drink should be taken while awaiting treatment. The bandage should not be removed until the hospital is ready to apply a sufficient quantity of anti-venine.

CSL research shows that most bites are not envenomated, and that there are no deaths from Black Snake bites. 60% of deaths are from Brown Snake bites; 25% Tiger Snake bites. There is no effective first aid for bites, just the compression bandage. Drunkenness and unattended children are risks. Sometimes one does not notice a snake bite, and they are not always painful, but then there can set in headaches and abdominal pain.

John emphasised we should all carry a couple of compression bandages on all fishing outings. He furnished each of us with a two page memorandum from the Australian Venom Research Unit on pressure- immobilisation. It might be good for this paper to be placed on the Society's web site, together with a summary of current satellite phone and emergency beacon equipment, and where to get it.

John suggested checking the website address www.avru.org/compendium/biogs/A00006b.htm as a source of additional information..

O'Beron



Jeff Brown (at left) was our guest speaker at our February Luncheon Meeting. Jeff is a Tablelands Guide principally fishing and guiding on the waters around Oberon and Lithgow. Jeff started his fly fishing career in the early 1980s, started teaching fly casting in the early 1990s and established his current business Riverlands Sweetwater Fishing in 1997. Jeff spoke to us about the practical difficulties of reliably locating fish in areas that are typically seasonal. It is little wonder he spoke fondly of Thompsons Creek Dam and Lake Lyall. More information about Jeff and his operation can be found at www.riverlands.sweetwaterfishing.com.au

Jindabyne in a Heatwave

This year, my annual late January pilgrimage to Jindabyne was a great weight-losing exercise. Daytime temps reached 38 degrees, not a cloud in the sky, only the odd puff of wind. Lake Jindabyne, as seen from the fabulous new balcony at Birken Lodge, looked like glass all week. The only positive aspect was that the flies didn't like the heat either and stayed mostly away.

For the first two days I had the pleasure of the company of Rodney Tonkin, who had spent the prior week at Gaden Hatchery fin-clipping (with other volunteers) 50,000 rainbow and brown trout fingerlings. He fished Lake Jindabyne most evenings till midnight, and all he had to show for his fishing efforts was one rainbow trout of about a pound. Not an encouraging start to proceedings!

As Rodney likes to fish lakes, we went to Lake Eucumbene on my first full day, Sunday 25th January. He took me to Frying Pan Caravan Park. What a godforsaken, dry, dusty, hopeless looking place. We drove to a spot he called Rushes Bay (allegedly this bay was used during the 1999 world flyfishing tournament). The lake was around 24% capacity but had visibly fallen about 3 feet recently. Still, good looking water, once you got to it via a brisk and hot walk, but no joy in our morning fishing efforts. Had a look at Frying Pan arm, the top of which these days is about 2 km down the valley from the caravan Park, and O'Neills Bay which is only a slight indentation in the Frying Pan shoreline. Lots of grasshoppers blowing onto the water but nothing stirring underneath.

Returned to Rushes Bay after 4pm, hotter than ever, fished opposite sides of the bay. Rodney hooked and landed a 3 pound brown at 6.30 pm, myself a 1 pound rainbow at 7 pm. About that time about a dozen other flyfishers turned up, all full of glowing reports about the successes of their previous days fishing efforts: six caught here, sixteen there, fifty in two days etc. I fished with the wind and caught no more, Rodney fished into the wind (he can handle that, I can't) and caught five lovely rainbows all around 2 pounds within an hour before dusk. A very patchy fishery indeed!

The next day (Australia Day) Rodney drove home to Orange, and I went to revisit King Kong's realm upstream from Thredbo Diggings. The camping area was overflowing with tents, caravans, trailers and cars. It was difficult to find a car parking space!! Had to overtake one spinfisher and two other flyfishers to find undisturbed water well upstream from the Diggings. Fished Nobbys Hopper dry (same as all other days on the Thredbo). In the second undisturbed pool had a take, hooked and landed a magnificent fat 55 cm / 5 pound brown. That was at lunchtime, afterwards the fish became lethargic and stopped feeding. Walked back along the Alpine Way in my waders to the carpark, getting heat-dizzy and dripping sweat along the way!

Next day I went to Rainbow Lake and Sponars Lake. Had both places to myself (except for some bushwalkers). The extra elevation meant slightly cooler temps, the fish liked it too! Had the best-ever session at Rainbow Lake, total tally for a mornings fishing 12 browns all on dry flies (most popular with the fish being Shaving Brushes). The fish this year were noticeably bigger than previously, caught some over a pound, had two sniffs from 2-3 pound fish, very exciting!).

Greg Prowse joined me for the next few days for some more dry flyfishing. We fished various sections of the Thredbo, including some unsuccessful dusk sessions around (continued page 11)



Nimbo Fork Lodge

Boutique fly fishing resort.

Bookings now open

Located at Tumut, NSW on the banks of the beautiful Tumut River, four hours drive from Sydney.

Stream, lake and pond fishing year-round

Accommodation and all meals included. Come and sample the wares of our top class chef and be guided by the region's most outstanding guides. Have a gourmet riverside picnic or try the only drift boats in NSW.

Accommodates 12 couples.

Conferences and Board meetings our specialty.

"There's a spot for you at Nimbo Fork"

330 Nimbo Road
Tumut NSW 2720

Ph 02-69449099

Fax 02-69449090

Email: nimbofork@bigpond.com

Website: www.nimboforklodge.com.au

North and South

Two reports of recent fishing trips made by Members to the North and South Islands of New Zealand.

North Island

Christiane and I just spent a week in the most agreeable company of Julia and Paul Overton at Taupo and then two more days on our own at Rotorua.

Apart from some sightseeing, bushwalking, and lolling about in mineral pools of varying degrees of composition and temperature (all allegedly very good and therapeutic), there was some serious fishing done.

Taupo was all river fishing. We had one magnificent day in the wilderness on the Ngaruroro River (helicoptering in with HeliSika from Poronui Ranch), and also fished a spring creek (tributary of the Waikato) on a private property, as well as the Waitahanui River from its mouth to a fair way upstream.

Virtually all sight fishing, mostly with dry flies of assorted sizes and patterns, to mid sized to largish rainbows. In addition in the Waitahanui there were some very large browns on their spawning run from Lake Taupo, but they didn't want to play the game. Two of them actually took a nymph, but appeared half-hearted about it, and I missed both. All very exciting but on the spring creek, the "cutty grass" fairly shredded my waders so that thereafter I fished mainly with wet feet. Luckily the water wasn't too cold..

At Rotorua it turned out that our lodgings, Troutbeck Lodge at Ngongotaha, is conveniently located on the lake, right next to the Waiteti stream mouth. On our first afternoon there, once checked in, I wandered down to the "rip", had six casts, caught two nice rainbows to 3 pounds in half an hours fishing. However things went rapidly downhill from there, caught only one more fish, despite diligent early morning / evening / night fishing in that spot. The locals assured me that this is THE place around the lake to pick up double digit browns and rainbows. However, no such "big" luck for anyone whilst I was there.

All up, caught 22 rainbows up to 5 pounds, lost a similar number by way of LDR (long distance release), had a great time! Look forward to Chris and Kim's report on their visit to the South Island.

GeeBee



I don't know what they see in New Zealand or why anyone would ever want to go there, do you ? Paul Overton with a lovely NZ Rainbow taken on an earlier trip and Chris Blyth with a suitably fine Kiwi brown.

South Island

Yes a good time but a tough time fishing with Kim & Ian Davis (Lakeside) in McKenzie country and central south Island. Prior to our arrival there had been 4" or more of rain across the entire region. It was raining all the way from Christchurch to Twizel on the Saturday afternoon we arrived and didn't really clear until Monday.

The first section of the Tekapo we fished was cloudy but fishable, however no luck with nothing sighted. The next section a day or so later below the Grays and Maryburn confluence was clear and whilst a number of browns were

North and South (continued)

sighted, I could only land a small one and a little rainbow. My unlikely catch however was two sockeye salmon, one a dull grey on a hares ear and the other brilliant orange and hump headed on a beadhead nymph. Both were 2lb – 3lbs. The river was absolutely full of these spawning fish.

The lower Auhuriri was right up and dirty but still fishable and we fished this area twice from the delta up to Ben Lomond. I hooked two rainbows about 3lbs on a black pogo nymph and landed one. Saw many fish in flooded areas and backwaters out of the current, browns mainly but wouldn't take dries or nymphs, very frustrating.

We fished the upper reached above Ben Avon twice where the water was crystal and saw some lunkers, about 10 in 1.5 hours on one morning but these guys are educated. By late morning the wind was up and we relocated.

The next time was more successful fishing with cicada patterns, Ian landed a 5lb brown whilst Kim and I caught legal rainbows. A lengthy trip to the upper Hakatamea followed by the Maerewhenua created frustration when both of these rivers were like chocolate milkshakes. As Paul Kelly said "the colour of the coffee spelled a warning, it was the colour of the river but not nearly as brown!"

Relocating to Fairlie we fished the Opihi below the gorge which was also cloudy, spotting a couple of nice browns amongst the willows and also fished a number of points lower down between Pleasant Point and Temuka. Fish were present but very fussy. We had bagged out here 3 years ago! The water was still cloudy however and our tried and proven tactics from 2006 weren't working. Finally removing the strike indicator and beadhead I landed a nice 4.5lb brown on a single hares ear size 14. As the fish was bleeding from the gills and wouldn't revive I dispatched it. It had three large whitebait in it indicating that it had been lower down in the river, which makes sense given all the rain that had occurred.

We fished the Upper Opuha (above the dam) which was very clear and whilst the rain had removed the didymo it also removed everything else from the stones it seemed. We saw the same guide here (Steve Carey from Twizel) two days in a row so as we were advised, everyone was doing it tough. A morning on the Grays yielded one legal brown to Ian and nothing to Kim or to me.

Fished as well the Opuha tailrace which yielded browns to 7lb 3 years ago but yet again the level was right up and the water too dirty and difficult to wade. Saw two browns taking shelter on the edge but very spooky.. An amazing sight in a lagoon like cut off section of the river amongst the matagouri was an enormous brown close to 900mm in length. Guided by Kim and Ian I had numerous casts to it using dries and emergers however it just lay doggo. There were at least two other large browns in this water as well.

Final river fished was the Temuka which is a pretty stream. There were a few fish present and there was also a goat, but I won't say too much about that for fear of retribution!

Blythe

NZ Hint: If anyone has felt soled wading boots in good condition and is worried about going to New Zealand and possibly transferring didymo between streams and lakes, a simple solution is to get your local Simms' retailer to order you a pair of the new replacement "Vibram" soles and have your bootmaker glue them on. A fraction of the cost of a new pair of boots. Paul Overton.

BP's **ALL NEW HANDY** HINTS

We are all high on enthusiasm when we first arrive at a fishing destination. However, curb your instinctive urge to rush up and put a fly on the water. Keep well away from the edge, keep your rod horizontal - **keep the tip down at all times**, - stop, look, listen and wait – then wait a bit longer. Look for shadows, under-water structures, the edges of runs – foam lines, and

anything "different" – where a fish might lie. Above all, look and listen for that wonderful telltale rise, and then be prepared to wait while you identify a feeding pattern, as the fish could be patrolling a "beat". Be very patient and plot this out before you make that careful first cast well in front of the fish. Your first cast will always be the best chance.

When "blind casting" – to likely places, rather than to sighted fish – start on your own bank with most, if not all, the flyline on the bank and only the leader on the water. Keep your casts short, as long casts across a stream with all that flyline in the air, and then falling on the water, are far more likely to frighten every fish in the vicinity.
BP.

Fly Tying & Auction Night



2009 FLY TYING AND AUCTION NIGHT

The New South Wales Rod Fishers' Society invites members and their guests to attend the 2009 Fly Tying and Auction Night at the NSW Sports Club, 10-14 Hunter Street, Sydney at 6.30 pm on Friday, 19th June, 2009.

Entry is free and the evening will feature fly tying demonstrations and practical tuition combined with an auction of items to come under the hammer of our special guest auctioneer, Sean McSharry. Members wishing to place items in the auction should contact the function organiser, Greg Prowse, please note that there is a limit of 3 items per Member.

RSVP by 12th June 2009 to Greg Prowse tel. 0414 712 501 or e-mail at growse2@bigpond.com.

John Bridgewater

It is with extreme sadness that we record the passing of our good friend and Honorary Member, John Bridgewater of Ando, Bungarby. Those who knew John will find it hard to believe that such a person of his physical stature and apparent strength would be likely to be lost so early in life but his passing shows only that disease does not discriminate.

John and his wife Vicky have been good friends to the NSW Rod Fishers Society building on an association that went back at least one further generation. Many Members have enjoyed their time fishing the McLaughlin on their property, although the continuing drought has made their water more difficult in recent times. John and Vicky very kindly hosted a barbeque for Members after a recent Cooma Landowners Dinner and many will gratefully recall the hospitality of that day. John will be missed by us all and our continuing thoughts go out to his family.

A more complete and appropriate tribute to John and his life will appear in the NSW Rod Fishers' Journal.

2009 Oberon Landowner's Dinner

Around 50 landowners, Rodfishers, their partners and guests presented for another excellent night at the Oberon show-grounds.

As per usual the evening commenced with a few settling ales and wines accompanied by tall tales. The Oberon area is still extremely dry but Members had been out on Saturday scaring what fish they could. Ken Purcell and John Humphries were observed by a very reliable (but unnamed) source indulging in a free mud treatment at Oberon Dam. It is uncertain if they caught any fish for their trouble. John Smart and Nick Tattersall (who was accompanied by his parents Ian and June on a holiday from England) caught a couple of nice fish in the Brisbane Waters Creek. They did report very low water levels. There was also much talk about the amazing number of willow grubs, how the fish keyed on them and a number of "secret" fly patterns.

The MC, Greg Prowse, introduced the President who made a mercifully short speech thanking the Landowners for their persistence and management in such trying times. After the main course Paul Kurtz replied on behalf of the Landowners, with a couple of excellent jokes and a wish for more rain. Desert followed with more talk, tales and organisation of fishing for the following day. Given the beautiful weather on Sunday, I imagine that many fish were grassed.

Thanks need to go to Richard Levingston and Greg Prowse for their organisation of the evening as everything went without a hitch and also to the ladies of the Oberon Showgrounds Committee also for their excellent service.

If you have not been to this dinner or not been for a while mark it in your diaries for next year. It always lives up to its reputation as a highlight in the Rodfishers annual calendar of events.

Rod Fishers' Calendar of Events

*Special Note regarding Luncheon Meetings

Bookings for Luncheon Meetings must be made 3 days prior. Contact: 1896 (previously the Hunter) Dining Room, NSW Sports Club Telephone: 02-9233 3899

NSW Sports Club dress regulations: smart casual

Mobile telephones: the use of mobile telephones inside the NSW Sports Club is discouraged.

Doors for luncheons will not be opened before 12.30 pm. Members arriving early are invited to meet in the Ground Floor Bar where drinks may be purchased.

Cancellations must be received no later than 11.30 am on the day of the Luncheon. Later cancellations will be subject to the full Luncheon charge.



Advertising

Tight Lines Bulletin has a direct distribution of 350 copies to Members and friends.

The Tight Lines Bulletin is now available on-line and has a much wider readership and following.

Advertising space is available from \$30.00 per 1/4 page to \$50.00 for 1/2 page. Artwork must be supplied.

Contact Jim Eichler on tel. (02) 9949 4069 or by e-mail at info@nswrodfisherssociety.

Monthly Council Meeting

NSW Sports Club
10 Hunter Street, Sydney
Date: Tuesday, 5 May 2009
Time: 6.00 pm

Monthly Luncheon*

NSW Sports Club
10 Hunter Street, Sydney
Date: Thursday, 7 May 2009
Time: 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm.
Cost: \$50.00

Monthly Council Meeting

NSW Sports Club
10 Hunter Street, Sydney
Date: Tuesday, 2 June 2009
Time: 6.00 pm

Monthly Luncheon*

NSW Sports Club
10 Hunter Street, Sydney
Date: Thursday, 4 June 2009
Time: 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm.
Cost: \$50.00

Fly Tying & Auction Night

NSW Sports Club
10 Hunter Street, Sydney
Date: Friday 19 June 2009
Time: 6.30 pm
Cost: Free
Bookings: Greg Prowse 0414 712 501

Monthly Luncheon*

NSW Sports Club
10 Hunter Street, Sydney
Date: Thursday, 2 July 2009
Time: 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm.
Cost: \$50.00

Monthly Council Meeting

NSW Sports Club
10 Hunter Street, Sydney
Date: Tuesday, 7 July 2009
Time: 6.00 pm

Monthly Council Meeting

NSW Sports Club
10 Hunter Street, Sydney
Date: Tuesday, 4 August 2009
Time: 6.00 pm

Monthly Luncheon*

NSW Sports Club
10 Hunter Street, Sydney
Date: Thursday, 6 August 2009
Time: 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm.
Cost: \$50.00

Annual Dinner

Date: Friday, 14 August 2009 (tbc)

Monthly Council Meeting

NSW Sports Club
10 Hunter Street, Sydney

Date: Tuesday, 1 September 2009
Time: 6.00 pm

Monthly Luncheon*

NSW Sports Club
10 Hunter Street, Sydney
Date: Thursday, 6 August 2009
Time: 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm.
Cost: \$50.00

Remaining 2008-2009 "Penarth" Dates

Members will recall that in response to the results of the recent survey the Council has arranged for the Society to obtain priority bookings at "Penarth" Oberon over the coming season. The remaining dates for this Season are 8-10 May 2009. Members interested in taking up one of the priority bookings should direct their enquiries to Greg Prowse gprowse2@bigpond.com or 0414 712 501.

Jindabyne in a Heatwave (cont)

Paddys Corner. Upstream, around the Skitube and Thredbo Diggings, we found many resident browns, including some big fish! However the river was low and very clear, and the heat made concentration a bit difficult. Thus, our daily tallies were not great, 4 or 5 fish caught being a good result. But we regularly had a chance of shots at "lunkers" to keep up the excitement. Caught two more of those, of 3 and 4 pounds respectively. Missed quite a few more too!

The total tally for the three of us during the week was 36 fish, mostly browns, except for Rodney's Eucumbene rainbows and some 12 inch rainbows from Sponars Lake (what a surprise) and the Thredbo and Moonbah Rivers. Considering the conditions, not bad at all!

Gee Bee



Who could forget King Kong ?

The New South Wales Rod Fishers' Society Incorporated

Postal Address

c/- The Honorary Secretary
New South Wales Rod Fishers' Society
15 Parkwood Grove, Pymble 2073

Patron

Lofty Tottenham OAM (Honorary Life Member)

President

Andrew McKenzie
9 Davidson Avenue, Warrawee, N.S.W. 2074
Telephone/Facsimile 02 9489 3372

Honorary Treasurer

Peter Pengilly
37 Cecil Street, Gordon 2072
Telephone 02 9498 8390 (Private)
Facsimile 02 9403 1490

Honorary Secretary

Andrew Harris
15 Parkwood Grove, Pymble 2073
Telephone 02 9498 6356 (Private) 0402 126 206 (Mobile)
E-mail: info@nswrodfisherssociety.com

Councillors

Gerhard Benz (Field Trips)
Greg Prowse (Functions)
Warren Stoyles
David Hodgson (Senior Vice President)
Jim Eichler (Immediate Past President)
Paul Overton
Chris Blyth

Membership Secretary

Andrew McKenzie
E-mail: info@nswrodfisherssociety.com

New Members are always welcome. Applications for membership can be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary with a cheque covering the joining fee of \$116 (incl. GST) and the first year's subscription of \$66 (incl. GST). The joining fee includes a complimentary copy of the Society's Centenary publication, "The Flowing Stream". If you already have this book, the joining fee will be proportionately reduced. If you do not know current Members to propose and second your Membership Application you are invited to contact the Membership Secretary or the Honorary Secretary so that they can make the appropriate arrangements to submit your Membership Application at next meeting of the Society's Council.

Editor Tight Lines Journal

Geoffrey King
E-mail: info@nswrodfisherssociety.com

Editor Tight Lines Bulletin

Ken Musgrove
E-mail: info@nswrodfisherssociety.com

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

For CFA news and events see www.freshwateranglers.com.au

Advertising

For advertising in this Bulletin please contact
Jim Eichler
Telephone/Facsimile 02 9949 4069
E-mail: info@nswrodfisherssociety.com

In the next Tight Lines Bulletin

The next issue of the Tight Lines Bulletin (Issue #100) will be my last as Editor. As such it will, other than containing the required Notice of Annual General Meeting and other obligatory reports reflect the subjects and articles I have most liked and enjoyed over the period of my involvement with the Bulletin.

New Members

We welcome Peter Boyd and Isaac Laker as new Members of the Society. We hope that you enjoy all the Society has to offer and look forward to extending a personal welcome to you both at one of our upcoming functions or meetings.



COMPLEATangler

FLY FISHING SPECIALISTS.

Huge range of rods in stock: Sage, Winston, Loomis. Innovator and more – cast before you buy.

Fly Reels from: Abel, Tibor, Ross, Hardy, Scientific Anglers, BFR, Felty and Sage.

We stock a comprehensive range of fly lines and accessories.

Custom line-rigging and splicing on request – fly casting tuition available.

Fly tying materials and tools for every occasion plus a large range of flies for fresh and salt water, including specialist patterns for New Zealand and Tasmania.

**3rd Floor, Dymocks Building
428 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000**

Ph: (02) 924 1 2080 Fax: (02) 9233 8987

The Compleat Angler Sydney continues to offer all Members a standing 10% discount on its normal prices (all sales and other special offer prices are excluded)