



# *The Lure of Fishing*

*July/August 2015*

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## **Matt's update**



Another few months have flown by, the good fishing makes time fly. The fishing has been fantastic on the rivers with great numbers of fish, mostly great size and condition.

Off the water things have been busy too. Fly tying classes have been well attended. Pat Swift took a class on saltwater flies which has everyone looking forward to summer. We have had the Loop boys back at the club as well, this time doing some free casting tuition, and a talk on saltwater fly fishing from Juan.

We have heaps of events going on at the club over the next 6 months, I hope everyone can join in.

Tightlines

*Matt Pate*

***Club President***

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# Welcome to our new members!

James Arnold

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## Club prize giving!

Club prize giving will be Friday 21st August starting at 5.30, with prizes awarded from 7pm

Bar will be open, specials offered between 6 - 7pm including nibbles, raffles will also be running

\$50 bar tab will be drawn out from members that are attending only (must be there to win).

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# Events calendar

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Manager</b>
Fly Tying Competition	28-Aug-15	Matt
Fly Fishing For Beginners	6-Sep-15	Craig
Host Tairua Fishing Club	2-Oct-15 4-Oct-15	
Club Birthday	3-Oct-15	Matt
Back Country Long Weekend	11-Oct-15 13-Oct-15	Craig
Smoke off	8-Nov-15	Matt
Papa Aroha Club Weekend	12-Nov-15 15-Nov-15	Trudi
Fly Casting Competition	6-Dec-15	Matt
Raft and fish the Tongariro	15-Dec-15	Matt
Club open day - bring a guest fishing	7-Feb-16	Matt
Club tournament	Mar-16	Committee
Sponsors night	Apr-16	Matt
Fly Fishing For Beginners	3-Apr-16	Craig
Salt water Fly Fishing weekend Tauranga Harbour	TBC	Andrew
Land based Gamefishing East Cape	TBC	Andrew

## **BACK COUNTRY FISHING TRIP**

We are looking into a 3 day, back-country fishing trip. The idea is to chopper into the mountains and spend a couple of nights in tents, or perhaps a hut, next to one of the early firing rivers.

It's strictly BTO everything – we'll chat about food the like nearer the time.

Price is nominally \$350 per head for the chopper rides to and from and if we arrange a hut that will be extra.

Numbers are limited to 4, so if you are keen please get your name to Craig to add onto the list ASAP. Craig's number is 0274 977 326.

## **Would you like a quick, FREE introduction to fly fishing?**

**Come along** to a morning introduction to fly fishing – if you like it you carry on fishing all day!

- No boring classroom sessions.
- No practicing on the grass paddocks.
- We'll show you how it's done on a local river, inhabited by wild rainbow and brown trout and you might even get to catch some.

**No gear – no problem.** You can hire or buy what you don't have from Taupo Rod and Tackle, located at the lake end of Tongariro St., opposite the big silver fish. If you can't get there the day before, let us know sizes and we will have these for you at the club for the Friday night briefing. Hire costs are: \$35 for waders, boots, rod, reel, and fly line.

### **What you will need on the day:**

- Waders including boots, 6-9 weight fly rod, reel and a floating fly line.
- A valid Taupo Fishing licence – you can buy one on-line or from Taupo Rod and Tackle for \$17 for a day licence.
- Some flies in sizes 10 to 14 - a few natural nymphing flies like caddis, hare and copper, pheasant tail, Quasimodo or whatever your fishing mate recommends (weighted or unweighted) and some glow bugs (egg patterns) in whatever colour you fancy. You can get advice from your local fishing shop.
- Some split shot if using unweighted flies (we recommend size SSG

or similar).

- Leader material – tapered leaders are optional – we recommend 6 to 8 lb Maxima monofilament line – you might need 25m?
- Your happy face, some patience and any refreshments you might want. Don't bring too much as we will be walking around. You might want to bring a camera?

Interested? Then call **Craig on 0274 977 326** to book your place as number are limited. We will all meet in the Taupo Club Rooms opposite the AC baths entrance, from 6pm to 7:30pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September to check your gear, rig your rods, advise what to wear under your waders, firm a place and time to meet on Saturday morning, exchange stories on the big ones that got away, taste some smoked trout and have a few cold ones.

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## Importance of winter weather to Lake Taupo

An important process takes place in our great lake over winter which is essential to the health of the fishery. The following is an extract from an article that appeared in Target Taupo in July 2003:

“Because the lake is so deep, the way the water (and nitrogen) behaves in Lake Taupo changes with the seasons. In the summer time, the top 40m of the lake is heated by the sun, warming a well-lit upper layer. This warm layer floats on top of a cool, unlit layer of water reaching down to the bottom.

The layering process is called thermal stratification. The density gradient or thermocline is the boundary between the warm light and cool dark layers. This acts as a physical barrier that stops many dissolved and floating substances from moving between the layers. Deep day-time

trillion exploits the fact that rainbow trout often concentrate near the thermocline, where smelt are abundant and the water is relatively cool.

During the summer, inorganic nitrogen in the top well-lit layer of the lake is rapidly taken up by microscopic free-floating algae (also called phytoplankton.) Algae use up most of this nitrogen, so that inorganic nitrogen levels in the top layer are lower over summer. However, inorganic nitrogen levels in the bottom layer remain higher because there are no algae growing in the darker water to use it up.

Dead Algae from the top layer slowly settle to the bottom of the lake, taking nitrogen with them. As the algae decay, the nitrogen is re-released back into the deep water. In this way, algae act as a one-way pump in the summer, moving nitrogen from the surface to deeper waters.

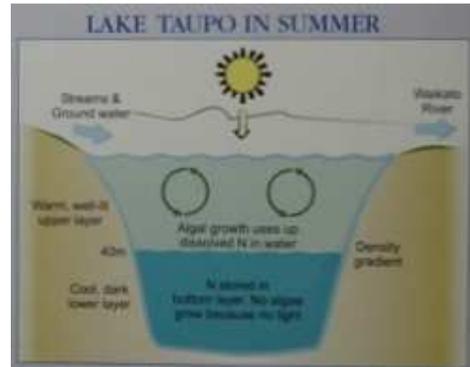
As the season progresses through autumn to winter, the warm upper layer of water cools. From July onwards, the temperature difference between the two layers has all but disappeared. Together with the stronger winter winds, this usually leads to the two layers mixing together. The mixing process means that the nitrogen stored in the bottom layer is spread upwards through the whole lake. The extra nutrients in the upper well-lit layer can result in a burst of algae growth over winter. This is why the lake looks the murkiest in late winter/ early spring.

With the approach of summer, the upper layer begins to warm. As soon as the lake stratifies again (forms layers), the winter growth of algae and the nitrogen they have accumulated falls to the lake floor and the seasonal cycle begins again."

Ok.. so why is this important?

Algae is a key part of the food chain for the lake. Good levels of algal growth can sustain good numbers of smelt, which in turn become a major food source for trout. We have seen some mild, calm winters when the lake did not "mix". This resulted in low levels of algae and smelt, and smaller poor conditioned trout in the following summer.

So on the next cold, windy winters day, look out the window and remember how important this is for our fishery.



## Where are all the fishing photos???

If you have any photos you would like to see in the newsletter please email [editor@taupofishingclub.co.nz](mailto:editor@taupofishingclub.co.nz)

We have a copy of the latest issue of NZ Trout Fisher magazine for the best fishing photo - so be in to win!

The winner this time is Shawn Sangster - your magazine will be in the post shortly!



Shawn Sangster caught this 2.21kg Jack out of the Hinemaiaia on 26 July 2015

John Black, Athol Curtis, Gary Laskey, and Didymo Dave had a great trip up the Tauranga-Taupo!





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# Lake Taupo food web update

Kia ora all,

As autumn conditions settle in this provides a good time to give a brief update on how my PhD research on the Lake Taupo Food web is progressing. The long, warm summer that we had this year provided perfect conditions for field work. As a result, the project has really been gaining momentum and I am very excited about how things will develop over the next six months. Keep an eye out for updates!

## **Project progress:**

Earlier this week I was down in Taupo doing deep water sampling. The cold crisp weather was a little harsh on our hands first thing in the morning but we still managed to get through sampling without any major setbacks. Currently the difference in temperature between the surface and bottom waters is 1°C. It won't be long now until the lake completely mixes at this rate. I now have one more sampling campaign in August then that is the bulk of my field data collected.

Prof. Hamilton is currently hosting a water resource engineering student from the University of California Davis, Derek Roberts, who is here on a Royal Society exchange programme. He will be here for six weeks and is helping me with field work and lake modelling during that time. Derek has expertise in nearshore water quality in Lake Tahoe (California, USA) and we are exploring the idea of using some of his monitoring techniques to better understand the Taupo nearshore zone.

In March I mentioned kakahi (freshwater mussel) research and my collaboration with Associate Professor Helené Cyr from the University of Toronto. Helené has been doing a fantastic job and we are starting to see some very interesting results indicating the kakahi may in fact be important "ecosystem engineers". I hope to provide more information on this as we process more samples and analyse results.

Over the last several months, I have been refining the techniques used for measuring the stable isotope signatures of dissolved nutrients in the water in Lake Taupo using the GNS Science's Laboratory in Wellington. Stable isotope analysis is an environmental tracer technique that allows us to understand who is eating who in the food web as well as exploring important nutrient cycling properties such as nitrogen uptake by plants and bacterial denitrification. The big issue with samples from Lake Taupo

so far has been that there is very little nutrient in the water samples to analyse! However, we have managed to refine the techniques used and are now making great progress on generating data.

**Biofish sampling:**

The Biofish is an instrument owned by the University of Waikato which can be towed behind a boat to measure water quality parameters (temperature, electrical conductivity, pH & chlorophyll *a*) throughout the water column. Professor Hamilton has secured funding from Mighty River Power for this work. I am planning on completing another run next week and then again in August.

**Further developments:**

I am still working on writing up two publications which I aim to submit to peer-reviewed journals before the end of the year. The first one, a literature review discussing research which integrates nutrient cycling and food web dynamics in lakes, is very near submission to a journal. The other, an analysis of the twenty-year water quality data set for Lake Taupo, is still in the draft stage. In August and November I will be presenting my preliminary research findings to conferences in Dunedin (Stable Isotope Network of New Zealand) and Wellington (NZ Freshwater Sciences Society) respectively. These will be invaluable opportunities to receive feedback on my research from a range of national and international experts.

If anybody would like to know more information on any aspect of this project, or would like to bring something to my attention, please do not hesitate in contacting me. Please feel free to circulate this to other groups that I may have missed off the mailing list. If you do, it would be great if you could inform me so that they can be included next time.

Simon Stewart

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## Free firewood anyone?

Does anyone have some firewood that they could donate to the club?

It helps to keep the clubrooms warm over the winter especially during fly tying classes!

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# Club merchandise

Caps \$20 each

Shirts also available

You can check out a sample of the shirts at the club

Order at the bar with payment at the time of ordering



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## On the Lake and in the River



Winter fishing has returned with the gusto of the early 2000s. What a season! And about time too. Our DOC scientists have been promising a bumper year and it appears they were spot on this time. Perhaps there is a science to managing a fishery....

Late snow in mid-June and two really heavy periods of rain have sparked the runs of fresh fish into full-on action. Not all the action favoured the fly fishers as the torrential rain caused two "floods" of the Hinemaiaia, with the first resulting in the loss of pools and banks and of course introducing a whole new and dense network of snags. A lot of the sure-fire pools of early June have transformed into fairly average runs but there have also been some positives with a the scouring out of a few of the good old pools that had previously been filled in. The pool under the state highway bridge is a good example of this and is recently holding some fresh fish. The loss of the true left bank and the path upstream of cliff pool is one of the areas where extra care is needed when walking between pools.

With these changes to the river bed we have in essence a new river, so some nice sections of water to explore. The Hine's reputation as a high consumer of flies has certainly not changed, but it's still a worthwhile stream to fish. It remains our first choice and has produced heaps of fish really consistently, in fact so much so that it regularly looks like Queen Street. Word gets around fast. Mid-week is not as bad for those lucky enough to have the time.

The Tongariro has also been performing very well and has fished sooner after the heavy rains than most rivers, making it a bit congested too. But it's full of fish worth a day at that end of the lake.

The TT has also faired well and seems to handle the additional angler pressure a little easier than the smaller rivers. The river bed has not changed a lot from last season and we found the regular holes to be still holding fish. And without a whole lot of new snags which can make things easier.

I went up the Waitahanui on the second weekend of August and was really pleasantly surprised. The tracks were good and there were fresh fish to be found in the mid-section that I fished. It's a good river to fish and there is not much angler pressure, so I suggest you give it a go.

You will have read the media reports on the proposed fish cultivation plans, through likely modification of the National Trout Hatchery in Turangi, that form part of an Agreement in Principle to Settle Historic Claims between Ngati Tuwharetoa and the Crown. You will be aware that I represent you all through my engagement and representation on the Taupo Fishery Advisory Council. I am not at liberty to comment (so not sure how on earth I represent you guys here) but strongly advise that you take the time to Google the Office of Treaty Settlement (OTS) and dig in the site to find the Agreement in Principle between Ngati Tuwharetoa and the Crown. (If battling you could try the following hyperlink: <http://nz01.terabyte.co.nz/ots/fb.asp?url=livearticle.asp?ArtID=-573153686>>). This document is open to all to view and will detail the concerns that we have on the impact such an agreement will have on the fishery. I urge you all to become engaged with the proposal and do what your heart and conscience guides you. After all, it is our fishery, one of the best in the world, and I would be gutted to see this magnificent wild fishery put at risk.

We were fortunate enough to have the Loop experts in town a few weeks back and they spent some time showing a few of us how to fly cast properly. To be more correct, we were shown what we were doing wrong – now we just have to unlearn a few years of habits and we'll all be experts! Thanks Juan, it was a great session and I wish had a day to spend with you. I've got lots to learn...

The events calendar is having a revamp so look out for the Fly Fishing For Beginners day in September, a Back Country Long Weekend in October and of course the Club Birthday on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. If you have any bright ideas on how we could make club even better, then please let a committee member know and we'll see what can be done.

The weather has been a little too cold and I have been way too soft to

venture out on the Great Lake this winter, so I have nothing to report. The next issue will have a lake report as I have a new yak to initiate ...

I hope to see you up a river nearby, tight lines and dry feet.

Tight lines

*Craig*



Tom with the one that didn't get away!      Another Hine trout pulls some line



# Weigh Masters Report

Club weigh-in is the first Sunday of each month, from 4pm at the clubrooms. Any fish caught that weekend can be weighed in.

## Weigh-in Results to 9th August 2015

Shawn Sangster	6.86
Craig Woolacott	5.09
Gary Preston	3.80

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## Rosters

### BAR

21 August	Trudi McHale
28 August	June
4 Sept	Andrew King
11 Sept	Sylvia C
18 Sept	Matt Pate
25 Sept	Craig W

### CLEANING

August	McHales
Sept	Craig W

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## **2016 Taupo Fishing Club committee**

**President** Matt Pate  
**Treasurer** Leanne Nielsen  
**Secretary** Trudi McHale  
**Newsletter Editor** Ariell King

### **Committee members**

Andrew King, Debbie Colebourne, .

### **Life members**

Mike Fletcher, John Davis, Russell Rountree

### **The Taupo Fishing Club is Affiliated to:**

The NZ Sport fishing Council [www.nzsportfishing.co.nz](http://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz)

International Game Fishing Association [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org)

NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers [www.nzffa.net](http://www.nzffa.net)

NZ Recreational Fishing Council [www.recfish.co.nz](http://www.recfish.co.nz)

### **Committee meetings**

Second Tuesday each month, 6:30pm at the Clubrooms

**New members always welcome!**

**If you know anyone who wants to join they can email**

[info@taupofishingclub.co.nz](mailto:info@taupofishingclub.co.nz)

*Every Friday the clubroom and bar is open from 5.30pm, families are welcome.*

*There is a weekly raffle and a membership draw at 7pm every Friday.*

*You must be present to win.*

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