

# **NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter**

**JULY 2007 Number 85**



Ken Paterson after completion of a day's work  
ova-planting at the Thomas River

**Official Newsletter of the  
New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association Incorporated  
P.O. Box 1113, Christchurch 8140**

**NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)  
2007-08 OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE**

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<b>Vice President</b>	Ron Dougherty	338 2479	
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	Phill Ball	349 5993 021 256 133	
	Brian Foley	352 8972	
	Dennis Long	352 2874	Fax 352 3708
	Alf Long	385 8651	
	James Parbery	03 312 8229	
	Ken Paterson	338 3115	
	Athol Price	332 7698	
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**Committee Meetings:** The Committee meets on the first Monday each month (except January) at 7.30 pm in the Fish & Game premises, 3 Horatio Street, Christchurch. Members and supporters are welcome to attend these meetings.

**Honorary Auditor:** Trevor Hayes

**Life Members:** Lindsay Dell, Ron Dougherty, Trevor Hayes, John Healy, Ken Hughey, Ross Lightfoot, Athol Price, Stephen Sparrow

<p><b>Disclaimer:</b> The opinions expressed in any letters and articles in this newsletter are the authors' own and are not necessarily those of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association Incorporated or the Editor.</p>
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## PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

What a fantastic month – ova forever – we've had eggs by the thousands. What a great result from the Montrose Team and the extreme efforts by all those associated with this venue to put us in this desirable position. In three years' time it will certainly not be their fault if the returns are not greatly improved.

On top of this we have had our volunteer groups grovelling, digging and planting the salmon ova in selected locations. We are so fortunate to have the support of these dedicated people which demonstrates their generosity in the interests of all salmon anglers.

Returns of spawning salmon to the high country streams are 2 to 3 times better this season, so our fishery has indications of a generating health. During March and April we had a couple of freshes in the rivers and this has obviously stimulated the fish up the rivers and passed any anticipating anglers.

During the month I attended the Fish and Game Council meeting. The structure and presentation of this meetings was impressive and I was encouraged to witness the support for stakeholders, anglers and other interested parties that came from Councillors and Fish and Game staff.

At this meeting a remit was tabled investigating or making recommendations on the Salmon Fishing Regulations. Principally the objective is to protect or increase the opportunity for spawning fish to reach their spawning redds unmolested by the early closure of the fishing season with hopefully better results. Excellent presentations were made outlining the advantages for a more positive result, including the experience of F & G Central South Island. At the same time information was presented offering alternative results, which gave good balance to the debate. This came mostly out of recent research carried out by our Fish & Game team. The end result when put to the vote recommended no changes and the status quo remain. So get ready for another full on fishing season in 2007-08 with expected better results coming our way.

Another remit was a recommendation for changes relating to net fishing in the Waimakariri River. Here again the status quo remained and the vote was for no change, as there did not appear to be any adverse effect on salmon in the river. I think our biggest threat in this instance is the reported observation of poachers actually netting across the river with nets that capture any fish in their pathway.

*(Continued on page 4)*

Closure of high country salmon spawning streams will remain, as was the case last season. This action has enhanced the spawning outcomes and greatly assists the prevention of Didymo spreading to these areas. Overall there has been great cooperation to this requirement.

It had been suggested also that the confluence of the Montrose Stream be closed to salmon fishing but so great has been the cooperation of voluntarily not fishing these waters that the status quo remained with the placement of signage seeking angler cooperation not to impose on this area during the spawning period.

We continue NZSAA's representation on the Committee of the Lower Waitaki River Management Society and Ron Dougherty and Tim Ellis have travelled to several meetings recently to participate in the preparation of the Society's submission opposing the Meridian Energy/South Canterbury Irrigation Hunter Downs irrigation scheme and the North Bank tunnel concept. The North Bank tunnel scheme proposes a fluctuating minimum environmental flow for the river down to 110cumecs between the Waitaki Dam and Stone Wall which is below the 150cumecs proposed in the Water Allocation Plan. The Hunter Downs irrigation scheme, with potential to irrigate up to 40,000ha in the Waimate district, wants minimum flow of 100 cumecs between the Waitaki dam and the sea.

NZSAA has also made a submission in opposition on the grounds of non-compliance with the Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Plan, further spread of Didymo across all streams from Waitaki to South Canterbury, effects on salmon spawning habitat, destruction of the braided river system, and lowered river flows causing pollution and invasion of previously isolated areas by rodents and other predators.

We record with sadness the death of NZSAA member Colin MacNab of Blenheim. Knowing he was terminally ill, Colin recently renewed his subscription for the current year and made a generous donation to the Association. We are grateful for this generosity and support and extend our condolences to Colin's family.

The pressure on volunteers for assistance with ova planting will ease off now and in several weeks we will have expeditions to retrieve the Scotty Boxes and Coffins used. Thank you all for your wonderful support, which in some instances has been at short notice.

**Ron Stuart**  
**PRESIDENT**

# Montrose Open Day



**CANCELLED**

Was to have been held on Sunday 15 July 2007. Cancelled at property owners' request due to Didymo risks with the property currently on the market for sale.

The 60,000 salmon smolt have been released.

Enquiries to Steve Terry, Fish & Game, phone 366 9191

## Ova Planting Thomas River - Castle Hill Saturday 9 June 2007

Twenty-four enthusiastic volunteers, including four ladies, assembled at the Yaldhurst Pub carpark at 0830 hrs on a brilliant morning, following a good frost. Previous fears were an expectation of foul weather with snow that would hamper our expedition, but not so, a far better day - it was beyond those predictions.

We travelled in convoy to the site under the direction of John Hodgson who had expertly sussed the most desirable area for the planting and had undertaken negotiations with the property owner for access.

By 10.15 a.m. we were set up and the team went into action. The shady areas were still covered with frost which remained unthawed all day but the workers were able to stay in the sun most of the day as it moved around the skyline. The boxes to be used for planting were unpacked from their cartons and placed in frosty shaded locations so they would cool down. The river temperature was 2.3° so our objective was to have the eggs/ova and boxes all within a temperature range of the water to minimise stress.

Loading the Scotty boxes with eggs is carried out by using a loading tray or plate with indentations for the eggs to collect on. The eggs are placed in a water bath and by carefully immersing the loading tray in the water and under the eggs a full tray/plate can be achieved. Then these trays are lined up with a Scotty box and the eggs transferred.

We found the most effective method for this transfer was by immersing in water and floating the eggs into the Scotty box cells. The boxes are then fully assembled and placed in our man-made "redd" in the river.



Assembling the redds was carried out with vigorous activity by pick and shovel and at times the brave used their hands in that very cold water. It is a great sight to see the mini dams along the stream where the boxes are planted just below the water surface level. The principal objective when planting the boxes is to have a steady flow of water and avoid silt buildup in the box cells.



Once the boxes are placed in the man-made redd they are supported with good size stones/rocks and tied to a metal stake. Each box is numbered with a metal plate, so we know the results when recovery takes place in a couple of months' time and we can tell if any have been lost to flooding or whatever.



Because of the number of eggs we had available to plant we could on this occasion set two barrels in the stream bed. This provided another option on the day and was good to see this technique used as the river conditions seemed ideally suited.



*(Continued on page 8)*

In all we planted 60 Scotty boxes plus the two barrels so, in 3 years' time, you may just land a Thomas River salmon. You'll be able to tell by the temperature of its nose when you land it as 2 degrees of water must have a lasting effect.

Our list of volunteers on this occasion included:

*NZSAA Committee:*

Dennis Long, Alf Long, Ken Paterson, Ron Dougherty, Ron Stuart, Phil Ball

*Fish & Game Councillors:* Peter Robinson and Steve McNeill

*Ex-Officio and Operations Director:* John Hodgson

*Volunteers and Expert Assistance:*

Maree Paterson, Graham Long, Wayne McCartney, Florence Roy, David Bashford, Jos Van Hout, Dave Millward, Graeme McLeod, Colin Eaton, Diane Eaton, Kathy Carson, Alick Kelly, David Turner, Bernard Jackson, Steve Price

Eight vehicles formed the convoy travelling up to the river, lead by Operations Director John Hodgson. This was an orderly trip, at a good pace, all arriving within minutes of each other at the entrance to the Thomas River track. However, on the way home, we discovered a *Girl Racer Star* in our midst. Yes, very capable behind the wheel and first back to the Yaldhurst Pub carpark by a country mile. We think she had in mind to be first up at the bar. Her passengers said that none of them felt sleepy at all with the drive home and arrived very much awake. Such a great transition, so I think we can say this is what you call "Going with the Flo!"

A fantastic day with a great bunch of people – thanks team "Thomas"

**Ron Stuart**

### ***Quotes of the Day***

***"Three-fourths of the Earth's surface is water, and one-fourth is land. It is quite clear that the good Lord intended us to spend triple the amount of time fishing as taking care of the lawn."***

***"Bragging may not bring happiness, but no man having caught a large salmon goes home through an alley."***

## ANGLER ACCESS

Time is moving on and we want to schedule any maintenance that may be required for Angler Access tracks, during the spring. For this we need your help – are you aware of any tracks that require cutting back or require other maintenance work?

If you can give us information on this matter could you please make contact with our Committee Field coordinators **Ken Paterson or Ron Dougherty now?**

It will be good to get early advice, because if the maintenance is beyond our normal working parties we can summons other assistance.



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## **More Ova Planting.....**

### **At the Porters, Sunday 16 June 2007**

“Hello Ron, Doug here, we have a small emergency. Can you organise a team for Sunday as we have a batch of ova ready for stream planting.” This was Wednesday, so our team went into action and we got 10 volunteers to help. Some of them were by now regular faces but there were a couple of first-timers.

Our site had been surveyed in advance by our field scout John Hodgson. (We'd have been up the creek without a paddle this season if he had not been so active earlier sorting suitable locations.)

Assembly was 0830 hours at Yaldhurst Pub carpark. The morning was cold, a bit cloudy, and it looked as if we could be in for a bleak time. Our convoy set off for destination Porters. In shaded areas there was evidence of black ice and the vehicle tyres were flicking up ice from the road. Going up Porters Pass the grit trucks had a sprinkling of grit on the road, so it was caution with the driving. The temperature outside was now down to  $-1^{\circ}$ , the mountains were obscured with low cloud, but a glimmer of the sun was trying to poke through. We crossed a paddock to arrive on an embankment approximately 150 metres above and overlooking the Porter Stream, so we unloaded and carried our boxes, tables, drums, tools, cartons and buckets that our operations organiser, Ron Dougherty, had collected together from Fish & Game storage. It was not long before heating bodies wrapped in clothing layers and waders offset the air temperature.

Just as we started loading 26 Scotty boxes, that is 26,000 eggs, the sun broke through and we were able to enjoy the pleasures of the alpine country. The water temperature in the stream was around  $8.5^{\circ}$  which was somewhat a surprise as the temperature two weeks earlier up the road at the Thomas was  $2.3^{\circ}$ . The difference was that the origin of the Porter Stream is straight out of the ground a couple of hundred metres away from where we were planting. So this batch of ova will be off to a quicker start and a favorable aspect of the site is that the water is steady, constant, and may not be subject to flooding.

Within a couple of hours we had all the Scotty boxes embedded in the river amongst weirs across the stream. So good was the planting team that it was difficult to observe a box under the water as they had them well protected with good rocks and boulders. Of a batch of some 61,303 eggs (gospel quote and count courtesy “Doug The Salmon Man Roy”) we had some 35,000 eggs to place and the secret here was to use a coffin (*terminology for a steel locker cabinet adapted to submerge in the stream bed with a good flow of water cruising its length.*)

In this coffin we layered the base with a good covering of stones and small rocks. These provide crevasses for the ova to rest amongst whilst they hatch. The eggs were distributed within the coffin and it was then bolted closed and nature takes over. Probably you could liken our activity to be giving assistance to the hand of God.

We hauled our gear back up the bank and by 2 o'clock were all sitting back enjoying the delights of our lunch boxes. It was so refreshing in the mountain air with the sun streaming down and so fresh looking were the snow tops, that it seemed a shame skiers would eventually carve tracks through the snow. If you want to spend a day in paradise then come on one of our expeditions - even the company and stories are good too. Several of the team had a wee chat to the ova as it was lowered into the river saying "OK guys I'll see you in 3 years. You've smelt my fingers, it will be the same flavour on my triple hook, so don't be shy grabbing it to meet me again."

Our volunteer team consisted of:

Colin and Diane Eaton, Warren Mackie, Peter Robinson, Colin Griffiths, Ray Baxter, Steve McNeill, John Hodgson, Ron Dougherty, Ken Paterson Ron Stuart

Thank you for your assistance team. If you enjoyed the day half as much as I did then we all had a beaut time.

*Ron Stuart*

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## Know Your C NZSAA Officer Holders, Commi

Office holders and members of your Committee have been allocated responsibility together with a photograph and telephone number. If you have questions or matters of office holders and committee members are also on the inside cover of the newsletter.



### **President, Ron Stuart**

Volunteer Co-ordinator - Administration -  
Public Relations - Promotions  
Phone: 358 9082 or 021 216 3901



### **Patron, Douglas Roy**

Montrose - Waimakariri River  
Technology - Scale Sampling  
Phone: 352 8564



### **Immediate Past President, Tim Ellis**

Environmental & Legal (Resource consents/water rights)  
Rakaia and Waitaki Rivers - Retailers liaison  
Phone: 383 0900 or 021 363 140



### **Vice President, Ron Dougherty**

Environmental & Legal (Resource consents/water rights)  
Rakaia River Promotions - Heathcote River  
Ova Planting - Stream Selection  
Phone 338 2479



### **Secretary-Treasurer, Pam Ellis**

Meetings - Administration - Finance - Membership  
Newsletter - Environmental & Legal - Constitution  
Phone 383 0900

## · Committee?

### Committee and Committee Portfolios

abilities for areas of their particular interest and expertise. These are listed below  
atters to raise with NZSAA, this will give you a guide on who to call. Full details  
newsletter each month.

#### Committee



**Phil Ball**

Waimakariri River  
Phone 349 5993 or  
021 0256 133



**Brian Foley**

West Coast fishery  
Phone 352 8972



**John Healy**

Stream improvements  
Phone 03 318 8216 or  
0274 334 511



**Dennis Long**

Silverstream  
Phone 352 2874



**Alf Long**

Silverstream  
Phone 385 8651



**James Parbery**

Hurunui River  
Phone 03 312 8229



**Ken Paterson**

Montrose  
Ova Planting  
Stream Improvements  
Phone 338 3115



**Athol Price**

Isaac Salmon Farm  
Life Memberships  
Phone 332 7698



**John Hodgson**

Ova planting - statistics  
Stream selection

#### Co-opted

**Malcolm Flain**

Scientific Research Officer  
Scale readings

## One Good Turn Deserves Another.....

Earlier this year we printed a story on the good Samaritan who helped out one of our members when he broke his rod on the river. Well, it would seem that the Samaritan, Peter Chambers, has also enjoyed some timely assistance.

Peter writes:

“As the man who offered his spare rod to Athol Price some months ago, I would like to tell you of what happened to me three days before the end of the season.

“I had driven up to the top of the Rakaia to try my luck. I parked my 4x4 Nissan at the Kowhai flats and was walking down the riverbed to fish under the cliff when I heard this car tooting. Looking round, I saw a ute driving towards me with the driver waving his arm and sounding his horn. Thinking that there was an emergency, I started to retrace my steps. The driver stopped and said in a very Irish voice “Did you know you have left your lights on?” He then offered to take me back to my car. He also said that when I had finished fishing, to call in at his caravan which was parked in the trees, and tell him how I had got on.

“In due course, I finished fishing and returned to let him know I had seen or touched nothing. I was then offered suitable refreshment!

“This man was a seaman who had fished and shot in the South Island since the late 50’s. To drive down the riverbed for a kilometer for a complete stranger was a very kind act and certainly prevented me having a flat battery and being stuck. Such acts restore one’s faith in human nature. I would like to repay him and hope we meet up next season.”

*Peter Chambers*

*14 June 2007*



### **SALMON ANGLERS CAPS**

**Promote your Association  
Buy a Cap**

The caps are navy blue, with a silver/grey salmon, orange print with white and gold stripes. Cost \$20. Each cap you purchase includes a small donation to the Salmon Recovery Programme.

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# **The Graphcast 1 Salmon Spinning Rod**

## **Composite Developments (NZ) Ltd**

### **Road Test** *by Dave Bashford*

Over the last 50 odd years I have used a variety of fishing rods - heavy solid glass models in those early years with similarly heavyweight 'coffee grinder' type reels attached. Some of these rods were store-purchased complete and others, more latterly, were made up at home from hollow fibreglass blanks. Many of these combinations were 'arm breakers'.

In my case it took a few years to realise that at the end of each fishing day - and as I got older - the arms and shoulders departments were becoming very tired indeed and something needed to be done to alleviate this.

With the advent of graphite and carbon fibre - being much lighter and stronger than older traditional materials - and now used in modern rod manufacture, I took the 'bull by the horns' and was offered the choice of two graphite salmon spinning rods to try on approval. One was a rod by a well known American maker and the other was a model made here in New Zealand.

After an 'at the coal face' session of casting and getting the general feel of handling, the New Zealand rod, the Graphcast 1, won me over.

I do not profess to be a fishing rod guru or know-it-all but rather a serious common garden variety fisherperson who wishes to express a personal opinion in the hope that it may be of some benefit to others.

#### **The Graphcast 1 Features**

*Blank construction: graphite plumb fibre, red wine in colour (iridescent plum)*

*Length overall: 2.6m (8 feet 6 inches)*

*Number of pieces: one*

*Number of line guides: eight (Fuji New Concept, gold finish)*

*Casting weights: 25 to 100 grams*

*Overall weight of rod as supplied: 270 grams (9.5 ounces)*

*Butt (handle) length: 720mm including reel seat*

*Reel seat: Fuji graphite*

*Recommended retail price with bag: approx \$449 (but shop around)*

#### **Hot**

A light, strong and powerful rod for river use - able to quickly control, tame and land with ease those larger angry salmon, thus enabling the lucky angler to avoid undue delay to other adjacent fisherfolk and minimise the risk of them nibbling their fingernails whilst marking time.

Found this rod superb in practice for controlling larger fish and steering them away from rocks and willow roots.

Has the ability to enable longer casts and with less effort than any of my old glass rods, a plus when fishing broader areas of our rivers.

### **Cold**

After about three weeks of serious fishing, the tip ring showed grooving marks and was replaced with a similar ring at the factory. Unfortunately the replacement tip ring also showed grooving after several weeks of use, even though a top brand of 20lb mono was spooled exclusively and the maximum spinner weight used was only 28 grams. A pity for such a superb rod to be let down by (in my case) inferior tip rings. A top quality silicon type of tip ring would fix the problem and result in a dandy fishing rod.

*Dave Bashford  
10 April 2007*

## **BALLINGERS** **Hunting & Fishing**

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**OPEN SEVEN DAYS**

## From Overseas



### In Russia's east, a bid to save the salmon

By C J Chivers, *The New York Times*

The wild salmon still rush the dark Utkholok and other rivers on Kamchatka, one of the last salmon strongholds on earth. They surge in spring and pulse in for months, often side by side in run after run.

All six native species of Pacific salmon remain abundant on this eastern Russian peninsula, scientists say, appearing by the tens of millions to spawn in its free-running watersheds. Even in the chill of October they come: coho and a trickle of sockeye, mixed with sea-run trout and char.

States. Together they would be more than twice the size of the Yellowstone National Park in the US.

These areas would be protected from most development. Their purpose would be to produce wild salmon - for food, profit, recreation and scientific study, and as a genetic reserve of one of the world's most commercially and culturally important fish. If approved, the plans would push Russia toward the centre of international efforts to prevent the remaining wild Pacific salmon stocks from suffering the de-

*What makes this special is that these rivers are being protected while they are still amazing fish producers."*

Now in a country with a dreary environmental record that is engaged in a rush to extract its resources, the peninsula's governments are at work on proposals that would designate 7 sprawling tracts of wilderness as protected areas for salmon, a network of refuges for highly valuable fish that would be the first of its kind.

Encompassing 9 entire rivers and 2.4 million hectares, or more than 6 million acres, the protected watersheds would exceed the scale of many renowned preserved areas in the United

clines and population crashes that have beset sturgeon, bluefin tuna and the Atlantic salmon, halibut and cod.

*"Having weighed everything from the perspective of the economy, I have convinced myself that we have to have a different future and that salmon must be allowed to return to spawn,"* said A Chistyakov, Kamchatka's first deputy governor. He said Kamchatka was selecting protection zones not to create wildlife reserves but because fish runs are the best foundation for the peninsula's economy.

Oil, natural gas and mining sectors will be developed, he said, but will provide a comparably brief revenue stream. Sustainable fishing he said, can last generations.

The government's position has surprised even scientists and conservationists who have lobbied to protect habitat from the development pressures of post-Soviet Russia.

Each year, Russian and American scientists say, from a sixth to a quarter of the North Pacific's salmon originate from Kamchatka, a peninsula about the size of California. Its endurance as an engine of sea life falls from geography and politics. Until 15 years ago it was a closed soviet military zone, untouched and almost without roads. Today it remains a remote region of volcanoes and glaciers, ringed by forested slopes and tundra laced with aquatic habitats where salmon spawn and their young grow.

Since Soviet authority evaporated however, Kamchatka has faced intensifying pressures. Prospecting has begun, mines dug, roads cut and poaching - from subsistence harvests to industrial-scale egg-stripping of salmon for caviar - has become nearly unchecked.

A few of the peninsula's salmon rivers are already depleted; others are at risk.

Estimates of the salmon fisheries' annual value range to \$600 million, and Kamchatka's sea-run fish and

their briny bright-red eggs are an important source of protein and employment for Russia and other countries.

Kamchatka's wild state was said to be its best asset and that the rivers slated for protection were among its richest in fish yield and diversity. One river, the Kol, had as many as 5 million returning salmon each year.

A recent tour of two rivers selected for protection and flights over five others showed a verdant wilderness. But in places the banks are trampled by poachers and their camps. Treads from their all-terrain vehicles have cut scars in the tundra.

The efforts to create salmon refuges formally began in 2001 when Kamchatka's administration signed a memorandum of understanding with the Wild Fishes and Biodiversity Foundation, proposing the contiguous Kol and Kekhta basins as a protected zone. Later, the governing body for the peninsula's northern section accepted a proposal to protect the contiguous Utkholok and Kvachina basins.

*"What makes this special is that these rivers are being protected while they are still amazing fish producers," Klimenko said.*

*"To preserve something that is not destroyed is much less expensive than restoring an ecosystem that is already broken.*

**Published 13 October 2006**

# Fish and Game News



## **Salmon Enhancement Programme**

As advised earlier in the newsletter, the Montrose Open Day has been cancelled. The 60,000 salmon smolt have been released to the Rakaia River. Approx. 80,000 salmon eggs are just hatching and will be grown into smolt for release to the Rakaia River this time next year, and 10,000 to Lake Coleridge.

## **Angling Regulations**

The Angling Regulations Working Party met on 6 June 2007. Twenty one anglers and angling club representatives took the opportunity to have their opinion considered by the group. The recommendations have been forwarded to the Council for further consideration.

## **Fish Rescue**

The Amuri Irrigation Company's scheme was fish salvaged by staff, rangers and volunteers when it was shut down at the end of May. 915 sports fish were rescued and returned to the Waiau River and a tributary stream downstream of the intake. 53 one year-old salmon were rescued, plus 776 trout and approx 30 native fishes including eels. 73 stranded trout in the Ashley River were relocated to Ashley Gorge bridge. Poachers had been at work judging by the knife wounds in some fish.

## **Resource Consents**

### *Central Plains Water*

In June, Jason lodged a submission on further applications by Central Plains Water to Environment Canterbury and the Selwyn District Council. A joint hearing will probably commence in mid-September. F&G will call external expert witnesses covering a range of topics relating to the Waimakariri, Rakaia, foothill streams, lowland rivers and Lake Ellesmere. Jason, Davor and Ross are also likely to present evidence on specialist topics.

### *Ngai Tahu Property Ltd*

After a long period of mediation, F&G and Ngai Tahu Property Ltd have reached a mutually acceptable conclusion on fish screening conditions which avoided the need for an Environment Court appeal hearing. New conditions were imposed which require the applicant to commission further design studies and provide for a screen which excludes salmon fry. Environment Canterbury staff will have the ultimate decision as to whether the design meets best practice criteria. F&G are optimistic this represents a positive outcome given Environment Canterbury's recent willingness to improve the standard of new fish screens.

### *Ryton Bay*

This Lake Coleridge subdivision created a lot of interest amongst F&G stakeholders. Consequently F&G put together an information pack on the development which was circulated before the close of submissions. F&G also lodged a submission in May expressing concern about the effects on the Ryton River and Lake Coleridge. A hearing date has yet to be announced.

### *Robindale Dairies/Synlait*

In June, F&G joined the appeal lodged by Dairy Holdings Ltd against this proposed take from the Rakaia River. This decision appears to be contrary to the Rakaia Water Conservation Order as it may not provide for the required amount of water to be left in the River after abstraction.

### *Barrhill Chertsey*

Staff attended a meeting at which the consultants for the Barrhill Chertsey scheme unveiled the first stages of implementing this scheme, which is based on a 17 cumec take from the Rakaia River (which was granted consent in 2002). The scheme has been picked up by Electricity Ashburton and will initially operate as a hydro scheme which discharges back to the Rakaia via the existing Highbank diversion channel. Further meetings are to be held.

### *Other Resource Consents*

Jason reached a negotiated outcome on a diversion and stormwater discharge to Leeston Creek, and Amuri Irrigation Ltd's diversion of the Hurunui River to enable repair works to their intake. Submissions were also lodged on large gravel takes from the Waimakariri and Ashley Rivers. These submissions did not oppose the gravel takes but sought conditions to minimise any effects of the works on instream and recreational values.

## **Local Plans**

### *Environment Canterbury Annual Plan 2007/2008*

In May, Jason appeared at the hearing expressing Fish & Game's concern at recent developments in the Waimakariri River Regional Park. Matters discussed including locked gates and rumours that gamebird hunting may not be allowed anywhere in the park. Councillors appeared receptive to the idea of reviving the old Advisory Group and consulting with stakeholders prior to final decisions being made on any restrictions to fishing access or hunting.

### *Hurunui River flow regime*

At a public meeting in June, Environment Canterbury revealed a new draft flow regime for the Hurunui River. This has a number of shortcomings, including minimum flows which may not provide for salmon passage in key months,

minimal protection of salmon fishable flows, and some uncertainty as to the total allocation limit and therefore the protection given to freshes and flood flows. It is also more complicated than earlier versions, with separate regimes set for different stretches of the river based on different flow measurement points, different allocation limits for different seasons, specific allocations for different uses, and specific regimes for tributaries.

### **Didymo**

Unfortunately Didymo has reached North Canterbury Region in the Hurunui River. The recent discovery of Didymo in the Rangitata River might mean that it will infest lower reaches of the Rakaia River via the RDR system.

Ross Millichamp attended a regional liaison meeting with Biosecurity NZ to discuss the ongoing management of Didymo. BNZ have indicated a willingness to continue to manage Didymo even though it is now firmly established in South Island waters.

*Stop Press: Announced in The Press 4 July: Government has approved a 3-year funding package of \$13.3 million for a long-term management plan for didymo*

### **Public Liaison**

Staff have delivered salmon ova and aquaria to ten primary and high schools participating in the Fish in Schools programme. In May Jason spoke to the AGM of the NZ Salmon Anglers Association about current and upcoming environmental issues for Fish & Game in the North Canterbury region.

### **Enforcement**

Kevin Bradley was successfully prosecuted for fishing in the Waimakariri River without a licence. He was fined a total of \$656 and forfeited his rod and reel. Garry Williams was prosecuted for fishing with a pilchard for salmon, upriver in the Waimakariri River. His defence was that he was fishing for trout, but the Judge preferred the evidence of the Ranger and our expert witness. He was fined a total of \$630. Mr Williams has previously been prosecuted by Fish & Game. A number of prosecutions from the 2006-2007 fishing season are still with the courts awaiting prosecution.

### **Salmon Management Plan**

The Salmon Management Plan Working Party have completed the oral submissions process, and are reviewing those prior to producing a final draft. Oral submissions were received from seven people or organisations, including three from Hydro-electric power companies. The Working Party believe that they should be able to accommodate most of the issues raised in the final draft.



◆ ANGLERS OUTFITTERS ◆

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## **HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION WESTLAND**

**Lake Kaniere** via Hokitika    **Jackson Bay** via Haast

**Bruce Bay:** Half-hour Drive South of Fox Glacier

All baches self-contained with pots/pans, cutlery, power, shower, fridge, washing machine and freezer (except Kaniere, no freezer). All baches sleep 8 people.

You need to supply all disposable items including wood and coal for the Yunka fire (except Kaniere, electric heating), sheets, pillowcases, sleeping bags, etc. On leaving, a clean and tidy bach would be appreciated for the next people.

Rates:    **Kaniere:** \$70 per night up to 4 people. \$20 per person above this.  
          **Bruce Bay & Jackson Bay:**        \$65 per night

For more information and bookings you can call:

The Hokitika Angling Club  
C/o Hokitika Cycles & Sportsworld  
Phone 03 755 8662 (shop hours)

