

NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

MAY 2007 Number 83



**Put a date on your calendar to go to the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY 15 MAY 2007
7.30 PM
Details inside**

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

**NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)
2006-07 OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE**

President	Neville (Tim) Ellis	383 0900 021 363 140	npellis@paradise.net.nz Fax 383 0900
Vice Presidents	Ron Dougherty	338 2479	
	Ron Stuart	358 9082 021 216 3901	cqurityron@xtra.co.nz
Secretary & Treasurer	Pam Ellis	383 0900 021 211 3293	npellis@paradise.net.nz Fax 383 0900
Committee	John Healy	03 318 8216 0274 334 511	jhealy@xtra.co.nz Fax 03 318 8190
	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	
Patron	Douglas Roy	352 8564	dfroy@xtra.co.nz Fax 352 8564

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, Ken Hughey, Ross Lightfoot, Athol Price, Stephen Sparrow

<p>Disclaimer: 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>



PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

The season is ending well with some early returns of salmon to Montrose. Rusty and a team of guys went up to Montrose on 25th April and stripped 17 fish getting some 40,000 eggs. A further batch of eggs will be taken to Montrose this week, so this is encouraging for this year's ova planting and Montrose programme.

There are other fish coming into the stream and others already in the pen that were not ready for stripping. We will require willing volunteers to help strip these fish and plant the eyed ova in Scotty boxes in various spawning streams.

Apart from the weekly work undertaken by the race cleaning teams, Rusty spends several days every week checking the site. Such is Rusty's loyalty and concern for Montrose, that sometimes his visits are only for checking to see that nothing untoward has happened to the salmon or hatching facility. Rusty has a proposal to install a satellite surveillance system at Montrose that would enable video monitoring from Christchurch and save some unnecessary trips. The cost of the system is \$9000 and NZSAA has been asked if it could contribute a \$3000 share of the cost. This is a big ask for NZSAA. We provide most of the volunteer labour at Montrose and this has always been our major contribution to the project and with few cash reserves we find it difficult to meet this cost. However we are looking at ways of raising the funds. This could be a rewarding project for an environmentally focussed corporate sponsor, so if any member has a business contact that may be interested we would be glad to hear from you.

The latest threat to our hard-won river protection is a reported proposal by Mid Canterbury farmers wanting to establish a district-wide irrigation scheme by raising the level of Lake Coleridge and using it as a water storage facility. They may consider applying to government to change conditions of the Rakaia River's Water Conservation Order (WCO), which is quoted as being "the brick wall standing in the way of using the Lake." A source of cheap water without the need for pumping. Well, they will find NZSAA and a lot of other people forming a Berlin Wall on this one! The article from the Ashburton Guardian is included later in this newsletter.

Don't forget that the Angling Regulations are up for review this year. The Working Party will meet at Fish & Game offices on 6 June 2007 at 7 pm. So if you have any matter that you would like to be considered for change next season, put it in writing, send it to F&G and attend the meeting if you can.

The Annual General Meeting on 15th May is your opportunity to voice your thoughts and concerns regarding the salmon fishery and other river matters, and to tell us what you want us to do on your behalf. We look forward to a good attendance of members at the meeting. Bring along some friends and encourage them to join the Association. Please also think about offering your services to the Committee. Our current team has remained mostly unchanged for some years and, while still enthusiastic and committed to improving the salmon fishery, it would be good to get some new faces and perhaps new ideas to help us on the way.

This is my last Editorial as I relinquish the office of President this month. It is good for NZSAA that someone else steps in with fresh ideas so that we continue to grow and improve the service that we give to our members and to the fishery. I thank you all for your support and wish you well for good fishing and great times on our rivers in the coming years.

Neville (Tim) Ellis

PRESIDENT

Do you have surplus pre-loved but now unused fishing equipment that you would like to sell, exchange or give away (perhaps to a budding young angler)?

Bring it along to the Annual General Meeting and we will set up a sales table. All we ask is that you donate a small percentage of any sales to NZSAA.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting
of New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)
will be held on Tuesday 15 May 2007 at 7.30 pm.
in the Horticultural Hall South Hagley Park,
Riccarton Road, Christchurch**

Business for the Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM 16 May 2006
3. Matters arising from Minutes
4. President's Report
5. Auditor's Report and Adoption of Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet
6. Election of Officers and Committee:
 - Patron
 - President
 - Vice Presidents (2)
 - Committee (6)
 - Secretary/Treasurer
 - Honorary Auditor
7. Fishing Competition Results and Awards
8. Athol Price Plaque Presentation
9. General Business
10. Guest Speaker: Jason Holland, Environment Officer,
Fish & Game North Canterbury Region

A raffle will be run during the evening and supper served at the conclusion

Please bring this agenda, reports and annual accounts with you to the meeting.

Subscriptions

Subscription notices have been mailed to members with this month's newsletter. Payment of subs at the Annual General Meeting will be gratefully received.

President's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2007

NZSAA and salmon anglers in general have had a successful year. After a slow start to the season, there were later some remarkable periods of high catch rates especially in the Rangitata, Waimakariri and Waitaki Rivers. The returns of salmon to most of our rivers has been higher than last year and most anglers I have spoken to have said they were happier than in previous years at the number of fish seen. But we would like still more to return our fishery to a sustainable level.

The extra Scotty boxes arrived during the year and hopefully we will have enough eggs to fully utilise the total 150 boxes in the coming season. Last year's ova planting, utilising 100 Scotty boxes, had mixed results due to floods in the spawning streams silting up the boxes and very cold water temperatures probably delaying the hatch. This was disappointing after the high hatch rates in the first year but we are learning a lot about streams and hatching conditions and will put this knowledge to good use in the future.

South Canterbury Branch now has its hatchery races operational on the Rangitata at McKinnons Creek and this year will be their first release of fish.

We have spent quite a lot of time this year on water consent hearings. These continual applications for water extraction from our rivers are an ongoing problem. The Aidanfields subdivision continues to offend with silty discharges to the Heathcote River and Vice President, Ron Dougherty, keeps a vigilant eye on this area. The major applications during the year were of course from Central Plains Water for water rights on the Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers, and land use and designation approvals over the land to be used for the irrigation scheme. The hearings are scheduled to start early in June and NZSAA will be present to make submissions.

A detailed submission was made to Fish & Game on the consultative draft of the proposed Salmon Management Plan for the South Island. The hearing of submissions has recently been held in Christchurch and we look forward to publication of a revised document in due course.

Membership remains steady at around 350. However we would like this to be higher and your Committee is considering ideas for a membership drive. There is strength in numbers: Financially it gives us funds to continue and expand our salmon recovery programme, to build up a fighting fund for the major water issues that we face, and to continue sending out the newsletter on a regular basis. A high membership also presents a strong lobby group to advocate on matters affecting the salmon fishery.

This year we have spent a lot of our savings on new equipment: a new

computer, the 50 Scotty boxes and a storage shed for them.

Our appreciation must, as always, be passed on to Edgar (Rusty) Russ and his teams for all their work at Montrose during the year. Montrose is almost a full time operation not only with the salmon but some trout as well.

NZSAA is the main provider of volunteers to maintain Montrose, both with the regular weekly race cleaning teams and with other site maintenance and improvements. There is an ongoing need for more volunteers. Our volunteer list is not large in proportion to our total membership and there are times when it is not easy to get assistance, especially during the week. We are in the process of updating our volunteer list and have included a section on the annual subscription form asking for confirmation of members' availability to help. We appreciate that many of our members are working midweek but even if you can give one day every now and then this would assist.

Two of our members, Steve McNeill and Peter Robinson, were elected for the first time to the Fish & Game Council last November. Along with our five other elected members, this maintains NZSAA's strong salmon lobby on the North Canterbury Council. We continue to have good liaison with the staff at Fish & Game on a variety of matters affecting the salmon fishery.

Ron Dougherty and I have attended the Lower Waitaki Management Strategy Steering Committee meetings during the year and will continue to do so.

Didymo continues infesting South Island rivers with the Waitaki badly affected, including some feeder rivers. We can only repeat the message to do your bit by thoroughly cleaning your gear and boats before going near other waterways.

Salmon fishing competitions have been well patronised. The Otago Harbour competition was very successful as was our local competition on the Rakaia River. Not everyone agrees with them but, if they continue to foster interest in salmon fishing, then that is positive as it gives us more people who will fight to retain water in our rivers. Our own competition attracted more entries last year with the prizewinning salmon being of good weights.

Finally, as of tonight, I will end my term of Presidency. I wish to thank the Committee and my wife, Pam, for the excellent support they have given me over the last four years, and to all the members for their phone calls, suggestions and practical assistance with our salmon recovery projects. It is the people who make the job most enjoyable and worthwhile. I relinquish the office in the hope that I have given some useful leadership to the Association and hand it over in good heart to my successor. I will still be working for the salmon anglers whenever I can and I wish NZSAA every success in the future.

Thank you all.

Neville (Tim) Ellis

**N.Z. SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007**

Y/e		
31.3.06	Income	
8053	Subscriptions	7416.30
255	Donations	357.00
898	Interest Received	803.82
64	Dividends	64.24
153	Raffle	290.10
500	Advertising	600.00
-	Sale of Caps	299.10
-	Scotty Box Donations	1520.00
		<hr/>
	\$9923	\$11350.56
		<hr/>
	Expenditure	
5231	Newsletter and Postage	5542.67
1380	Secretary/Treasurer Honorarium	1440.00
622	Office Expenses	881.36
583	Meeting and Travel Expenses	358.63
153	AGM Costs	242.43
299	Depreciation on Assets	239.80
464	Sundry Expenses	528.00
236	Stream Enhancement	3724.13
		<hr/>
	\$8968	\$12957.02
		<hr/>
(955)	Excess expenditure over Income	\$1606.46
		<hr/>

NB: The cost of Scotty Boxes and stakes included in Stream Enhancement was \$3566.00

**N.Z. SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2007**

Y/e	ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
20760	Balance as at 1.4.06		20759.99
	Less Excess Expenditure Over Income		1606.46
			<u>\$19153.53</u>
THESE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY			
316	Computer and Printer	316.20	
	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>126.50</u>	189.70
250	Office Equipment	249.80	
	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>50.00</u>	199.80
59	Fax Machine	59.30	
	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>17.80</u>	41.50
	New Computer (at cost)		2350.00
	Shed (at cost)	404.25	
	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>45.50</u>	<u>358.75</u>
			3139.75
INVESTMENTS			
13695	Term Deposit with Westpac Trust	10881.82	
1460	Shares in Sandford Ltd	<u>1460.00</u>	12341.82
CURRENT ASSETS			
2254	Westpac Trust Savings Account	1472.16	
3384	Westpac Trust Bank Account	1313.35	
255	Subscriptions in Arrears	200.00	
125	Sundry Debtors	437.50	
730	Stock	<u>565.00</u>	3988.01
<u>\$22250</u>	TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$19469.58</u>
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
177	Subscriptions in Advance	156.00	
421	Sundry Creditors	160.05	
1170	Scotty Box Donations	-	316.05
<u>\$19018</u>	NET ASSETS		<u>\$19153.53</u>

**N.Z. SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007**

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. General Accounting Policies

The general accounting principles as recommended by the N.Z. Society of Accountants for measurement and reporting of income and expenditure on an historical cost basis have been applied.

2. Particular Accounting Policies

The following particular accounting principles which materially affect the measurement of profit or the financial position have been applied -

- (i) Depreciation has been charged at 20% on the written down value of office equipment, 40% on the written down value of the computer and printer, 33% on the written down value of the fax machine and 15% on the written down value of the Storage Shed. The new computer purchased in March will be depreciated next year at 40% D.V.
- (ii) Subscription Debtors - included at amount expected to realise of \$200.
- (iii) Shares owned in Sanford Ltd. have been included at market price.

3. Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies that have a material affect in the current year or may have a material effect in subsequent years.

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS

I have obtained all the explanations and information I have required. In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Association insofar as appears from my examination of those books. In my opinion, according to the best of my information and the explanations given to me and as shown by the books, the accounts, Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account are properly drawn up and give the information required by the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. The Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account give a true and fair view of the state of the Association's affairs as at 31 March 2007 and of the operation of the Association for the year.

**Christchurch
19 April 2007**

T.G. HAYES C.A (Retired)

**MINUTES OF THE 33RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)**

**Held at the Canterbury Horticultural Society Hall, Hagley Park, Christchurch
On Tuesday 16 May 2006 at 7.30 pm**

PRESENT

55 members and invitees were present at the meeting, chaired by President Neville (Tim) Ellis.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alistair MacPherson, Graeme Williams, Peter Morgan, Phil Ball, I E Woodford, Brian Dungey, Bob Stanton, Bill McDougall and Tony Humphreys. On the motion of Athol Price, seconded by Ron Stuart, it was resolved that these apologies be accepted.

REMEMBRANCE

The meeting stood in silence in remembrance of members who had died during the year:
A C Aitken, P Molineaux, Peter Van Gestel, Doug Hampson, J Main and E A Turner.

MINUTES

The minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (Incorporated) held on 17 May 2005, as circulated to all members, were approved and adopted as a correct record on the motion of Alf Long, seconded Ron Dougherty. Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tim Ellis moved that the President's Report for the year ended 31 March 2006 (copy attached and circulated to all members), be adopted. The motion to adopt the report was seconded by Paul Hodgson and, there being no further discussion, was carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Davor Bejakovich, Senior Fish and Game Officer, North Canterbury Region
"Managing the Risk of Didymo in the Spawning Streams"

Davor addressed the meeting on the outbreak of Didymo in the South Island. He said Didymo infestation of salmon and trout spawning streams was seen by F&G as potentially one of the most significant threats to the sustainability of our fishery. F&G was therefore considering temporary closure of the spawning streams in the North Canterbury and Central South Island regions. A meeting had been arranged for 30 May 2006 to seek stakeholder input into how to address the risk of Didymo incursion into these areas.

Davor described the biology of Didymo, noting that it thrived in cold, clear, flowing water with stable substrate and poor in nutrients. He said blooms had been reported at a range of temperatures with 11-15°C most common. Current distribution was in the Mararoa, Waiau, Aparima and Oreti Rivers in Southland, Hawea, Clutha, Fraser and Von Rivers in Otago, Buller and Gowan Rivers in Nelson/Marlborough, and Waitaki and Ahuriri Rivers in Central South Island.

He said very little was known about the effects of Didymo infestation on salmonid spawning. It was likely it would negatively impact on the availability of spawning gravels for trout and salmon due to the thick and persistent growth forming on the bottom and locking the gravels, and also negatively impact gas exchange in redds (lack of water flow and availability of oxygen) resulting in poor hatching rates.

Davor said Fish & Game had ranked Canterbury spawning grounds and assessed the risk of Didymo introduction by anglers. “High risk” streams had stable flows, high concentrations of trout and salmon spawning and anglers were the main visitors.

Risk assessments had been prepared for the spawning streams of the Rakaia, Waimakariri, Hurunui and Waiau Rivers and Lake Coleridge. “High” risk streams included Hydra Waters and Winding Creek; “Medium” risk streams included Harper River and Broken River; “Low” risk streams included South Branch Hurunui.

Fish & Game’s priority was to prevent accidental spread of Didymo into uncontaminated waterways. Their advice to anglers was to refrain from visiting known contaminated waters but if you do fish contaminated waters do not use same gear on other waters. Even for uncontaminated waters follow Biosecurity NZ recommended cleaning procedures.

In response to a question on possible control of Didymo, Davor said NIWA was currently undertaking trials. In conclusion, Davor said the outcome of the stakeholder meeting on 30 May would be the basis for a submission to the Minister on future action.

**Rosalie Snoyink from the Malvern Hills Protection Society
Proposed Central Plains Irrigation Scheme – “Why Damn It?”**

Rosalie said the Society had been set up five years ago because of the CPW proposal and now had 160 members. The CPW proposal was to build a massive earth dam, 55m high and 2 km long across the mouth of the Waianiwi Valley. 280 million cubic metres of water would be stored in the reservoir behind the dam. The reservoir would cover 1200 hectares of the Valley. The proposed scheme would have a huge impact on the Malvern Hills communities of Coalgate, Sheffield and Glentunnel with displacement of people and land, homes and buildings inundated.

Rosalie described the impact of the proposed scheme on Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers.

The upper Waimakariri intake would be 3-5km above the Kowai confluence on the true right of the River. A 40 cumec capacity, gravity-feed canal, would take water from the Upper Waimakariri to the Kowai river confluence. The canal would be 3m wide at the base, 20-25m wide at the top and 3.5m-4.5m deep. The excavated channel material would be used to form embankments and the total footprint of canal and embankments would be 40-50m wide. The water would be siphoned under the Kowai River and a sidling canal constructed on a shelf, up to 100m wide, carved out of the banks of the river. The canal would then climb the 80m high terrace above the Waimakariri River for 7km to Gorge Hill. A cutting, a few 100 metres west of Gorge Hill, would be constructed, 15m deep and 75m wide, to take the canal to the Plains surface to Sheffield and the Waianiwiwiwa reservoir via a tunnel (3km long, 6m diameter) through the eastern Malvern Hills.

The lower Waimakariri intake was at the Gorge Bridge on the true right of the river, designed to take up to 40cumecs. A tunnel would be constructed through the rock outcrop that served as an abutment to the Gorge Bridge, and then a sidling canal would take water up the terrace for 9 kms to the Plains surface. The total length of the gravity canal along the banks of Waimakariri River would be approx 21km, and the only access points to the river would be at the Kowai and the Gorge Bridge. Two pump stations would be situated on the Waimakariri River, one just downstream of the Kowai River confluence, to lift water 70m up to the Plains surface east of Springfield. The lower Waimakariri pump station would be situated downstream of the primary intake structures below the Gorge bridge and would lift water 70m up to the Plains surface east of Sheffield.

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Rakaia River intake and headworks would be constructed 8km downstream of Rakaia Gorge on the true left of the river. A 40 cumec sidling canal would take water up to the river terraces and to the level headrace canal which would take water across the Plains to the Waianiwaniwa Dam and to the lower inlet/outlet site at the Waimak Gorge. A pump station, about 6km downstream from the control structure would lift the water up the terraces to irrigate the Windwhistle area.

Proposed river works involve river "training" i.e. excavating channels and banks leading a main braid or braids towards the intake structures. It was expected that river training might have to be performed at least 10 times a year at each of the three intake sites.

Other river headworks included intake channels, sluice gates, sluice channels, fish screens, structures, 25 hectare settling pond, control gates and pump stations. The level headrace would take water across the Plains for approx 55km between the Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers. This would be a 60 cumec capacity canal. Rivers and streams crossed by the headrace would involve siphons under the rivers or culverts under the canal. Roads and railway crossings will be bridged. The distribution of irrigation water from the headrace will be via a network of open surface water canals with water surface widths ranging from 6-13 metres.

Impacts of abstraction and river works on the Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers included: reduced landscape amenity values; more periods of long, low flows i.e. flatlining; build up of sediment and increased contaminants; lower water clarity, scouring and river bank destabilisation; raised water temperature in the mid-lower river reaches; increased vegetation encroachment in riverbeds; disturbance by on-going river works; degraded habitat for braided river birds; aquatic ecosystems affected (native fish, salmon, trout and whitebait fisheries); reduced jet boat passage; reduced access to and along riverbeds.

Downstream effects included increased nitrate and phosphate loadings to groundwater and continued degradation of lowland lakes, rivers, springs and streams.

Rosalie said that CPW's Environmental Report was inadequate. Their dam safety report stated that 4600 people were at risk on the Plains. The scheme was driven by a global dam-building company whose only interest was in the dam. The Malvern Hills Protection Society considered the proposal was not a community or public spending but a corporate steal of our water. If successful, it was likely the water could be in the hands of a few very powerful businessmen.

The scheme was likely to be publicly notified in the next few weeks. Rosalie urged members to make an individual submission opposing the CPW scheme and also to write to the media, lobby councillors and politicians. The scheme was also a Christchurch problem as it could affect groundwater and local rivers. MHPS would also be grateful for donations to its fighting fund to employ legal assistance, expert witnesses, etc.

The Chairman thanked Davor and Rosalie for their addresses and urged members to take action on the serious issues raised by both speakers.

FINANCIAL AND AUDITOR'S REPORTS

In presenting the financial report, accounts and balance sheet (as attached), Honorary Auditor, Trevor Hayes, said it had been a satisfactory year with an increase in subscriptions and an overall excess of income over expenditure. Funds received from the dissolution of the Southland Branch had been added to Accumulated Funds. On the motion of Trevor Hayes, seconded by Alf Long, it was resolved that the financial report, accounts and balance sheet as presented and audited for the year ended 31 March 2006 be received.

The Chairman extended a vote of thanks to Trevor for again undertaking the audit.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers and Committee

The following were nominated and duly declared elected:

		<u>Moved by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Patron:	Doug Roy	Steve McNeill	Athol Price
President:	Tim Ellis	Dennis Falgar	Dave Millward
Immediate Past President:	Ron Dougherty		
Vice Presidents:	Ron Dougherty	Tim Ellis	Ron Stuart
	Ron Stuart	Pam Ellis	Ken Paterson
Committee:	Brian Foley)		
	John Healy)		
	Dennis Long)		
	Athol Price)	Gerry van	Ron Stuart
	James Parbery)	der Krogt	
	Phil Ball)		
	Ken Paterson)		
	Alf Long)		
Secretary-Treasurer	Pam Ellis	Dennis Falgar	Ron Dougherty
Honorary Auditor	Trevor Hayes	Alf Long	Paul Hodgson

NZSAA FISHING COMPETITION

The Chairman advised that 15 entries had been received (list appended to the minutes).

The winners were presented with trophies and a \$50 voucher from Fisherman's Loft as follows:

Aquarius Cup for Heaviest Salmon Overall:

Bill McDougall of Christchurch, 9.71 kg salmon, Rakaia River Mouth on 30.12.05

Alty Roscoe Memorial for Biggest Fish Rakaia:

Murray Drury of Christchurch, 8.5 kg salmon, Rakaia River Mouth on 11.1.06

Cromb & Merritt Trophy for Heaviest Salmon Waimakairi:

Ron Stuart of Christchurch, 9.36 kg salmon, Waimakariri River Mouth on 9.2.06

Lucky Draw from Remainder of Entries:

Robert McKey of Christchurch, 9.30 kg salmon, Waimakariri River Mouth on 11.3.06

Thanks were extended to Fisherman's Loft for donation of the winners' vouchers.

ATHOL PRICE PLAQUE

The Chairman announced that Douglas Roy was this year's recipient of the Athol Price Plaque for outstanding service to the salmon sports fishery.

In announcing the award, the Chairman said that Doug was a reluctant receiver of any form of reward or award but the Committee considered his services to the salmon fishery were significant and long overdue for recognition.

Doug had been involved in almost every activity of NZSAA over many years. He joined NZSAA in 1979, just a few years after the establishment of the Association in 1972. At the AGM in June 1987 he was elected to the Committee. When elected, Doug's portfolio responsibilities were for "water right applications and postage of newsletters and magazines". He had a break from the Committee from 1992 until 1995 but during this time remained closely involved with the Committee on his areas of expertise and interest. His water right responsibilities included the troubled times of major consent applications by the meat company CFM (later PPCS) and fellmongery Colyer Watson for discharges to the Waimakariri River.

The Waimakariri River was an area dear to Doug's heart and he had taken an active interest in any matter affecting the health of the river and anything potentially affecting the salmon fishery. In recent years, he participated in the processes that have now concluded with the construction of the ocean pipeline for disposal of sewage from Rangiora and Kaiapoi thus eliminating one source of pollution to the Waimak River. A further pleasing result of this was the phasing out of effluent discharges through Jockey Baker Creek and the undertaking of restoration works on the Creek to restore it to healthy habitat.

Doug was elected Patron of NZSAA in 1996 and had continued as an active member of the Committee ever since.

Doug's expertise in things mechanical, electrical and electronic has also been of huge assistance to the Association. He had been our computer guru, giving much needed advice and technical support on this essential office equipment, programmes and maintenance. He was instrumental in the purchase of the Association's first computer in 1989 at a cost of \$4670. For six years until the end of 2005, Doug undertook the production of the NZSAA newsletter – a big task, gathering information and putting into publication format, eleven months each year.

Doug had been associated with Montrose since its beginnings, being particularly involved with the setting up and continuing maintenance of the automated feeding and hatching systems. He had travelled many unpaid kilometres to and from Montrose most weeks since its establishment undertaking essential maintenance works on the facility and tending the fish in the hatchery.

Doug was an enthusiastic promoter and participant in the Association's other efforts to restore the salmon fishery in our rivers through stream improvement works and ova planting, most recently with the Scotty incubator system.

Doug did most of his salmon angling at the Waimak River mouth where he had enjoyed a fair measure of success over the years. Credit was also given to his wife, Florence, for her support. Florence was also a salmon angler and participated to the fullest in the Association's activities.

Athol Price presented the Plague to Doug. In accepting the award, Doug thanked NZSAA for the honour and paid special thanks to Florence for her support and to Edgar Russ for his contribution to Montrose.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Montrose Hatchery Update

Edgar Russ reported that 80 salmon had returned to date. The ova situation was uncertain but 100,000 had been gifted from Silverstream and these would be fertilised from Montrose jacks. The new water supply system installed during the year was strong but a silt problem required attention. Rusty made a plea for more volunteers to assist with maintenance at Montrose.

Fish & Game Elections

Edgar Russ asked members to consider standing for the North Canterbury Council at the election in October this year. There were two or three known vacancies and it was important to continue the strong fishing lobby.

Paul Hodgson said the salmon fishery was at a critical stage although significant progress had been made by the Council. The draft Salmon Management Plan was soon to be released and it was important that anglers respond with submissions. This was their one chance to have a say on what would be adopted as a firm plan for the next ten years.

Otago and South Canterbury Branches

Athol Price acknowledged the work being undertaken by these Branches in salmon enhancement projects. NZSAA South Canterbury was reinstating the old salmon farm at McKinnons Creek on the Rangitata River and was receiving good support from Fish & Game Central South Island. Otago NZSAA continued their programme of releasing juvenile salmon into the Otago Harbour.

Scotty Boxes

The Chairman informed the meeting that fifty additional units had been purchased and should be available for use this season. Thanks were extended to members for their generous donations towards this purchase.

Acknowledgements and Close of Meeting

Tim Ellis thanked members for their attendance and asked them to encourage their friends and fellow anglers to join NZSAA.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked the raffle prize sponsors, Topline Foods, Fisherman’s Loft, Veges Direct, Wondercast, Anglers Warehouse, Parklands Super Liquor, Hammills, Smiths City, Ballingers, Ross Millichamp.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m and was followed by supper and raffle draws.

Signed as a correct record:.....Chairman 15 May 2007



SALMON ANGLERS CAPS



Promote your Association

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.

Order by mail from the NZSAA by sending \$20, plus \$3 for postage, to P O Box 1113, Christchurch 8140, or call the Secretary on 383 0900 to pick one up.

Buy One at the Annual General Meeting

Rangers' Trophy Competition

The above annual competition organised this year by Fish & Game was held on 20 March at the Waimakariri River mouth. On a calm sunny day, 107 anglers registered for the competition which resulted in 12 salmon being weighed in.

The prizewinners were as follow

		Salmon Weight	
1st	Rangers' Trophy R Bowden	15lb	Kilwell graphite salmon rod donated by Ballingers Hunting and Fishing
2nd	Jack's Trophy P McNeill	14 ³ / ₄ lb	Shakespeare Salmon Rod and Reel donated by Blackwell's Dept Store, Kaiapoi
3rd	S Price	14lb	ABU Garcia salmon rod donated by The Complete Angler
4th	K Bowley	13 ³ / ₄ lb	Rechargeable spotlight donated by The Angler's Warehouse
5th	N Nutira	12 ¹ / ₂ lb	Multi-tool donated by Fishing Essentials
6th	R McKay	12 ¹ / ₂ lb	Oil pack donated by Caltex, Kaiapoi
7th	J Ridgeway	12 lb	Hand cleaner pack donated by Fishing Essentials
8th	A Blyth	11 ¹ / ₂ lb	Hand cleaner pack donated by Fishing Essentials
9th	H O'Connor	8lb	Hand cleaner pack donated by Fishing Essentials
10th	W Kenwood	4 ¹ / ₂ lb	\$10 gift voucher from New Brighton Sports Centre
11th	R O'Neill	2 ³ / ₄ lb	\$10 gift voucher from New Brighton Sports Centre
12th	Jack's Cup for Smallest Salmon R McConnochie	2 ¹ / ₂ lb	\$10 gift voucher from New Brighton Sports Centre

Wondercast Fishing Tackle donated 4 packets of assorted lures which were drawn for, so most anglers went home with something. Organiser, Brian Ross, thanks all the sponsors for their support of this competition which he says is the highlight of the year for many of these anglers.

We note that only one of the above prizewinners is a member of NZSAA, and with 107 entrants in the competition there must be an opportunity for us to harness some of this enthusiasm into volunteer work for the salmon fishery.

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OPEN SEVEN DAYS

Raising Lake Coleridge for Irrigation

Article by Susan Sandys in The Ashburton Guardian 15 April 2007

Mid Canterbury farmers wanting to establish a district-wide irrigation scheme are looking across the Rakaia River to Lake Coleridge as a potential future water storage facility. They may consider applying to government to change conditions of the river's Water Conservation Order (WCO) which has always been the brick wall standing in the way of using the lake.

Farmers would at least have the support of Rakaia MP Brian Connell, who sees Lake Coleridge as "the perfect solution" to the district's water storage woes. Mr Connell said raising the lake level by just one metre with water from the Rakaia would provide all the water needed to irrigate farmland and generate power in Mid and Central Canterbury "and I would say that would be a huge legacy for future generations". He said in his own studies over the years he had talked to engineers and consultants and believed it could be done.

The district had some very capable people with good initiatives on water storage but because of conflicting interests and the dilemma over where to construct a storage facility, none of them had gone anywhere. The Lake Coleridge proposal would just require a number of interested bodies to get together to apply to government for the conditions of the WCO to be modified. Ashburton and Selwyn District Councils could get together with Environment Canterbury and local politicians.

He said a lot of work would have to be done on structure and piping could be built to bring water across from the north Rakaia River's banks, where Lake Coleridge is situated. He said Mid Canterbury could work in with Central Plains Water, which would be spending upwards of \$400 million on simply constructing a storage facility. If it instead used Lake Coleridge in conjunction with Mid Canterbury interests, that money could be spent instead on piping.

He said the reason the lake had not been seriously considered as an option in the past was because of the river's WCO, which restricted water being taken out above the Rakaia Gorge. "But I think it's time we actually changed these things." Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation (BCI) has consent from ECan to take 17 cumecs from the Rakaia below the gorge. It is proposing to pump eight out at Highbank; the rest is part of a project being planned by Ashburton Community Water Trust to deliver water from the river to the Plains by gravity.

One of the members of the trust, Eiffelton farmer Ian Mackenzie, said the trust was assisting BCI in securing its consents before their expiry date in March 2009.

After that the next step was to look at how best to develop the various storage options that had been proposed. "The logical development for the Canterbury region is to use existing lakes rather than creating new ones as our primary storage," Mr Mackenzie said, referring to the Lake Coleridge proposal. A lot of people had identified Lake Coleridge as a potential storage site, but in order to use the lake the WCO would have to be reviewed. That would need public and political support.

"I believe there is considerable support amongst commercial interests and even some environmental groups to have a review that would allow the use of Lake Coleridge as a storage site," Mr Mackenzie said.

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:** \$65 per night up to 4 people. \$20 per person above this.
 Bruce Bay & Jackson Bay: \$50 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)

The Saga of the Duke of Devonshire's Private Salmon Fishery: Irish Angler uses Magna Carta to Defend his Right to Fish There

Last month we published the story about The Duke of Devonshire who is taking legal action against the Irish government because he fears that its conservation policy will ruin his private lucrative fishery rights on one of Ireland's finest salmon rivers.

Well now the Duke's private rights are to be challenged by an angler in a landmark court case that evokes the historic tensions between the English aristocracy and the Irish. Michael O'Shea will cite the 1215 Magna Carta signed by King John to argue that he has the right to fish the River Blackwater as he attempts to overturn a poaching conviction. His case will question the Devonshires' entitlement to the River which is on the border of County Cork and County Waterford.

The dispute will come to a climax at the end of April when the case is heard in the Waterford Circuit Court, 40 miles from the Duke of Devonshire's fairytale Irish residence, Lismore Castle, which has been in the family since 1753. Their long association with Ireland has survived hostility towards the English ruling classes from Irish nationalists.

Mr O'Shea of Dungarvan, County Waterford, was fined £35 in 2005. He had fished the same beat for 30 years but it was discovered that he was no longer a member of the local fishing association and did not have a visitor's permit.

The Magna Carta, which also applied in Ireland, gave the public the right to fish on large tidal rivers such as the Blackwater that were not under private ownership by the time it was signed. Mr O'Shea's lawyer said: "Exercising dominion over tidal waters is unacceptable and that's our main gripe."

NZSAA Editor: The very best of British and Irish luck to you, Mr O'Shea!

NZSAA Computer for Sale

We still have our old computer available for sale. This is a good basic computer for home use for someone who doesn't have complex program requirements. We have an asking price of \$250 but would consider all offers. If you are interested, please phone the Secretary, Pam Ellis, on 383 0900.

Specification: Gateway, purchased July 2001. Microsoft Windows Millenium Edition, 128 RAM, CD and floppy disk drives, keyboard, 2 speakers.

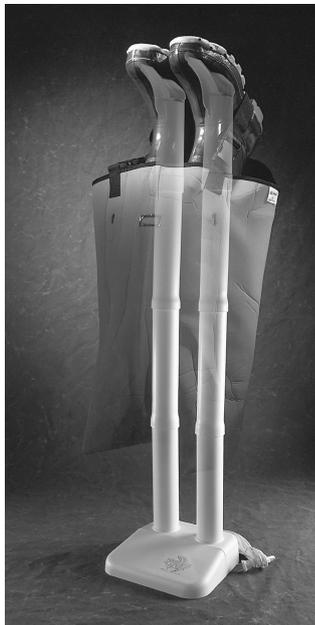


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