

# **NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter**

**July 2010 Number 104**



*Girl Power! Dianne Eaton with her 7.79kg salmon that won her the Fisherman's Loft Trophy for Heaviest Waimakariri Salmon 2009-10*

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

**NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)  
2010-11 OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE**

<b>Patron</b>	Athol Price	332 7698	
<b>President</b>	Ron Stuart	358 9082 021 216 3901	cqurityron@xtra.co.nz
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	Tim & Pam Ellis	383 0900 021 363140 Tim 021 2113293 Pam	npellis@paradise.net.nz
<b>Secretary &amp; Treasurer</b>	Heather Saunders	388 5718	ianandh.s@ihug.co.nz
<b>Committee</b>	Phil Ball	349 5993 021 256 133	
	Richard Chettle	357 4982	rchetle@xtra.co.nz
	Brian Foley	352 8972	
	Gene Klein	03 312 8929	EAK1023@hotmail.com
	Dennis Long	352 2874	Fax 352 3708
	James Parbery	03 312 8229	welshflyfishnz@yahoo.co.nz
	Warren Mackie	348 3368	
	Bruce Moody	980 1065 027 229 6302	brucemoody@paradise.net.nz
	Warren Windelburn	027 211 0418	

**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, Pam Ellis, Tim Ellis, Brian Foley, Trevor Hayes, John Healy, Ken Hughey, Ross Lightfoot, Athol Price, Doug Roy, Stephen Sparrow

**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 (Inc) or the Editor.



## PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

July 2010

A very successful AGM was held at the end of May with record attendance and most importantly a healthy balance sheet, encouraged by the success of the Waimakariri Salmon Fishing Competition sponsored by New Brighton Sports and Kilwell Sports. The AGM was supported by excellent speakers: Murray Rodgers of Water Rights Trust, Steve Terry of Fish & Game and John Hodgson of NZ Salmon Anglers. Each gave insight into their field of expertise and information on matters of significant current importance. The retirement of long-serving committee members Alf Long and John Healy saw new nominations of Richard Chettle and Gene Klein. Other standing officers and committee members were re-elected.

Disappointingly, this year's salmon return was one of the lowest counts for several years. The drop in numbers is mystifying, except to reflect that world trends are similar for Chinook Salmon. Strangely, or coincidentally, albatross numbers have had a similar decline replicating salmon reductions over a similar period. They both source their food stocks from similar regions. The encouraging factor is that the captured ova for the enhancement programmes, whilst down on target supply quantity, showed remarkable hatch rate % success well above previous average factors and so much so that all allocation demands were satisfied. Once I would be showing definite signs of panic, but calmness has emerged and confidence that we will

enjoy stronger returns in future years, providing we continue with the current enhancement objectives. For this I have reinforced confidence by the strong dedication of Fish & Game Council to drive the programme forward and manage the fishery.

Final approvals have now come through for the building of the wheelchair fishing platform at McIntosh's. A generous offer has also been received from Tim Smith of Smiths Cranes and Construction to build the facility. So, with this generosity, we should see the facility being functional for the new salmon season. This is most rewarding given the length of time and procedures to get the matter to this stage.

We had two great opportunities for salmon ova planting this season. The first was a generous supply of ova which was planted in the stream alongside the Silverstream Hatchery. We are fortunate to have an organisation such as this so close by and willing to support the sporting fishery out of its commercial operation. While on site we were able to release 30,000 year-old fry being grown on at the hatchery for Fish & Game. These fry go straight into the Waimak system and out to sea for their growing life and the close proximity to the ocean must surely give a higher % survival rate.

The next ova planting was carried out in Hacketts Stream on Bevan Mehrtens' property where we placed 36,000 ova in Scotty boxes at the usual stream location.

Just up the creek, Bruce Moody has his Alevinator working with several 1000 ova, exploring variations on last year's activities to establish future criteria for this method. This is a rich location for salmon enhancement activities and is well supported by Bevan alongside his farming activities.

I must add how lucky we are to have such fantastic support from members who turn up for these activities, the generosity of Fish & Game and its support and other co-operative people and organisations that enable this to happen, some of whom I've mentioned above.

Isaacs Salmon Hatchery facility is well down the track with its development, through the negotiations of Fish & Game and captainship of people like Edgar (Rusty) Russ. Look out for the official opening sometime in the new year when stocks of Montrose fry will be transferred down for growing on and later release. Trout stocks will also be developed at this site so our sports fishery is growing in support and confidence. This is good to see and I see it as a necessity alongside the extensive farming out there giving our fishery so much competition for water supplies and environmental factors.

Interest in the salmon fishery has gathered considerable momentum and is attractive to a broadening sector of our community. This was evident with a record attendance at the Montrose open day and fry release. We want to support this momentum and your Association is developing a New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association website so the story will be available to a wider section of the population and the interest of the fishery shared on a broader front. This may also assist in the increase of membership that we so strongly desire.

There has been much discussion on the developments at Environment Canterbury and appointment of Commissioners. We are yet to see the effects of these changes but at this early stage I detect signs of some confidence that the new regime will bring a better balance into the whole scheme of things. I base this on the fact that some of the personnel appointed have already given views prior to being appointed that give balance to best option decisions. The appeals currently lodged against Central Plains Water's consents demonstrate the frustration of the whole system and just makes it an extremely costly and lengthy exercise. The process to get to this stage seems to me a mockery of the system and resources, in that the game played was seemingly like going onto the field without proper referee and a flat ball. My expertise in these matters is restricted, but one thing I take pride in is at least having some common sense to make good judgements, so I feel confident expressing an opinion at least. It would not surprise me to see the whole scheme reformatted and a different resourcing of water supply emerge with optional advantages.

I've got my reels all cleaned up from last year and have already replaced them with new line - shows the confidence I have for a good upcoming season. Maybe my confidence comes out of winning two good raffle prizes and I got some good tackle to start with. Bring it on!!

Cheers, winter well, and thanks for renewing your subscriptions. We're looking great.



Ron Stuart  
**PRESIDENT**

## NZSAA Annual General Meeting 25 May 2010

*by Ron Stuart*

An evening to remember: record profit, no suggestion of increased subs, fantastic attendance and exceptional speakers. Hey, forgot the important bit, a great supper prepared by Heather and Pam, served up by Adrienne Dougherty and daughter Sarah.

The President's report highlighted an approach of conciliation and co-operation where, in today's environment, people are prepared to build gallows rather than focus on building bridges. This is important as everyone sees an entitlement focussed on their part of the world. Another feature was the visit of Don MacKinlay from Canada to share his expertise on salmon enhancement programmes with an emphasis on high country stream protection and a move to hatchery-reared fry for early release in high country waters - a slight shift in current practice but one that will raise the efficiency stakes.

Tribute was paid to Fish & Game for its support to NZ Salmon Anglers and this was emphasised by the attendance of key personnel Martin Clements, Ross Millichamp, Steve Terry, Dirk Barr and councillors Pete Robinson, Steve McNeill, Ian McCrory and Paul Farrow.

Committee and Executive nominations were much the same as the previous year, with unchanged re-election of President, Vice Presidents, Secretary/Treasurer, Patron, Auditor and Committee, the latter having changes with retirements from Alf Long, John Healy and Eddie Bassett and election of new officers being Richard Chettle and Gene Klein.

Our guest speakers included Murray Rodgers (Water Rights Trust), Steve Terry (Fish & Game) and John Hodgson (N Z Salmon Anglers).



Murray highlighted the plight of our Canterbury waterways and aquifers, the structure for management of these resources and the move within Environment Canterbury hopefully to develop more control with future direction.

His message was for recognition of the serious plight developing and the urgent need for a better structural control. Some window of light was recognised through the new councillor appointments at ECan but, as yet, we are waiting to see outcomes. (Perhaps recent rains have brought some temporary relief.)

*Murray is pictured here during his address with his book "Canterbury's Wicked Water".*

Steve Terry enriched us with his scholarship adventure to Canada to study their salmon enhancement activities and he has been able to transfer some of these resources to our very own home scene. His foundation of discussion centred on this season's enhancement programme with greater direction on hatchery raised fry for release rather than the current volume of ova planting methods in high country streams, because of the potential higher efficiency survival rates.

Dirk Barr, Montrose Manager, was later able to support this passage of progress with numbers of salmon that have returned to Montrose and Silverstream. Whilst numbers of fish are well down on previous years, he portrayed confidence in being able to meet the targets of the Salmon Management Programme.

John Hodgson gave a reputable account of our very own Salmon Enhancement Programme, mapping where we've been, what we've done and our successes or failures. To the surprise of many present the work carried out by our volunteers was sincerely appreciated and beyond the expectation of a number of viewers. John's research and accountability of factual progress has added much wealth of information to the existing expertise.

The Athol Price Award for the most outstanding contributor to the salmon scene was awarded to Bevan and Kathy Mehrtens, for their contribution over the years giving unlimited access through their property for salmon enhancement activities and their ecological approach to providing a conducive environment for spawning salmon in the stream running through their property.

Awards were made for the Association's annual fishing competition and these results are separately reported.

The usual raffle attracted a great bank of prizes and many winners went away with some valuable booty which would add to future pleasures. Not to mention of course a top prize going to the President with an Ambassador 6500c reel. The raffle was generously supported with donations from Fishermans Loft, New Brighton Sports. City Drains, Hammills, Smiths City, Wondercast, Ballingers and Phil Ball. The generosity of these retailers, organisations and people serve our Association well and deserve any support our members can give.

Roll on 2011 as all I can see now is that the reduced returns this past season have given an optimistic pathway for far greater results in the coming season.

***Ron Stuart***

Photos from the AGM:

*Top:* The biggest attendance for years.

*Bottom:* Steve Terry, Murray Rogers and friends.



## Athol Price Plaque

This Plaque was instigated by our Patron Athol Price in 1977. It is a symbol to recognise exceptional effort in helping to maintain the recreational salmon fishery. Each year, names are put forward and the NZSAA committee makes the decision. The recipient is not necessarily a member of NZSAA but is associated with our objectives and the Plaque is retained by the recipient for one year.

This year the recipients are Bevan and Kathy Mehtens who for the past twenty years have supported us in our efforts to save and improve the salmon fishery by allowing access to Hacketts Stream on their Springfield farm for salmon ova planting. They have not only made huge improvements to their farm but have gone out of their way to support NZSAA by undertaking stream works to assist our ova planting and consequent return of spawning salmon.

Bevan is also a member of the New Zealand Rifle Shooting team and has competed internationally for some years.

Unfortunately, part of the Mehtens' property will be affected by the Central Plains Water scheme and objections were made by NZSAA and Fish & Game to this intrusion, particularly as to the proposed canal that will prevent spawning fish access to Hacketts Stream unless provision is made for suitable fish passage through the structure.

Bevan and Kathy are true friends and supporters of our Association and thoroughly deserve recognition by award of the Athol Price Plaque.



*Bevan and Kathy Mehtens receiving the Athol Price Plaque from Patron Athol Price*

## 2009-10 Salmon Fishing Competition Results

The Annual Salmon Fishing Competition attracted 12 entries, down on last year. Disappointingly there were no entries for the Rakaia trophy but the two other major winners had fine catches from the Waimak. The trophies and \$50 vouchers from Fisherman's Loft were presented by Martin Clements, Chairman Fish & Game, to the winners at the AGM on 25 May 2010, as follows:

### **Heaviest Salmon Overall - Aquarius Trophy**

Richard Chettle: 9.0 kg salmon from the Waimakariri River (McIntoshs) on 2.1.10

### **Heaviest Salmon Waimakariri - Fisherman's Loft Trophy**

Dianne Eaton: 7.795 kg salmon from the Waimakariri (McIntoshs) on 25.2.10

**Heaviest Salmon Rakaia - Alty Roscoe Memorial Trophy - Not awarded - no entries.**

**Lucky Draw - Peter Morgan**



*Richard Chettle  
Winner of the Aquarius Trophy for  
Heaviest Salmon Overall*



*Dianne Eaton  
Winner of the Fisherman's Loft Trophy  
for Heaviest Salmon Waimakariri*

## **Waimakariri Wai/Water Walk – From the Alps to the Ocean**

**Sunday 19 to Sunday 26 September 2010**

***Our Water Our Vote – Too Precious to Lose !***

The Waimakariri Wai/Water journey celebrates one of Canterbury's great braided rivers, the Waimakariri. It is a call to action to protect the Waimakariri as a source of Christchurch's drinking water, as habitat for indigenous plants and wildlife and a focus for recreation. The river is central to the Coast to Coast multi sport adventure race, for tramping, fishing, picnicking, boating, and closer to its mouth for yachting, water skiing and white-baiting.

To celebrate the importance of all Canterbury's natural waters a diverse group of 10-12 committed individuals will journey the length of the Waimakariri River from its source to the sea in September. Their spring time journey will start in the river's headwaters, high in Arthur's Pass National Park where snow melt from the mountains of the Southern Alps nourishes the river. Over the next seven–eight days they will mainly walk but also raft, kayak, cycle, and boat the river to near its mouth at Brooklands Lagoon. Along the way we invite **fishermen**, rafters, kayakers, jet boaters and other river users to join us in a show of support for the Waimakariri.

Agribusiness is targeting the lands between the Waimakariri and the Rakaia rivers for a massive expansion in dairying. Fonterra wants a new milk processing plant at Darfield to process another 2.2 million litres of milk each day while Synlait and its proposed 51 % stake Chinese shareholder Bright Dairy Ltd want to double production at Synlait's Dunsandel plant. The Waimakariri Irrigation scheme already takes 11 cumecs for irrigation on the River's north bank. Central Plains Water Ltd wants to take another 25 cumecs from the River for its massive canal and irrigation scheme. Appeals against this have been lodged with the Environment Court and may be heard later this year.

While focusing on the Waimakariri, the journey will highlight the need to cherish and respect all of Canterbury's rivers, lakes, aquifers and lowland streams.

If you care about the wellbeing of the Waimakariri then please join us along the river and/or in the Christchurch section of the Waimakariri Wai/Water Walk from the sea to the city. Details of the Wai/Water Walk day to day timetable will be provided later but fishermen are urged to put aside time in the week of Sept 19–26 to help or participate in the Event.

The event is being organised by Our Water Our Vote a group of Canterbury citizens committed to *the restoration of regional democracy and the protection of the region's rivers, lakes, aquifers, and streams*. See [www.ourwaterourvote.org.nz](http://www.ourwaterourvote.org.nz)

**For more information or if you wish to help please contact:**

Rosalie Snoyink ph 03 318 2632 email [rsnoyink@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rsnoyink@xtra.co.nz)

Eugenie Sage ph 021 1553937 or 03 329 3177 [e.sage@paradise.net.nz](mailto:e.sage@paradise.net.nz)

Janette Kear ph 352 5782 [kayaks@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kayaks@xtra.co.nz)

## More on the Waimak.....

# Navigation Safety Bylaws Review

Environment Canterbury is reviewing its existing Navigation Safety Bylaws and has sought comments and feedback from the wide range of people who use the region's waterways for boating and other recreational activities. As a consequence of this review, the Council is proposing to create new bylaws.

The review proposes the following changes to the Lower Waimakariri River

- New High Speed Area (uplift 5 knot limit) in Lower Waimakariri River; subject to the condition that the 5 knot speed limit applies (for powered craft) on yachting regatta days.
- For safety reasons, to regularise existing practise and allow for demand for jet-boating in the area.

NZSAA has made submissions regarding the proposed changes in two particular areas:

1. **Hi Speed Area, Lower Waimakariri:** NZSAA opposes this proposed change and requests that it be amended to provide that *“powered vessels shall not exceed 5 knots in this area on yachting regatta days, during the whitebait fishing season August to November and during the salmon and trout fish migration, spawning and fishing season November to May each year.”*
2. **Hi Speed Area, Waimakariri River Upstream of Kaiapoi River Confluence:** NZSAA opposes this change and requests it be amended to enforce a speed limit of 5 knots for all areas below the Main Road Bridges.

Full details of the bylaw changes and maps of these areas can be seen on [www.ecan.govt.nz/navbylaw](http://www.ecan.govt.nz/navbylaw)

In opposing these changes NZSAA has submitted that the nature of the river is now such that narrowing of the waterway is occurring, the riverbed is rising and reduced water flow accentuates this occurrence, so it is essential for a restricted speed limit of 5 knots from the Main Road Bridge SH1 to the River Mouth. NZSAA has asked that the bylaw be amended in the interests of protection for the fish species travelling these waters, the safety of fishermen on shore and in small craft, the safety of powered vessels travelling at speed amongst anglers casting weighted lures with hooks, safety of line fishermen with baited lines extending into the river, and safety for all vessels travelling amongst set nets for flounder catching. These are very high fisherman use areas during these periods.

The area from the Main Road Bridge to the mouth of the Waimakariri is not an appropriate facility for speeding water craft and its uniqueness for recreational and family fishing is exceptional for a facility so accessible by a wide representation of land based users and recreational sporting interests. For the salmon angler, of which there are 12,000 licensed holders in North Canterbury, this section of the river is an absolute gem, also attracting many visitors. NZSAA considers that speed based boating is more suited to other environments and has asked Environment Canterbury to give such recognition to this location.

# Ova Planting

*by Ron Stuart*

## **12 June 2010 - A Salmon Angler's Day in Paradise**



Yes it was. Why? Because in a lifetime the opportunity that arose this day does not repeat itself and it was the privileged who experienced it. We all talk of catching fish, but who amongst you can talk of enhancing the fishery for your future and the future of others. We often see pictures of trophy fish but on this day we created something like 100,000 trophy opportunities and the people that benefitted this experience were a bunch of 30 Salmon Angler volunteers interested in the fishery future.

Why was this a fantastic day? Well, Ben Divett General Manager of Salmon Smolt NZ Ltd, offered NZ Salmon Anglers a batch of surplus eyed ova. Being hatchery raised fish, we were keen to accept but, to keep the fishery authentic, we wanted these fish to return to their place of origin being the Silverstream Hatchery at Ohoka. So we decided to plant the ova in the Silverstream stream, just outside the hatchery. This stream is a beautiful gravel stream, low silt, minimal weed and a regular flow without excessive flooding. Our group of 30 volunteers worked vigorously to dig replica redds in which to place the planting barrels. The eggs, fresh out of the hatchery breeding troughs, were then transferred into these barrel redds. This procedure replicates a spawning salmon, by covering ova with gravel to hatch and grow.

The volunteers that day included Bruce Moody, Noel Agnew, Craig Fitzgerald, Dirk, Chris and Ryton Barr, Colin and Dianne Eaton, Warren Mackie, Peter Morgan, Ron Stuart, Kathy Carson, Kevin Belcher, Graham McLeod, Dennis Long, Graham Long, Warren Windelburn, Ken Paterson, Dean Austen, John Hodgson, Emily Arthur F&G, John Wrapson, Russell and Sharon MacKay, Robin Cumming, Colin Griffiths

Then to top the day off we had 30,000 ex-Montrose Hatchery fry to release into the Waimak system from the hatchery raceway at Silverstream. These fish had been hatched at Montrose and transferred to Silverstream where Salmon Smolt NZ grew them on to 50gm yearlings for release on this day. The outstanding feature of this operation is that whilst in their care Salmon Smolt NZ Ltd covered all the food and rearing costs as a contribution towards the sea run salmon fishery. This is an outstanding gesture between commercial enterprise and a sporting organisation, with support also from Fish & Game North Canterbury. The level of co-operation is unsurpassed within these groups and demonstrates how diverse interests can come together for one common good.

The day was one to be proud of, to just be involved in the enhancement procedure. As a reader of this article you should feel jealous of the experience enjoyed by our volunteers on this day. New Zealand fishermen seldom experience this type of opportunity.



*Team at work placing barrels and creating redds*



*The lovely Silverstream stream after barrel planting*



*Salmon Fry released from the Hatchery Raceway going into the stream*

## 19 June 2010 - Hacketts Creek

The night before I was a bit concerned because I had in my possession 40,000 eyed salmon ova that were to be planted out the next day being Saturday. Why was I concerned? Well, you see, this Friday had some nor'west indications and at 1700hrs the air temperature was 15°. The ova had come from Montrose hatchery at 8°, so I wanted to keep the temperature stable around this range.

Normally on Friday after work I attack my home hospitality resource but in the interest of my now in-charge salmon ova I gave up my ice bucket to place ice blocks within the ova storage container to ensure my trusted care was still to remain in comfort zone. Once the sun had gone I could relax and my charge of 40,000 salmon ova had an air of confidence about them and the story goes that they snuggled up for the night, ready for a chance in a lifetime tomorrow. (By that stage I had hatched more ice)

At around 0800 hours on Saturday we started out, first stop being the Yaldhurst Pub carpark to link up with a band of 16 volunteers all hell bent on ensuring every one of the 40,000 ova was placed safely in the stream to grow on and hatch as alevin.

We set off from the Yaldie at 0830 hours and drove directly to Bevan Mehrtens' property to access Hacketts Stream. We set up using last year's weirs and with minor construction they became the foundation for our instream planting. This year we took a different approach and instead of using one weir per row of loaded Scotty boxes we put three rows in behind the weir then used the boulders/stones to cover them and make a largish salmon redd. This in fact was a clump of 30,000 ova in one location and the advantage we saw was a replica type redd constructed. Emerging alevin could move out of the redd into peaceful waters of other weirs downstream that were there from last season. Our job was so much easier this year as we had little rebuilding to do. The ladies were very skilled loading the Scotty boxes and by 1130 hours our job was complete with 36,000 ova lying instream at Hacketts to emerge and complete the first phase of a life cycle.

While at Bevan's farm we went and viewed Bruce Moody's alevinators. (These are the fridge bodies converted to raise salmon ova streamside.) All looked great apart from a bit of silt and plankton floating in suspension in the water and settling in the alevinators. This seemed to be more prolific this season with the exceptionally high rainfall over the last several weeks. No two seasons are the same when you are dealing with salmon.

We had intended putting some of the ova at Porters Stream but the nor'west conditions were such that we chose not to venture over Porters Pass.

We gathered for lunch around noon and were toasted to a culinary delight of Dianne Eaton's famous salmon pie. This went around the troops rather quickly and no one was shy grabbing seconds. We had a fabulous day with a bunch of great mates. Volunteers were Noel Agnew, Ron Stuart, Bruce Moody, Graham McLeod, Colin and Dianne Eaton, Kathy Carson, Robin Cumming, Colin Griffiths, Paul Stewart, Ken Paterson, Ken Stupples, Russell and Sharon McKay, John Hodgson, Craig Fitzgerald.

With limited ova availability this year, we have not called on volunteers very often so, if you missed out, don't be disappointed. Next year might be quite different.

*Ron Stuart*

**HEALTH & SAFETY SYSTEMS LTD**

**LEIGH TOBECK**

Health and Safety Consultant



**AND** fisherman

**Phone 03 313 9114 or 0274 365 972**

[www.healthandsafetysystems.co.nz](http://www.healthandsafetysystems.co.nz)

**BALLINGERS**

**Hunting & Fishing**

**75 Clarence Street, Tower Junction, Christchurch**

**Phone (03) 3430212 Fax (03) 3430213**

**Come in and see us at our new location.**

With a much larger store and a dedicated team of fishermen and hunters, we have the expertise, advice and product to get you "out there and doing it". Our range of product is now bigger than ever.

**Open Seven Days**

## **Take a Kid Fishing - Sunday 17 October 2010 at Groynes Picnic Grounds, Johns Rd, Belfast**

**Round up the youngsters and make a note on the calendar now - on wet or fine**

A kids' fishing day, all young anglers welcome. Adults may assist, but not permitted to fish. Lady Isaac has donated hundreds of salmon that will be released in the lakes at the Groynes. Bring all the family and enjoy a fun kids' fishing day. It's free for all children, including the fishing licence for the day. Only trout fishing tackle permitted. (No surf or salmon equipment.) Caravans on site food and drink can be purchased.

**9am to 1pm: Children 12 years and under.** Skilled anglers from fishing clubs are there to help at all four lakes. Limited loan rods and bait available for the morning. One lake is reserved for children 8 years and under where an expert angler will supply tackle and assist for a limited time.

**1pm to 7pm: All kids 17 and under are permitted to fish.** Own fishing tackle is required.

See how to cook your catch. Talk to, Phil Keen, Executive Chef at Jo Seager's Cook School and Café, Oxford. Filleting and cooking demonstration 10am, 10.30am, 11 am.

Run by the **Kids Fishing Charitable Trust.**  
Enquiries to Dave Denton  
phone 03 318 2762, fax 03 318 2760  
email dmdenton@xtra.co.nz



**NEW BRIGHTON**  
**SPORTS**

**Pete Hart**

Pierside - 10 Beresford Street, New Brighton, Christchurch.  
Ph. 03 388 8251 Fax. 03 382 5122





**Letter from NZSAA  
supporter, Stan Gardner**

*“I am a very old ex-member (retired in 1979) who joined the Association over 30 years ago - I am not sure of the exact date. However I had my 94th birthday on 21 May 2010 and I write to thank members for keeping me on your mailing list for the newsletter.*

*“I decided a few years ago to hang up my rods and tackle as my left hip and knee joint started to give me a lot of trouble and at the moment I am waiting for a hip replacement and possibly the knee.*

*“Probably not many of the present members will remember me but it gives me much pleasure to read the newsletter and I become quite envious when I see photographs of members holding salmon or helping to keep rivers clear. I recall going to Glenariffe many years ago and my wife and I greatly enjoyed the trip. I was also interested to read the Winnemem Wintu tribal leaders’ visit to look at New Zealand salmon.*

*“I have a granddaughter in Timaru who is keen on fishing so I have given all my fishing gear to her. She does not get much time for fishing as she has a family of four to bring up but fortunately some of them are quite keen to try their hand with the rod.*

*“Timaru is an area we know very well as we had a bach just out of Pleasant Point so I fished quite a lot in the Opihi, Rangitata and Orari as well as the Waimak and Rakaia rivers.*

*“I have given you a rather long self-history as I want to say thank you and members for keeping me up to date with their efforts to improve the state of the salmon rivers. The Association must be very proud of their efforts.*

*“With best wishes for a very successful season next year,*

*Tight Lines and regards”*

**Stan Gardner**

Editor’s Note:

Stan joined NZSAA in 1974, just two years after the Association was formed.

## Salmon Hatchery Developments

*by John Hodgson*

I well remember my first meeting with Edgar “Rustee” Russ. It was at the Montrose hatchery when a group of us had been asked to come up and help clean up the headrace of all the water cress and rubbish. At this early stage it was not clear as to what was trying to be achieved with the hatchery and at “cup of tea time” we had this talk about the future. Property owners, Margo and Aud, were present and, during this discussion, Rustee outlined what needed to happen.

As the years go by and with major guidance and input from New Zealand King Salmon via Graeme Davidson, Fish & Game’s management and financial support, and Rustee’s initiative and persistent drive, along with many helpers, Montrose is what it is today.

The next exciting stage in the salmon enhancement programme is the development of two raceways for fingerling raising at the site of Isaacs salmon farm. Fish & Game has negotiated an agreement with Lady Diana Isaac for the use of vacant raceway space and this will enable the supply of salmon and trout for stocking initiatives throughout the South Island.

The preparation of the raceways involves a lot of work and Rustee has designed and built a walkway along the raceway dividing wall.



*The newly-constructed walkway between raceways*

Along and each side are four automatic fish feeders that are powered by a 12-volt system that ensures safety for the volunteers who will be needed in future to help run the operation. These feeders and electrics were expertly installed by Doug “Sparkee” Roy. The results as you see in the photos are just another example of the skills and dedication of volunteers in the interests of the salmon fishery.



*Raceway with feeders installed*



*Doug “Sparkee” Roy*

## Montrose Open Day, 4 July 2010

*by Ron Stuart*

This was probably one of the most successful days ever in terms of attendance numbers. By around 10.30am there were 151 vehicles parked up, so we are guessing around 600 adults and children visited the site.



*The crowd at Montrose Open Day - view over the raceways towards Rakaia River*

It was a beautiful day and the Hatchery was in great condition with clean raceways, well fed fish stocks and inside the hatchery shed the troughs were pulsing with hatched ova with alevin at various stages. Some had already developed with very little egg sac evident and they were bolting around the trough and growing up as they do. Great sight! Out on the raceways activity was at a peak with queues of children accompanied by parents, lining up for a bucket of fry to release into the stream. Inside the release fish raceway, a team of four - Steve Terry, Dirk Barr, Ryton Barr and Ron Stuart - were kept busy for an hour topping buckets up with fry and passing these out to eager hands for transfer to the stream. Some of the kids were quite small and it was amusing seeing them struggle with the bucket to complete the release. We had a complement of 40 buckets in the supply chain and these were constantly being returned for another top up

Meantime another group of volunteers were flat out cooking up sausages, buttering bread and frying up onions for a very tasty brunch type feed. An assortment of drinks was available. So popular was this BBQ that all the food was eaten up by 11.30am, so for the folk that were still arriving at this time it was all over rover as the salmon fry were all released, the food gone and heaps of pictures captured in cameras.

Another encouraging feature of the Hatchery is the breeding of rainbow and brown trout to enrich our waterways. Congratulations to Dirk Barr for his efforts, with regular assistance from stalwarts Rex Russell and Rodger Tobin and a number of other dedicated volunteers. You guys do a wonderful job, sometimes in really adverse conditions – but thanks from us all.

So next time you are renewing your fishing licence, reflect on this work sponsored by Fish & Game, the Salmon Enhancement Programme and all the volunteers that support our fishing habits



## **Rangitata Hatchery, McKinnons Creek**

It is estimated that around 300 adult fish returned to the hatchery stream this year (700 in 2009) and amongst their number were some very large fish including some big males. This is considerably fewer than last year and reflects the lower numbers of fish returning to all South Island rivers during the past season. They still had a good percentage return which will result in a healthy number to release next year.

Flows in McKinnons Creek were as low early in the year as many had seen in recent years. However it recovered quickly with seasonal rains and is back up to above normal.

A new trap had some early teething problems with strong fish jumping out. A shade cloth was placed over but they just found a hole and ended up on the roof where sadly a number died. The trap will be modified with additions to rectify this problem.

The Rangitata Hatchery was able to help two other hatcheries this year by supplying male salmon milt to make up a shortfall. They were impressed by the size and virility of the males available in McKinnons Creek this year - must be something in the Water!

In June around 300,000 eggs were in the hatchery shed in various stages of hatching. The only fish that were fin-clipped this year were those from the Rangitata headwaters (approx 15,000). This will help the objective of retaining the pure Rangitata strain. They were released at the same time as the remainder (total around 60,000) in July.

The Hatchery Committee has been busy talking about the project to Probus and Rotary groups. Many have visited the site along with a number of schools and community groups.

## **Penstocks v Fish Stocks - US dam demolition for salmon's sake**

*by Les Blumenthal, Washington - McClatchy-Tribune News Service*

They were known as June Hogs - 45kg salmon that, when stood on end, were taller than a man. Until a century ago, they returned annually to the Elwha River on Washington state's Olympic Peninsula in runs so huge homesteaders reported the river turned into a wiggling mass from bank to bank. One count placed their number at 392,000. Then two dams were built across the river and the spawning grounds were blocked, giving the fish less than 8km of river to breed in. Today fewer than 3000 fish return to the Elwha. That is about to change.

In what would be the largest dam removal project in the United States, the federal government has requested bids to demolish the two structures. The dams will not be blown up but dismantled over roughly three years so the 14.5 million cubic metres of silt, gravel and rock behind them can be flushed downstream gradually. The project will cost more than \$US300 million (\$NZ420 million). The cost of removing the dams - \$US60-70 million - is only a portion of the price tag.

Once the dams are down, it may take 10 years to re-establish the runs, but officials are determined the fish will return. Some will be flown by helicopter to the upper reaches of the Elwha watershed. To supplement the meagre number of native fish, others will be raised in a nearby hatchery and added to the runs. Eventually, the runs are expected to become wild. Scientists say if the salmon runs cannot be restored on the Elwha, they cannot be restored anywhere.

Brian Winter, Elwha Project Manager and fisheries biologist, has been working on restoring the Elwha runs since 1985. He says the river was a living laboratory that had been studied for decades. "This isn't so much about taking out the dams; it's about seeing the first salmon headed upstream", he said. Others are calling it the "last dam summer" as demolition work is expected to begin next year. American Rivers spokesperson, Amy Kober, says "All eyes, including internationally, are on it see how a river comes back to life. The lessons we learn on the Elwha will apply to other rivers around the nation."

***WANTED TO BUY***

**Composite Developments  
Graphcast 3 salmon rod**

*Phone Bill Harland 352 7643 or 021 1441686*

## WD-40: What is the main ingredient?

**Do you know what the main ingredient of WD-40 is? FISH OIL.**

'Water Displacement#40'. The product began from a search for a rust preventative solvent and degreaser to protect missile parts. WD-40 was created in 1953 by three technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company. Its name comes from the project that was to find a water displacement compound. They were successful with the fortieth formulation, thus Wd-40. The Convair Company bought it in bulk to protect their atlas missile parts. Ken East (one of the original founders) says there is nothing in WD-40 that would hurt you.

The list of uses for this product is endless (and sometimes surprising). A visit to the WD-40 website is worthwhile.

On the use of WD-40, NZSAA Chairman Ron Stuart says:

*"I have used WD40 on my reels for the last three seasons and had a great run. I strip clean my reel only once a season but, after a solid weekend of fishing, take the head off and really flush it with liberal spray of WD40 then dry it off. For the spindle/worm, I turn it up and fill the track with oil then turn it over and run a clean rag along it to dry*



**359 Lincoln Road, Christchurch**  
**Phone (03) 338 3131 Fax (03) 338 3535**  
Email: [info@fishermansloft.co.nz](mailto:info@fishermansloft.co.nz)

**ABU 6500C3 REEL**  
**Was \$199.95 - Now \$139.95**  
*Limited Stock*



Washers  
 Dryers  
 Refrigeration  
 Dishwashers  
 Ovens  
 Cookers  
 Freezers

## MURRAY SPIERS

- ◆ 26 Years Experience
- ◆ Personal Service
- ◆ Prompt Attention
- ◆ Guaranteed Workmanship

Contact: Murray 027 221 3134 383 2093 A/H

# jet boat base



Unit 3 - 1055 Main North Road, Chaney's Corner, Christchurch. Ph: 03 323 9040



- engine building
- tuning
- trouble shooting
- hull repairs
- impeller rebuilds
- protective stripping
- jet boat modifications
- second-hand parts
- trailer repairs
- stockists of Endurant Batteries
- new & second hand jet boats

Suppliers of...



The Home of...



popular turnkey packages include:

Mercury sports jet 175, 210 or 240HP  
 Lexus 4.0L Alloy V8 and Scott junior 2 stage jet unit.  
 Chev LS6/LS 1 All alloy V8 and Scott 2 stage jet unit.  
 Chev 350 and Hamilton 212 jet unit.  
 Transplanting from existing boat is also an option.



## 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)*



*What value do you place on your life?*

**These inflatables have the Queen's Award for Enterprise.  
You don't even know that you are wearing them until you need to know.  
Englands - the choice is yours**

**Hook Line & Sinker**

NEW ZEALAND LIMITED

Phone: 03 337 1029

Email: [hooklineandsinker@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hooklineandsinker@xtra.co.nz)

## **Fish & Game News**

### **Salmon in the Whanganui River**

Ken McCann from Seriously Outdoors in Taumarunui has reported that salmon are being caught in the Whanganui River near Piriaka. At least seven have been caught, ranging in size from 6-12kg. This is late in the year for salmon to be running but the flood in mid June was the first for the year and presumably the fish had been holding off until there was some extra water flowing in the river.

Salmon were last confirmed in the Whanganui River during the mid-1990's when Brent Fife, caught a salmon in excellent condition near the Te Marie bridge about 20km downstream from Taumarunui; and a 9kg salmon was found dead against the intake screens to the Piriaka Power Station about 10km upstream from Taumarunui. This fish was extremely thin, in post spawning condition, and would have weighed at least 14kg when it entered freshwater.

The salmon were most likely to be strays from the South Island, perhaps an accidental release from the massive sea cage farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

### **Resource Consents**

*CPW:* Fish and Game lodged an appeal to the consents granted to CPW. The scope of their appeal is in relation to fish screen conditions and the flow regime for the take off the Waimakariri. CPW have also been approached directly with an offer to discuss possible mitigation.

*Hurunui:* A moratorium has been enforced on the Hurunui catchment, meaning that there will be no new consents processed for 14 months, including HWP. This is intended to give some time for a planning framework to be established on the Hurunui, which could consist of a WCO or an ECan catchment plan.

### **Salmon Spawning Habitat**

Staff have supported an application for funding for stock exclusion fencing at Glenariffe. This has been kindly donated by the Rakaia River Promotions. Staff have completed a Trust Deed for the newly formed Water & Wildlife Habitat Trust. The trust will now be looking to obtain charitable status. Staff have been working with LINZ to identify where high country grazing is not permitted in riverbed.

### **Landowner Liaison**

Staff met with the owner of Rakaia Island to discuss the possibility of access across the bottom of the island to the main stem of the Rakaia.

### **Salmon counts**

How can you tell if a salmon is exhausted? It's easy from a helicopter; instead of bolting for the nearest cover the really tired ones just sit there gently swishing their tails back and forth, way too tired to move away from the gravel nest they are defending for anything as inconsequential as a helicopter. And tired they should be. The salmon in the Glenariffe Stream for example have swum 100 km from the mouth of the Rakaia River. They have not eaten since they left the sea up to four months ago. They have fought off

other suitors. They have carved out 3m wide depressions in the gravel with their flanks, and having deposited their eggs, they are holding on for as long as they can to defend them. Waiting until death frees them from their responsibility.

Yes, the annual Fish & Game salmon counts are a time to appreciate this amazing feat of nature and determination. It makes speed dating seem like a walk in the park. Salmon counting is not for the faint hearted however; the flights are low (below power line level) and the counter must look down the entire time. This more often than not results in the odd stop to empty last night's dinner. Every year Fish & Game North Canterbury count the fish in about a dozen key salmon spawning streams in the Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers, accounting for around 90 % of the spawning run in these catchments. The information is used in tandem with telephone harvest surveys to get an idea of the total run from the season and in turn the long term trends and/or any problem areas.

## **Celebrating Salmon**

A 4-D educational entertainment centre celebrating salmon has been built in Rakaia. Salmon World has just opened its doors to the public, transforming the Salmon Tales complex, beneath the townships iconic leaping salmon sculpture, into a top-class and comprehensive visitor attraction.

An all-new aquarium and 4-D movie experience adjoin the existing Salmon Tales cafe and restaurant. The aquarium focuses on the life-cycle of Rakaia salmon, while a 4-D movie provides an up close and personal experience of Mid Canterbury's rivers complete with bumpy ride, wind and soon to have spraying river water plus some of the district's other exhilarating adventure tourism activities. The experience is said to be so real that patrons will be strapped into their seats. As well as jet-boating on the rivers, the movie takes visitors on other heart-stopping Mid Canterbury adventures helicopter ride, skiing and snowboarding, and hot-air ballooning.

Salmon World is the brain-child of the two couples, Mid Canterbury locals Pat and Kaye Turton and Neil and Judy Brown, who opened Salmon Tales three and a half years ago.

Centrepiece of the aquarium is a 30,000-litre salmon tank housing large salmon and trout specimens alongside a smaller multi-pool system that displays brown and rainbow trout, eels and whitebait. Information panels and videos will ensure that visitors gain a good appreciation of the life cycle of the salmon, fish and river conservation efforts and salmon fishing.

Pat Turton said the aquarium was unique in that it was for fresh water fish. Most other aquariums focus on salt water sea life and none in New Zealand have the species of trout or salmon that we have. Their focus is on telling a story about the Rakaia River and the fishery, and they see their role being very much an educational one. New Zealand Fish & Game had provided great support for the venture.

The site will continue to accommodate the Rakaia Information Centre as well. A retail outlet offering a range of fresh and processed salmon products as well as other premium New Zealand food and beverage items will complete the visitor experience.



**YOU'RE INVITED  
JOIN**

# **NZ Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)**

- ▶ YOUR SUPPORT WILL ENSURE CONTINUATION OF OUR SALMON FISHERY.
- ▶ PROTECT OUR WATER RESOURCES
- ▶ ENSURE APPROPRIATE LICENSING REGULATIONS
- ▶ ASSIST BREEDING PROGRAMS



**Post To: N.Z. Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)  
P. O. Box 1113 Christchurch 8140 New Zealand**

I wish to become a member of the NZ Salmon Anglers Association Inc  
and agree to be bound by the Rules and Constitution of the Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Available to assist with volunteer work weekdays/weekends?

*Subscription enclosed*

- Adult membership \$25pa
- Family membership \$30pa
- Junior membership (under 18yrs) \$10pa

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

