

Waitaki riparian Enhancement Society Inc.

Volunteer Salmon Hatchery News Letter.

25th Edition, February 2017.

We are into 2017 and I guess that some of our members are eagerly awaiting the arrival of some salmon.

There have been rumours of salmon being caught in the Waitaki, but tracking down a verified catch has been impossible up until last Sunday the 4th February when a confirmed salmon was caught at the river mouth. This I believe is the first confirmed salmon taken from the river.

Before I go on, WE must acknowledge our principle sponsors, who through their generosity have made it possible for our organisation to have the facilities that we have, by funding our project. It has to be noted that all work done towards the project was supplied and delivered by volunteers. To that end we have to thank the following organisations. **Meridian Waitaki Community Fund, Youthtown, Dean and associates, Morven Glenavy Ikawai Irrigation Company, Waitaki Irrigators collective, Glenavy – Waitaki Bridge Salmon Association(Waitaki salmon fishing Competition in recess), Pub Charity, Oceania Dairy Ltd, and the Otago community trust.**

There have been no individual donations made to our organisation since the last news letter. This is the first time in Seven years and is of some concern. When we started we had 48 members who made donations, we also had 45 persons attending working bees (reported in news letter no 4.) In 2016 we had only 8 members make a donation and the last big working bee only 9 persons attended.

It puts into perspective the \$13,987 raised by a dedicated band of volunteers cutting and selling firewood. To all those that went out of their way, our committee thanks you, for without your effort we would be embarrassed, and be an organisation that is not prepared to put in a bit of an effort for what we believe in.

On a better note. Our rearing raceway at Welcome stream is up and running, and is housing 4,250 fish. They are gaining weight nicely and are about 2 months behind where we would be had we had brood stock earlier in 2016. This was the result of the Hakataramea being dry during March, April and May.

Not having to compete with Dydimmo has made a huge difference in cleaning the raceway etc. It is now possible for one or two members to team up and look after the fish for a week. If anyone wants to join the list to look after the fish just let Trevor Hill, Linn Koevoet or Murray Hanson know and you can be fitted in for a week. A week consists of 4 visits to the race way. 2 visits take about 20mins, and the other two visits take about 45mins.

Cutting firewood is our principle means of fund raising. This has raised considerable cash for our organisation, and to do so we have had to borrow and hire wood splitters for our volunteer members to use. It has been decided to purchase a wood splitter of our own and

plans are afoot for this to come to fruition. We are in the process of applying for funding on a 50-50 basis for the purchase of a log splitter. This will have undoubted benefits as it will be able to be used when we want to use it, rather than trying to organise a series of logs splitters on a given day and not having enough volunteers to operate all the logs splitters.

We have an abundance of trees offered to us for firewood. WE still have 5 old man pines at the Hilderthorpe school to cut and split. We have just cut and ringed but yet to split 6 blue gums from Barry Zweis.

We have been offered a number of Blue Gums from Daniel Isbister, and we have been offered about 100 40 year old pines by Joy Bourke and Mark Caldwell. These trees have been topped some 10 years ago and have a 7 meter trunk. They have been trimmed on one side and we do not have to tidy the slash. Mark will move the trunks with his tractor and stock pile the logs for us to deal to at a later date. These have to be down by the end of April, because if they are not they will be knocked over and burnt. Please be available to help out here as the money to our organisation will be very much needed.

In the next few weeks we are expecting our fish food order to arrive from Chile. This is for the next breeding season and we have budgeted for enough food for 30,000 smolt. The cost of the fish food is \$6,857.12 plus freight x lyttleton.

The caravan that our society bought, for a base at the salmon trap, is undergoing a face lift. It has been stripped of paint, to the bare aluminium, and will be spray painted with Etching primer in the next week or so then spray painted to the original factory colours. White with lemon yellow trim. Again this has been all done by volunteers. It is hoped to purchase a caravan cover for the caravan thus preventing the weather from affecting our asset.

This year is the expectant return of the survivors of the 16,500 smolt which we released in 2015. Again we have offered 5 equal prizes of a \$100 sports voucher to anyone who is lucky enough to catch one of our fish. These are identifiable by the **MISSING** adipose fin, which was removed when we did our fin clipping. If more than five fish are weighed in at our weighing stations the lucky anglers names, will all be placed in a hat and five names will be drawn out as winners at the end of this salmon season. Remember to be in to win you must weigh your fish in at the **Glenavy Hotel or, Oamaru sports and outdoors or Waimate outdoors. and a scale sample is to be provided.** No scale sample no entry. It is important for us to know how many fish have been caught as this is our only means of assessing the success of the release. Please do not ring in and advise that you have caught one as we need verification for your catch to actually count.

A Date to note in your callendar. This is Tuesday the 28th of March 2017. This is the date of our AGM which will be held at the Glenavy hall at 7.30pm.

At this meeting there is a proposed rule change being considered. This relates to the rules on Auditing. It is proposed to ammend the wording from “**Auditor**” to “**Reviewer.**” This has come about because of recent changes to the Companies Act.

Entry is by gold coin donation to defray expense costs, supper provided, guest speaker in attendance. Remember this is your organisation so please make an attemp to be present.

A further reminder to all our members. We are collecting old car and truck lead batteries. This is a very easy fundraiser to members to accomplish. If you have a battery or more that you wish to donate please deliver to collection point in Glenavy or contact a committee member who will arrange a pick up. When out visiting or doing business just mention the fact that our organisation is collecting batteries as a fundraiser. It is surprising just where you can find them. It doesn't hurt to ask.



Above is a photograph of our completed raceway at Welcome creek. It may cost our organisation \$23,000 just in paperwork for this project. So as can be seen fundraising is important.



This news letter is sponsored by the Team at **Oamaru Sports and outdoors**. Please support them when you can.