

NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

October 2017 Number 121



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**Take a Kid Fishing
Next Sunday 15 October
at The Groynes,
Christchurch**



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

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Honorary Auditor Trevor Hayes

Committee Meetings

The Committee meets on the first Monday each month (except January) at 7.30 pm. Members and supporters are welcome to attend these meetings. (Meetings are currently held at a private residence, so please check this with the Secretary if you wish to attend.)

Life Members

Lindsay Dell, Pam Ellis, Trevor Hayes, John Healy, John Hodgson, Ken Hughey, Dennis Long, Doug Roy, Stephen Sparrow.



EDITORIAL

October 2017

Dear Anglers

“Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink”. Pardon me for using this well known quote. But it could happen. The new “surprise” finding is the evidence that increased nitrate levels have endangered the aquifers that we use for drinking water on the plains. This could very well spread far faster and further than expected.

The unthinkable could happen to the water supply to Christchurch. Our fabled pure drinking water from the tap could in the near future be contaminated by nitrates. This means we would have to chlorinate our drinking water as nitrates cannot be boiled or filtered out.

Who’s to blame for this increased risk of contamination? ECAN is the prime candidate as they gave the consents to farm. I’m not against farming but I’m against bad farming practices. The Canterbury Plains were not meant for intensive dairying and irrigation on the scale it is now.

Why my concern? The good health of a river and the water system is vital for fish to swim in and spawn. I hope that there

will be enough water in the rivers for them to do this.

Sorry about a bit of a rant but it is in everybody’s interest to keep our drinking water safe from contamination.

Enough of that, now on to more positive things. The efforts of our field teams have brought some great results. The egg planting in our alevinator has had a great hatch of 93%. We know this because we do a count of the Scotty boxes and dead eggs when we clean out the alevinator. So out of 27000 eggs the greater part have hatched and become part of the ecosystem. How many will survive past this start is the big question. At best, 5% as far as we know. Let’s hope we get some fish back to spawn for all our efforts.

The great fish screen debate continues. The screens basically have never been monitored since consents were granted. They are for the most part ineffective. If they can get 100% effective screens in North America why not here? The main complaint is cost. Well the irrigation companies seem to have plenty of money so it’s up to them.

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.



Sunday 15 October

**At The Groynes picnic grounds
off Johns Rd, Belfast, Christchurch**

This is a very popular event and we recommend families get there early to get their spot. It is a free morning event for all children and it's on wet or fine.

The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust has once again generously donated hundreds of salmon which will be released into the lakes at the Groynes. Come and enjoy a fun kids' fishing day. No registration or fishing licence necessary (Fish and Game provide a whole-of-site licence for the day).

Adults may assist but are not permitted to fish. Food and drinks for sale on site.

9am to 1pm

Take a Kid Fishing is for children 12 years and under, with one lake especially for the under-8s where each child has a short one-on-one session with an expert angler. (There is sometimes a queue for this).

Some rods, tackle and bait for loan in the morning At all four lakes, skilled anglers from fishing clubs will be there to give advice and help.

1pm to 7pm

All children (under 18 years old) can fish, but from 1pm will need their own gear.

Learn to clean and cook your catch

An "Executive Chef", will be there with his hot plate and some brilliant ideas for quickly turning your fish into a tasty dish. The chef also does filleting demonstrations.

Every year since 1989 volunteers, fishing club members and many kind businesses, organisations and individuals have worked to put on Christchurch's Take a Kid Fishing.

The Kids Fishing Charitable Trust (Charity #2168069) is the funding and governance body - they would be pleased to speak to anyone about donations.

For more information:

Email: takeakidfishing@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TakeAKidFishingNZ/>

***A special night out for
NZ Salmon Anglers Association members,
family and friends***

Come along to

Hunting & Fishing

75 Clarence Street, Tower Junction, Christchurch

On Tuesday 17 October

6.00 to 9.00 p.m.

- Need some new gear for the coming fishing season?
(Of course, everyone needs new fishing gear!)
- See what's new on the market.
- Chat about the prospects for your salmon catches.
- Fish & Game speakers: Steve Terry and Dirk Barr
- The shop will be open for purchases with some
'on the night' discounts.

NZSAA ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

NZSAA Annual Subscription accounts for the current year that commenced 1 April 2017 have been sent to all members either by email or post.

Thank you to all those who have paid and a reminder to all others that their subscriptions are now due and payable as follows:

Adult membership	\$25
Family membership	\$30
Junior membership (under 18 years)	\$10

Payment can be made to the Treasurer by

- Direct Credit to NZSAA Westpac account 03 0802 0099970 00;
(please include your name on the payment details); or
- Mail to NZSAA P O Box 1113 Christchurch 8140;

Thank you for your continued support of NZSAA

Hunting & Fishing

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Waimakariri Salmon Fishing Competition

Christchurch Region Stores

75 Clarence Street, Tower Junction, Christchurch: Phone 03 3430212

North Canterbury, 305 Flaxton Road, Rangiora: Phone 03 3131313

All about fish screens



Newly-elected committee member, Paul Hodgson, is a passionate campaigner on the impact of safe fish passage and poorly designed fish barriers. There has been much debate, (and mirth regarding the use of mixed veges for testing) on the poor fish screen compliance in Canterbury. Through Paul's persistence, some progress is being made with Environment Canterbury and Fish & Game on investigation of effective fish barrier designs that hopefully will result in an eventual satisfactory outcome.

Here are some extracts from Paul's submissions on the subject. Space prevents full printing but hopefully readers will get the gist of the subject and the problems faced.

The impact of safe fish passage and poorly designed fish barriers is a significant issue in Canterbury and is spreading throughout the country as the drive to intensify returns on farms through irrigation.

There are basically two types of fish barriers in Canterbury - positive barriers and experimental types. Positive barriers are cheap imitations of USA designs, not linked to fish bypass systems and aren't maintained. None of them keep fish out of irrigation raceways. Experimental types of barriers include behavioural (RDR's BAFF) and rock bunds/infiltration galleries. The BAFF barrier doesn't work, has never worked and never will work in Canterbury. The rock bund types conceptually could work for salmon and trout but not for native fish.

There is no imperial data to validate that any of the fish barriers in Canterbury work. All let fish through and the irrigation raceways and ponds in Canterbury are full of fish.

The key thing to decide early on is "What is the definition for safe fish passage?"

- Should all native fish, salmon and trout remain in the river?
- Should any fish that are removed from the river be returned unharmed to the river.
- Should any fish that are damaged or not returned to the river be replaced by the irrigator or farmer?

Oddly there is no Fish & Game policy on safe fish passage and fish barriers either at a national or local level. If there were detail in the respective salmon management plans then ECan and other planning authorities would have been required to incorporate this into their planning process.

Farmers do not want fish in their irrigation raceways and ponds because it blocks their pumps and irrigators, so by advocating for 100% fish exclusion it will be helping the farmers and also anglers at the same time. This is probably one of the few issues where a win/win scenario for both parties is on the table.

There is an opinion that the effective loss of smolt at fish screens, even at 95% efficient, was not cumulative nor significant. Fortunately science states quite categorically that this is incorrect. It is the cumulative impact of the fish screen efficiency from a number of fish screens on a river that determines the need for setting the standard of 100% exclusion. Even at 99% exclusion from 5 fish screens will result in potentially a 5% or more loss to the salmon fishery on the river. From a RMA perspective the cumulative impact of fish barriers operating at 95% exclusion could result in a 23% or greater impact on the salmon fishery. This tips the scales from a minor to a major impact from a RMA perspective triggering the need for corrective action.

The problem of fish barriers was solved in the USA after spending 100's of millions of dollars over 30 years. 100% exclusion is the accepted standard of fish barriers in the USA with Fish & Game being part of the team that visited USA to see for themselves. The USA fish barrier designs are affordable in New Zealand.

There is poor compliance around water consent conditions in general and fish barriers in particular. It is likely that millions of salmon and trout smolt have been removed from Canterbury rivers over the years. There is no approved method for checking fish barrier effectiveness after all the reports, meetings and over 30 years of discussion, in spite of Water Conservation Orders on the Rangitata and Rakaia Rivers.

So what of the salmon fishery? This has been in decline for some time and in the last 20 years has been in rapid decline. Probably the only thing that is keeping the fishery going in recent years has been the rapid expansion of hatcheries mostly run by angler volunteers in Canterbury. The myth that the fishery has peaks and troughs and it's a bad year is ignoring the continued actual downward trend. While it can't be said that the only reason for the decline in the salmon fishery is the loss of smolt to irrigation raceways, the trends are similar. It is likely this year's returns for spawning will be poor again.

The dramatic drop in the returning numbers can be seen in historical returns for the main salmon rivers. The biggest river with the biggest returns, the Waitaki (36000 down to a few hundred if you are lucky), now has basically ceased to exist from an angling perspective. You can scratch the Ashburton River (5,000 down to about 200) from the list as well. The Ashburton ceased to have a significant salmon run from the early 80's from an angling perspective.

In short, it's time to send a clear message to ECan to improve compliance standards in general and specifically to fish barriers. It is reasonable to expect Fish & Game to insert a safe fish passage section in both the Salmon Management Plan and respective Sports Fish and Hunting Plans. Based on the effectiveness of the USA fish barriers it is entirely reasonable to expect that fish barriers achieve a 100% exclusion.

Paul Hodgson

June 2017

South Island Salmon Symposium

Many salmon anglers have offered Fish & Game advice on how to manage the fishery and their thoughts need to be put together as a blueprint for the way forward. Given the state of the fishery it seems appropriate to pool together the best information available here in New Zealand and to also draw on overseas expertise with the objective of coming up with a plan that will assure the future of the fishery.

North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish & Game have therefore organised a two day Symposium about the sea run salmon fishery.

The Symposium will be held in Ashburton on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 November at Hotel Ashburton

A registration fee of \$60 will be charged for the first 200 registrants and thereafter the fee will be \$100. This will cover 2 lunches and 4 morning and afternoon teas. Attendees will have to arrange their own accommodation if they want to stay over for the two days.

There will be overseas speakers at the Symposium along with NZ experience and locals. Topics include

- F&G structure and role
- North American salmon fisheries, experiences, lessons, solutions
- Spawning and habitat
- Hatchery operations and research
- North American marine issues, hatchery management, genetics
- Bycatch and industry practices
- Marine environment
- Angler catch, river flows, fish passage, habitat
- State of freshwater environment
- Resource Management Act, minimum flows, Water Conservation Orders

There will also be four workshops on day two:

1. Spawning streams, freshwater production including hatcheries
2. Ocean environment
3. Role of F&G, salmon management plan, etc.
4. RMA consenting issues/compliance, fish screens, water quantity, quality and allocation.

Full details and registration details will be available soon from the Fish & Game website.

AQUIFER RECHARGE

By John Hodgson

This opinion piece was submitted by John and published, in part, in the Press public notices on 11 August 2017. This full version includes the concluding 8 points.

“The following is a simple demonstration to help people understand “Nature’s processes” for water renewal of the Canterbury Plains.

Put water in the sink to near the top. Then using a vegetable draining colander immerse in the water and watch how quickly the incoming water fills the colander. Next, lift up and observe how fast the water drains. What you are seeing is how nature’s plumbing system works in regards to aquifer water recharge.

This is the system of the Canterbury plains and has worked satisfactorily for man and beast etc., and has had sufficient underground reserves of water along the foot hills of the Alps to maintain a flow for the aquifers for several years when rainfall and snow is at a low ebb. The position now is that there are hundreds of deep bore wells, that have over 10 or more years drained the natural reserves of water so the sink is empty.

The consequence of this is going to be a massive disaster. The first being no drinkable non-treated water and each year becoming worse.

It is false information that the rivers are dry because of low rainfall. The cause is excessive draw off of the natural water reserves by the dairy cow industry. (Irrigation for agriculture is not a problem, it is seasonal.)

Of the many opinions expressed just lately about our water and no matter how correct and genuine they are, no change to the current situation is possible until the deep well owners are required to lift their pumps three metres per year until equilibrium is reached. It has taken less than ten years to get to this very serious state of affairs and will take at least fifteen years to start recovering.

The laughable side of the situation is that the present National Government collapsed the Environmental Council. They put in Commissioners to allocate water fairly, and have failed in their responsibility. We are now back to the earlier Council’s discussion that the water takes are all over allocated.

The sad side is that many farmers towards the coastline who attended the many zone committee meetings are going to be disadvantaged to have enough water to run their farms and they will be fighting the upland water takers.

The serious side is that as the mean water table drops, the overload of pollutants from dairying will contaminate progressively the water supply for many communities until it reaches Christchurch proper.

The Christchurch City Council has knowledge of this, and since the earthquake era has been replacing damaged bores, but they are going much deeper so the pollution factor will not show as early as with the shallower wells.

The water bottling companies need to be aware that the present purity of supply is in jeopardy.

In all of 70 years of being able to vote in a general election I don't recall such a bad situation as that which we have at the present time. Even the 1951 strike action and the Holland Government response was tame compared to the present time. We are now dealing with the survival of Canterbury.

The cause of this serious situation is simply the present Government, the Overseas Investment Office and the Banks that urged farmers to go into a very large debt repayment system with the promise of an abundant water supply. The Government used inadequate water science to start with and is failing to recognise that many farming units are going to fail because of debt repayment. It will be the Government's responsibility to accept the debt of failed farms and pay the moneylenders.

It is also ironic the Government is giving millions of dollars towards the rebuild of Christchurch city, but ignores the oncoming disaster that has already started by the destruction of our once famous artesian waters.

What Needs To Be Done Immediately.

1. No deepening of any bore wells without authority. This covers many shallow wells of less than 70 metres.
2. Instructions to the deep bore well's owners to start lifting their pumps.
3. Extensive and accurate assessments of recording factors and public recognition of the bore well holders of consents that they are doing what is required.
4. A statement from the Christchurch Council and the District Councils of how they will supply potable water for use by the public when the water becomes contaminated.
5. Will the councils confiscate the Canterbury Water scheme to supply what is needed.
6. What is the emergency profile for the Canterbury Health Board.
7. Fire fighting is able to use any water, (polluted or otherwise) as long as it is water.
8. So that people will be able to come to terms with the diminishing water flows, a cross section map showing bore depth relative to mean sea level starting from the foothills to the sea. The public are entitled to know because it is their water resource as well as private enterprise."

Chief Executive of Irrigation NZ, Andrew Curtis, in a Press article on 1 September, responding to the actions of Greenpeace activists who locked themselves inside a Central Plains Water irrigation pipe in Canterbury, made the following comments:

"Changing technology is already resulting in huge improvements in water efficiency. The majority of farms have invested in precision technology to monitor and apply water - an ECan and Irrigation NZ joint studying 2016 showed 70% of farms now have this technology, compared to 20% five years ago.

“Taking less water allows improved river and lake flows, reduced run off and leaching and more water for fish. Modernisation of existing infrastructure - piping and implementation of automated control systems - typically results in around 20% less water being used.”

Mr Andrew Curtis’s article Friday 1/9/17 in the Press about irrigation of the Canterbury plains by the Central Plains Water Scheme is very misleading. Such comments as taking less water allows for improved river and lake flows, reduced water runoff, leaching and more water for fish.

Who is being fooled by this statement? The fact is, it is not alpine water but the northern leg of the Rakaia River and which is now responsible for the greatly reduced flow of the Rakaia. The intention of the Water Conservation Order is not being complied with.

I challenge Mr Curtis and others to disprove the accuracy of my statement as presented by me in the Public Notices of the Press Friday 11th of August 2017 heading ”Aquifer Recharge”

John Hodgson



But it’s not all bad news regarding effluent discharges as acknowledged by Steve McNeill in his letter to the Press on 6 October. NZSAA member Steve has been one of the strongest critics of ECan’s performance on dairy farm consent compliance and we are sure he will continue to watch their progress with keen interest.

Lifting their game

ECan’s latest Canterbury dairy farm consent compliance data provides welcome news. Full compliance has lifted from 74 per cent last year to 89 per cent for the last farming season. ECan staff checked 60 per cent of farms and a further 196 farms were checked by independent auditors. There was a reduction of 15 operating dairy effluent discharge consents across Canterbury.

The 11 per cent non-compliance rate indicates that up to 140 farms are still below the required standard and possibly damaging waterways and troubling water users downstream. In the past few years there has been 10 per cent to 30 per cent non-compliance, and environmental and ecological damage has occurred.

Congratulations are due to the top performing dairy farmers for the improvements made to date.

SM McNeill
St Albans

Ova Planting 2017

10 June

37,000 ova - in-stream incubators (lockers) in the Porter River, mini boxes and barrels at Broken River, and boxes at One Tree Swamp. Air temperature between 7 and 10 degrees. Hawdon River had no water flowing in it and the Waimak at Mount White Bridge was the lowest ever seen.

At One Tree Swamp main stream 25 live salmon were spotted on their redds and 2 carcasses. One pair seemed to be still spawning. No fish spotted in the second stream and only five redds. There were still several salmon hanging around in the lower reaches as if waiting to move up.

17 June

40,000 ova - 10,000 planted in in-stream incubators at Porter River, 5,000 One Tree Swamp, 25,000 in Scotty boxes at Hacketts Creek. Good water flow at Hacketts Creek, temperature 8.6°C. Air temperature 11.6°C. Ova planted the previous weekend at the Porter River were already hatching. Air temperature at One Tree Swamp was -1.0°C at midday

More redds noted in One Tree Swamp but not as many salmon. Of more interest was that fin-clipped salmon were spawning up there. One was already dead but another was digging a redd. This fish was very fresh, around 7lbs, the same colouring and condition as you would catch at the Waimak mouth and Macintosh's. We certainly didn't expect to see fish in this condition so far up and late.

9-10 July

Visit to Hacketts Creek, One Tree Swamp and Broken River to see progress of the hatch in the Alevinator. Everything great with plenty of red ova swimming around. A video of results can be seen on video at these links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUxn3Rg8T0M>

<https://youtu.be/Yry6XT0gTgM>

3 August

The fry were swimming freely without their sac and many had already escaped the Alevinator. On inspection of one box the hatch percentage looked good. It was noted that most of the fry were swimming on the bottom of the Alevinator but once we opened the box up the fry started to swim more in the upper column. So the lid was left slightly open to allow a little light in as they would experience in nature.

Enjoy another video on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-Z7j9R6axs>

26 August

At Hacketts Creek the Scotty boxes were removed from the Alevinator to establish the hatch count. This involved removing each of the 26 Scotty boxes, open each one, count

the unhatched eggs, record them, then water blast each tray and reassemble the Scotty boxes and return them to our storage container. On a quick look of the figures the hatch percentage looked good with many trays having single figure count dead eggs.

The final figures within the tray, then the complete box, produced an amazing result of 93.1% hatch rate. Conditions that were favourable this year included a constant water flow and cool temperature. Water cress also seemed to provide a filtration system which resulted in less silt in the Alevinator. We also had only one layer of Scotty boxes in the Alevinator.

16 September

Trip to remove lockers from One Tree Swamp and Broken River. We couldn't get across the Hawdon River because of the water flow and the depth of the washouts, some of which were over a metre deep. Removed the five lockers from Broken River. Four had less than 100 dead eggs, the fifth was not quite so good - estimated 250-300. Plan to move one locker next season to get a better water flow through it.



The happy crew at Hacketts Creek after finishing the hatch count and cleaning up the equipment on 26 August

Question:

If you catch this con-joined salmon in 3 years' time, would it be considered a limit bag?





Opening the Alevinator containing the Scotty boxes at Hacketts Creek

Doing the hatch count



Reassembling the Scotty boxes

Silverstream Release

At least 100,000 small fry were released into Silverstream in July from Salmon Smolts NZ hatchery. General Manager Karl French said these stocks were buttoned and first fed before release. They were released well below the farm in fast flowing water so they dispersed quickly and the birds or eels didn't have a chance to eat them. Parentage was a sea reared 3 year old female crossed with a 3 year old mal



Bequest

The Late Gerald Cresswell recently bequeathed in his Will the sum of \$5000 to NZ Salmon Anglers Association. Gerald had been a member and supporter since 1976 and he was no doubt a keen salmon angler. We are most appreciative of this bequest and have conveyed our thanks to the family through his son David.

As a tangible remembrance, NZSAA has applied the money to the purchase of 40 new Scotty boxes to replace some of our original stock which is showing wear and tear after many years of use in our salmon enhancement programme.

2017 AGM Awards & Prizewinners

NZSAA Members Salmon Competition 2016-17

Aquarius Trophy: Heaviest Fish Overall Kevin Belcher - 7.32kg salmon

Cromb & Merritt/Fishermans Loft Trophy
Heaviest Salmon Waimakariri River Peter Morgan - 4.80kg salmon

Alty Roscoe Memorial Trophy
Heaviest Salmon Rakaia River: No entries

Barry Craig Earthquake Memorial Trophy NZSAA Salmon Angler of the Year - awarded to Trevor Hayes

This trophy is given to a dedicated salmon angler seen as showing outstanding sportsmanship and we were pleased to award this to Trevor.

The New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association took the opportunity at the AGM to thank Trevor for his ongoing valued contribution to the Association. He first joined the NZSAA in 1978 and became our Auditor in 1980. Trevor gives this valuable service free to NZSAA and this has been greatly appreciated over the years. In 2002 he was made a Life Member.

Trevor is obviously a keen salmon fisherman and enjoys a bit of whitebaiting. Trevor is also a great source of information about historical matters and events. We applaud Trevor's dedicated ongoing service to the NZSAA.



*Trevor Hayes receiving the Trophy from
President Tony Humphreys*

Athol Price Plaque - awarded to Wayne Henwood

The Athol Price Plaque is given in recognition of outstanding service to the salmon fishery.

The recipient this year, Wayne Henwood, gives more than 100% to the salmon enhancement programme when it comes to volunteer effort, not only for the NZSAA but also to Fish & Game. He has worked hundreds of hours this year, all for the good of the freshwater fisheries.

He has been actively involved with all aspects of enhancement – salmon egg planting, barrel and Scotty boxes, fin clipping, fish salvage operation, raceway cleaning at Montrose, and his special effort with the development and construction of the new hatchery at Whiskey Creek.

Unfortunately, Wayne was not able to be at the AGM to receive the Plaque but a presentation was made at another appropriate time. Congratulations Wayne - keep up the good work.

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Chev 350 and Hamilton 212 jet unit.
Transplanting from existing boat is also an option.



Canterbury Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2016

The above Bylaw came into force on 10 October last year. It applies to all navigable waters in the Canterbury Region. With the new angling and boating season underway, it is timely to print some of the main provisions that will relate to recreational water users.

Vessel

Shall have the same meaning as in the Maritime Rule Part 91 and for the sake of clarity shall include a sledge, surfboard, sailboard, or any other object intended or used to carry or support a person in or on the water.

Life Jackets

Every person on board a recreational vessel that is 6 metres or less in length must wear a properly secured personal floatation device of an appropriate size for that person when the vessel is under way.

Boats must have identification

If your boat is towed on a trailer

You must have the registration number of the trailer on each side of the vessel, and it must be at least 90mm high. It has to be seen in daylight from 50m away – this could be a sticker with a colour that contrasts with your boat's hull.

If you belong to a sporting body you should check with your organisation or Environment Canterbury as your organisation's ID system may have already been approved by the Harbourmaster's Office. If you're already approved, it can be used instead of your trailer registration. If you have an existing Maritime NZ registration number or a radio call sign, then this can be displayed.

If your boat isn't towed on a trailer

You must display a unique identifying name and/or number either side of the hull.

If you are in a non-powered vessel 6m or less in length, or a paddle craft, or solely powered by oars

You must have the current owner's name and contact details somewhere on the vessel. It can be as simple as writing it with marker pen inside the hull.

Refer to the Environment Canterbury website ecan.govt.nz for full details of the Bylaw. It is 54 pages long and much of it refers to other activities within the maritime industry, including speed limits, etc. Part 9 of the Bylaw covers enforcement powers, offences, penalties, exceptions, exemptions. It makes for interesting reading.

For everyone who has a boat or other water craft this Bylaw is a must read.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION WESTLAND

Lake Kaniere via Hokitika

Neil's Beach, Jackson Bay via Haast

Bruce Bay: Half-hour Drive South of Fox Glacier

All baches self-contained with pots/pans, cutlery, power, shower, washing machine, fridge, freezer, or fridge/freezer. All baches sleep 8 people.

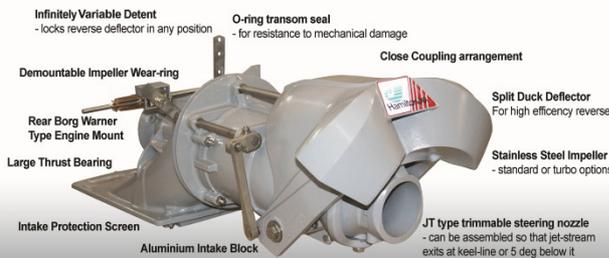
You need to supply all disposable items including wood/coal for the Yunka type fire (except Kaniere, electric heating), linen etc. Upon leaving bach must be left clean, tidy and all rubbish removed.

Rates: **Kaniere:** \$120 per night (up to 4 people) \$20 per extra person
Bruce Bay & Neil's Beach \$100 per night

For more information and bookings please contact Nelson or Cindy:

*The Hokitika Angling Club
 C/o Hokitika Cycles & Sportsworld
 Phone 03 755 8662 (9am—5pm)
 Email: hokicycle.sport@paradise.net.nz
www.hokitikasportsworld.co.nz*

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Salmon pioneer recalls early days

Until recently fisheries work was the almost exclusive domain of men. This was particularly so in the early 1900s and it is intriguing that an exception to this was involved in the introduction of salmon to New Zealand in the early 1900s.

Lake Falconer Ayson, as Chief Inspector of Fisheries for the Marine Department from 1900 to 1926, was the man most responsible for the successful introduction of salmon to New Zealand. During years of dedicated application to this task he received help from many other people, including his son, Charles Lake Ayson. Both men travelled to Europe and America to obtain ova for their attempts to introduce several species of salmonids into New Zealand, and both were involved in the development of the receiving hatchery on the Hakataramea River. Charles Ayson was hatchery manager, and married with one daughter, May Doreen Ayson.

In August 1983 I travelled to Port Chalmers and met Mrs May Spiers (nee Ayson), the only remaining direct link with those early hatchery days. She remembered clearly with delight, her association with the events of the time.

"L.F. was a very special grandfather and told me all he knew."

She recalled how she and her mother, Bridget Ayson, "held the fort" in the absence of the men on a



A highlight for FRD staff during the open weekend at Glenariffe was a visit by Mrs May Spiers, the granddaughter of L F Ayson, who as Chief Inspector of Fisheries in the Marine Department, first introduced salmon into New Zealand in 1901. She was most pleased to be invited to visit Glenariffe during the open weekend to see what developments have taken place in recent years as a result of her father's and grandfather's efforts many years ago.

number of occasions. "No one knows the part mother and I played back in the early 1900's — meeting the trains on midwinter nights to collect ova from Temuka perhaps — and then the long cold drive up the gorge, by horse and dray over bad, unsealed roads; then to lift those cans down, two pint-sized women, measure the eggs into their baskets, all by candlelight, then the horse to be cared for. There was no other way when my father wasn't there."

Things were pretty rugged in those days. They were remote from a doctor. The roads were poor and sometimes blocked by floods or slips, so from necessity they grew their own fresh vegetables. Trees were planted around the site to provide shade and protection as well as to provide a change of scenery from the barren tussock. May recalled oaks, elms, larch and Japanese poplars, all of which have since been chopped down.

She also recalled one occasion, shortly after the hatchery had acquired a motorised truck, that a consignment of eggs arrived at the railway station in the dead of night. Neither she nor her mother knew the first thing about the truck. May was young and game and could remember where the starter button was, so there was nothing for it but to give it a go. The eggs could not wait. Somehow she got it into gear, drove straight out of the garage and down the gorge to the station. She managed to stop and with the assistance of the station master load the eggs. Then she drove from the station, up the gorge and straight back into the garage. With the help of her mother she unloaded, counted and placed the eggs in the hatchery. All the time she had been praying she would not meet an obstacle because she couldn't see how she could push the truck backwards, not realising at the time that the truck had a reverse gear.

May remembered how she often swam in the hatchery pools with the salmon, which were friendly and seemed to recognise her shadow. She helped strip the mature fish returning to the hatchery and her technique was watched with approval by her grandfather.

The hatchery was visited by a number of Prime Ministers and many tourists. A visitors book with their names was lost, along with the



Left to right: Charles Lake Ayson, May Doreen Ayson, Bridget Ayson (1909).

original hatchery, during a flood. The wooden hatchery building was replaced with a concrete one, which May considered far less serviceable.

Lake Ayson died a few weeks after his retirement from the Marine Department in 1926. In the meantime, Charles Ayson had gone into farming and the family moved away from the old hatchery, which closed down due to the war effort in 1941 and was never re-opened.

May Spiers fondly remembers those pioneering days — the good and bad times, as well as the marvellously stimulating childhood she enjoyed. She quite rightly enjoys a little inward pride in that she and her mother successfully helped the men to introduce salmon into New Zealand — even though salmon fishing is still mostly done by men.

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NZSAA ANNUAL SALMON FISHING COMPETITION (MEMBERS ONLY)

The NZSAA Annual Salmon Fishing Competition will be run for the current 2017-18 season. Vouchers will be awarded to the winner of each of the following categories (one trophy per person):

Heaviest Salmon Overall - Aquarius Trophy
Heaviest Salmon Rakaia - Alty Roscoe Trophy
Heaviest Salmon Waimakariri - Cromb & Merritt/Fisherman's Loft Trophy
Lucky Draw from Remainder of Entries
Trophies and prizes will be awarded at the NZSAA AGM in May 2018.

COMPETITION RULES

1. Entrants must be financial members of NZSAA and hold a current sport fishing licence.
2. Fish must be caught in accordance with current Fish & Game regulations.
3. All fish must be gutted and gilled with the head on. Frozen fish not permitted.
4. Fish must be weighed at premises where Government tested scales are in use, or at the Rakaia River Holiday Park, or at the Kairaki Beach Motor Camp.
5. Declaration form must be completed and forwarded to reach the Secretary, NZSAA, P O Box 1113, Christchurch 8140, no later than 1 May 2018.
6. All panels on the entry form must be completed and the declaration signed.
7. In the event of a dispute the final arbitrators will be the NZSAA Committee. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the results.

ENTRY FORM AND DECLARATION

Name.....
Angler's Address.....
Licence Number.....Date Fish Caught.....
Weight of Fish (Gutted and Gilled with Head On).....kg.....gms
River and Location where Caught.....
Premises Where Weighed.....
Name and Signature of Person Weighing.....

**I certify that all the above information is correct,
and that I am the Angler who caught this fish**



**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 _____

