

NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS (INC.)



Contact Secretary: Selwyn Hodder (sghodder@xtra.co.nz)
PO Box 38 777
Howick,
Auckland 2014

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This newsletter is unashamedly a pre-election issue. That might concern some of you, as it concerned some of us. But the NZFFA exists in part to protect, enhance and foster the sport and fellowship of freshwater angling. It also advocates for, and celebrates the joy of freshwater fishing. We believe that the outcomes of this 2011 election are crucial to the continued enjoyment of our passion of freshwater fishing in New Zealand. The threats to this are many, varied and growing. We will tell you what we think the main ones are, and what the NZFFA is doing about them. And we will suggest what you can do to help influence their outcomes.

In many ways, we believe this is a watershed election. The results will profoundly affect freshwater fishing in New Zealand, one way or another. Those results are, of course, the collective consequence of the choices that you make as voters.

[A Message from the President.](#)

To all fellow freshwater anglers,

I would like to start off this newsletter with the statement that our New Zealand Rivers and Lakes are in good health and that the issue of exclusive capture has been solved. However, much as I would like to report that, I am sorry to say that is not the case.

The issues we are involved in are large, involving many people in many different organizations, including Government Departments, businesses and industry representatives, statutory and resource managers, recreational and environmental groups, and so the list goes on. All represent their own interests and work together when they can.

Like the Government, they are well aware of these problems, and the NZFFA has ensured that it has placed its concerns before them. In terms of the access issue, the Government's overriding concern is the protection of property rights and as anglers, I'm sure we all agree with that protection. I must emphasize that the NZFFA strongly

supports the New Zealand Walking Access Commissions Code of Conduct and asks all anglers to abide by it.

Where we differ from the current Government is that the NZFFA (like Fish and Game NZ), are opposed to those who would lock up waters that were once open to all to fish, who see the fishery as their own to make monies for their own commercial or personal gain. This is where Federated Farmers have been very vocal in the recent past and strongly attacked the freshwater angling fraternity, whereas once there were very good relationships between farmers and freshwater anglers, allowing access to fish almost all freshwater. The Federation is optimistic that recent changes within Federated Farmers management will see a turnaround in the relationship between the farming sector and anglers. One must say that generally the relationship is still sound, and the Federation acknowledges that fact.

My biggest concern is that the current Government, as with those in the past, have just ignored the issues of exclusive capture and exclusive access, largely because they have put them in the too-hard basket. One could hardly blame any Government over becoming nervous about private property rights, given the rhetoric that came from past office holders of Federated Farmers. The worry now is that some of those who have been most the vociferous are seeking parliamentary seats.

In this regard, I wish to draw your attention to the article from **special issue thirty-three, of Fish and Game New Zealand**, headed **PAY ATTENTION NZ. written by the Editor Bob South**. This documents the shutting up and shutting out of anglers by landowners, who have purchased large areas of farmland for their own privatized rivers and streams in America. This is where we see New Zealand heading towards, and is exactly the scenario we will face in the future, if Government does not face up to this issue and helps to restore access to New Zealand's top fishing waters. If it fails to do this, future generations of New Zealanders will be shut out from once available fishing waters, unless you can afford to pay, or are a close friend of the landowner.

"This Government, as with those in the past, have just ignored the issues of exclusive capture and exclusive access."

This practice started off at a slow pace in America and was not taken too seriously. Now it has become a major problem, with the landowners using friendly politicians to privatize waters and to bring in new laws to exclude anglers from waters that they once had a right to fish. The irony is that our current Government could effectively prevent this by giving effect to the legislation that has been already passed by Parliament. They simply choose not to.

The second issue, I wish to touch on is the pollution and extraction of water from New Zealand's Rivers and Streams. Again, I would refer you to **special issue thirty-three of Fish and Game New Zealand** where this problem is covered in an article headed **100 % PURE?** This problem is huge, and a major concern to all New Zealanders, from those who control and manage water to anyone who uses it.

Our clean green image has been sullied and will take some time and effort to restore it. The problems have been well publicised, but unless the majority of New Zealanders wake up from their complacency on this matter, I see major consequences

ahead as dairying and others major users tussle over who has the rights to have what's left. As has been demonstrated in our past, industries can walk away from such problems when they become overwhelming; people (and fish) can't!

It is up to all individuals to voice their concerns on these matters to politicians, both national and local. Failure to do so could well see us reaping what we deserve for not acting.

Enjoy the Rugby World Cup fellow anglers. The new angling season is not far off. I hope that this bout of fine weather lasts for you, and that all the rivers and lakes are clear for opening on October 1st.

After the Rugby World Cup, New Zealand faces a crucial Election. Give all Political Parties Policies a thorough going over and good luck with your vote.

Jim Hale
President
NZFFA



Recent Activities

The New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers has made, or is in the process of making, submissions on:

- Guides Licence – to Fish & Game NZ, and subsequently, DOC
- Taharua and Upper Mohaka River Draft Strategy – to the Hawkes Bay Regional Council
- A non-resident freshwater sports fishing licence – DOC
- The Oreti River Cycleway – Environment Southland

We have written to Government Ministers on:

- Access Issues
- Trout Farming

We have also corresponded with:

- Bruce Wills – Federated Farmers CEO
- Central Hawkes Bay District Council – Discharges to Tukituki and Waipawa Rivers
- Fish & Game NZ – Exclusive Capture of fisheries and governance issues

The President and other executive members accepted an invitation to, and attended, the United Future Conference in Wellington.

Subcommittees:

Exclusive Capture Subcommittee

- Obtained background and research documents on the relevant legislation with the kind assistance of the United Future Party.
- Corresponded with the Walking Access Commission about charging for access and access to Defence Dept lands.
- Written to Fish & Game NZ.
- Written to the Minister of Conservation requesting a meeting (refused).

Communications Subcommittee

- Investigated commercial upgrading of the Federation Website.
- Reviewed and begun the rewriting and upgrading of the Federation Website.

Election Strategy Subcommittee

- Wrote, published and sent out a questionnaire to all political parties on their policies concerning six key issues relevant to freshwater angling.
- Submitted articles on the importance of party election policies to freshwater fishery issues to various publications.

Executive Member Activity:

The NZFFA was delighted to have former President Ian Rodger accepted on to the Taupo Fishery Advisory Council to replace Strato Cotsilinis.

Two National Executive members of the Federation (Doug Stevens and Alan Simmons) have announced that they feel so strongly about the threats they see our trout fishery facing, they are running for Parliament. We recognise the huge personal and professional effort and financial pressure that this entails, and wish them every success in being elected.

Let's Talk Politics and November 26

(and why we should)

by Tony Orman

Co-chairman Council of Outdoor Recreation Assns of NZ

Back when I was a youngster - long, long ago - we were taught there were two subjects you shouldn't talk about. One was politics and the other religion.

There was another, which I've forgotten for the moment. Something like Pox was it? That was taboo but it wasn't that. It was a name like Sox I think? Ah I know! Sex was the other forbidden subject.

Well I'm not going to talk about sex or religion but politics because November 26 is Election Day, the one chance every three years when politicians just might listen to you.

And the last few years, I've been thinking about past elections and governments. And it's pretty sobering reading. You see I reckoned up, I have spent over 40 years initially getting involved in the "Save Manapouri" campaign about 1969, in supporting political action, presenting submissions to numerous select committees ranging from trout farming, sea fisheries, a Maori fisheries bill, Conservation Law Reform Bill and others, part of deputations to see Cabinet ministers and lobbying politicians against trout farming, often face to face.

To be candid, toting it all up, the victories have been few.

Not by coincidence the only major victories were Save Manapouri, sale of public Crown lands to wealthy foreigners and the trout farming battle, which culminated in the 1972 election defeat of the National government. Significantly Labour were led by a politician the late Norman Kirk, who had a strong empathy with the twin heritage of fishing and hunting and with conservation/environmental values and was principled.

And there have been a few other victories like the grass carp and channel catfish victories for NZFFA.

Pollution and extraction of water from New Zealand's rivers and streams must be dealt with. The Prime Minister when in the UK was challenged on BBC Hard Talk about it. His smile quickly vanished under questioning as to the integrity of New Zealand's 100% pure brand. The example thrown at the PM was the state of our waterways!

But overall, it has been a frustrating process with successive governments founded on and dominated by either Labour or National, whose politicians have indulged in arrogance, deceit and deception. In the background have been career bureaucrats adept at "double speak" and manipulating ministers

Ever watched the classic English TV comedy "Yes Minister" where the cabinet minister is a puppet and putty in the hands of the bureaucrats? Well I recently talked to a MP and when I remarked to him, "Yes Minister" was alive and well in Parliament, he wryly smiled and replied "Yes it is!"

Frankly I am both tired and frustrated with these continual battles and relative disappointing success rate. Plus in the last decade, many are increasingly alarmed at the inroads by the commercialisation or racially based encroachment on the public estate and the erosion of the egalitarian principles on which our European settlers founded "public ownership" of fish and game and access to the outdoors.

I must emphasise I am a "swinging voter" with no party allegiances so can claim to take a reasonably strong dispassionate view.

The system of voting known as MMP has been far from perfect but it does allow options other than the two main parties. Some pressure groups have learned how to use it to put pressure on government when in coalition. One example was the influence of the Green Party on the Clark-led Labour government. Another is the influence of the Maori Party on the current Key-led, National-based government.

Several months back I chanced to speak to a National Party stalwart who told me the Prime Minister and other ministers were apprehensive of the public realising the importance of the party vote. There seemed to me to be an inadvertent message in that.

Could the MMP system could be made to work for the outdoor lobby by utilising the influence of minor parties in coalition with government?

Many do not understand the party vote is 100% independent of the candidate vote. So a voter can vote for any party and for any candidate.

The significant vote is the party vote.

If enough people understood the importance of the party vote and that it has no relevance to the candidate vote and if they voted for a party that had sound outdoor recreation policies, then significant power and influence would be given in Parliament to the minor parties.

In a way the idea is not encroaching on a person's own party beliefs. For instance you may have a Labour or National candidate in your area that is a good local MP. Well vote for him and her

But with your party vote, if enough New Zealanders voted for a minor party, it would give Labour and National a swift, strong kick in the shins and at the same time perhaps get some minor parties in there with pro-outdoor policies.

United Future's leader Peter Dunne has made some good strong noises for the outdoors against 1080 poison and for wild deer management. The Greens have been good on water quality and flows, i.e. rivers.

Then there's two outside of Parliament, NZ First and Kiwi, which may have some empathy with the outdoors. Peters is reportedly a keen sea fisherman, and duck shooter. Kiwi have made strong public statements against 1080, for game animals and other outdoors issues. Then there's another new party The Conservative Party run by Auckland businessman Colin Craig who polled well in Auckland's mayoralty, which could have promise.



It is negative to complain about the degree of influence of the Greens (with Labour) or the Maori and Act with (National). Let's try and make MMP work for the outdoor recreation public.

At the 2010 AGM of CORANZ the idea as I have outlined was approved as an election strategy and endorsed at the 2011 AGM of NZFFA.

"Convincing politicians of the need to solve environmental and access problems is currently hampered by apathy and complacency by too many – even among trout fishers. Water is liquid gold, and battles for it lie ahead."

If you agree well there's still work to be done such as:-

- (a) **educate voters** on the importance and independence of the party vote, e.g. letters to editor, press releases, adverts next year.
- (b) **advocate that electors vote (party vote)** for a minor party.
- (c) **Lobby the minor parties** for good outdoor recreation policies. That might very well be the Labour, National or Green candidate.

But it is the party vote that is vitally important for minor parties, i.e. to get as far above the 5% threshold as possible. If any one or two parties win a seat, then that's a bonus, e.g Dunne in Ohariu, perhaps Winston Peters wherever he chooses.

Yes it's venturesome, "but nothing ventured, nothing gained".

And from my 41 years experience, apart from 1972, we've gained **nothing** under a succession of Labour and National regimes. In fact, we're on a slippery slope downwards. Can we let the slide continue for three more years?

It's your choice.

But I believe it's a time for bold, positive strategic action.

CORANZ Update:

[The CORANZ Charter*](#), covering all outdoor recreation from trout to sea fishing, hunting, jet-boating, access, public recreation management and more, was sent to all political parties for comment. Currently, neither the Maori, Labour nor National parties have not responded after 5 weeks. In contrast, minor parties have responded positively, namely NZ First, Kiwi, Conservatives (a new Auckland-based party), the Greens and United Future.

The Emerging Fly Concept

by "Hares Ear"

The emerger concept is nothing new. Jim Leisenring and 'Pete' Hidy of the USA wrote of "flymphs" (midway between the nymph and hatched fly) in the 1950s in an excellent wee book. And well before in New Zealand, about the turn of the 19th century into the 20th, the soft hackled spider wet fly patterns of Captain Hamilton were fooling Manawatu brown trout.

Trout rank low in intelligence but have an instinct for knowing when the prey is the most vulnerable. So trout target hatching flies struggling at the surface to hatch. There is a brief hiatus there in the hatching process when the flies are "trapped". The clue that fish are targeting the nymphs in the surface film is in tiny rises.

Once a friend and I put the idea into practice. We had extreme trouble catching the dimpling fish, but in the end managed-or fluked-one. I examined the gullet of the fish at home. It had been taking emerging fly - in effect caddis "flymphs". We made a pattern with a peacock herl body, a wing case, peacock herl thorax and a brief hackle.

Tied on about a size 12, or a 14 hook, it proved quite effective when fished on a gently swinging line which gave movement to the nymph and probably suggested the upward movement of the ascending flymph.

* <http://coranz.org.nz/resources>

The little pattern we devised was not unlike the brown hackle flymph which Pete Hidy and James Leisenring detailed in their book. Their pattern was:-

Hook: size 12 or 14.
Silk: crimson or claret.
Hackle: red furnace.
Body: bronze peacock herl.
Rib: narrow gold tinsel.

In New Zealand well before Hidy and Leisenring, the legendary Alan Pye on the Waikato River below Lake Taupo was in effect fishing the flymph. The pattern Pye's Sedge from Keith Draper's "Trout Flies of New Zealand" was:-

Hook; 10 or 12
Body: ginger coloured wool, tied plumpish.
Hackle: bright ginger, tied sparsely and sloping back.

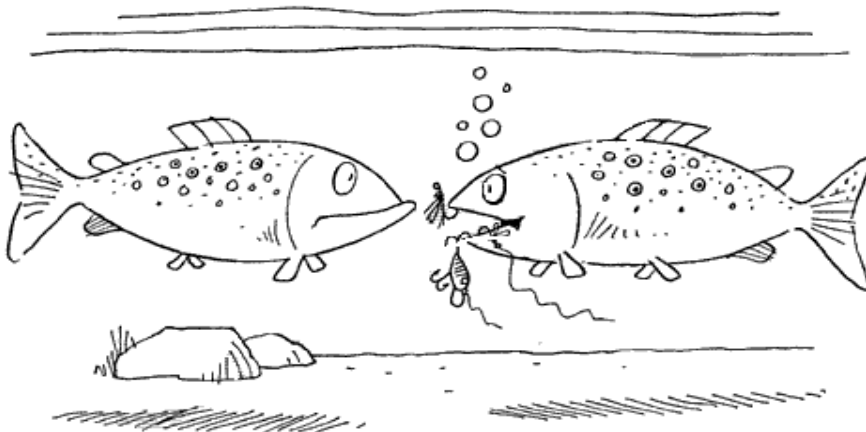
Keith Draper wrote, "it was designed to emulate the rising pupa of one of the larger sedges (*Hydropsyche Sp.*) found on the Waikato River.

Whether it be dusk and after dark on hatching caddis or during the day on hatching mayfly, trout like to focus on that emerging phase of the hatch. Rises will, most likely, be tiny dimples as the fish concentrate on the nymphs drifting just sub-surface as they slowly rise to the actual surface or as the insects are briefly trapped in the surface film.

In all the talk of matching the hatch, books tend to concentrate on the fly itself rather than the phase of the hatch. It is important to realise the hatch happens in phases with that vulnerable stage for the insect being in or about the surface.

I suspect it is the lack of knowledge of it in the past, which has meant frustrating evenings, nights and days when the trout continued to rise, ignoring all the dry flies and nymphs tossed to them by anglers.

It is conceivable that pattern of fly is not so important as size, shape and the level it is fished. Indeed emergers are an approximate suggestive pattern rather than a direct imitation.



"THE FIRST TIME WAS FOR THE THRILL,
BUT NOW I'M HOOKED ON IT!"

Hook into your heritage.

Are you prepared to act to protect your fishing?

By Ken Sims, Life Member, NZFFA.

At the NZFFA AGM back in April 2011, Tony Orman and I presented a discussion paper entitled an Election Year Strategy. The paper postulated that over the last 30-40 years; despite campaigns, discussions, appeals to politicians and the occasional victory; the state, status, protection and enhancement of our aquatic environment and freshwater fishery have significantly diminished. It pointed to increasing arrogance and commercialisation in the governance agencies responsible for such protection, and it described the outlook as bleak.

This opinion is nothing new. It echoes a warning given to the Federation by the head of the Professional Fishing Guides Association at its AGM two years ago. It echoes the reflections of more senior members of the executive for several years. It echoes the findings and considered evidence of freshwater scientists. It echoes the writings of fisheries managers. Our freshwater fisheries, and the recreational opportunities they afford us, are in deep, deep trouble. Of that there is no doubt. Although the causes are many, they are also not in doubt. The question posed by the paper was simply “What is the most effective thing that individuals can do to help get them addressed?”

Before answering that, you need to ask, “What is the fundamental root cause of this problem?” We believe that the answer to that lies, not in addressing the myriad of effects that we see affecting our fishing, but in the deep underlying ability and willingness to have them addressed. In management terms it is a systemic systems failure. And because that management is universal throughout the country, it becomes a political failure. The plain facts are that no political party in power over the last 40 years has had the will, the enthusiasm or the courage to act decisively and comprehensively to protect our waterways and the recreational fishing that they afford. In fact most still espouse policies and practices that do the exact opposite.

And that brings us back to individual responsibility, and the faintest glimmer of hope that situation can indeed be changed. Because politics is the expression of the collective preference of individuals. Individuals just like you. And what you do matters. What political action you take at the upcoming election provides the best chance we see to change a broken system. A system that has failed, and will otherwise continue to fail freshwater fishing in this country. Forty years of failure is the legacy of the two major political parties that have been in power during that period. We looked for evidence of potential change within them – and found none.

We believe that the ‘minor’ parties that have flourished under the MMP system hold the key to significant changes in the political system that will enable our fisheries to be better protected. In fact, we believe that only a coalition Government with minor parties that do have recreation-friendly policies will result in any changes that can stop the steady erosion of our waterways and fisheries.

That paper presented to the NZFFA AGM was received without dissent from the meeting. It resulted in a subcommittee being formed within the executive to work further on an election strategy. They designed and sent out a simple six-question survey to all political parties, asking how they would address the six most pressing issues that we saw affecting freshwater fishing within New Zealand. The questions covered the public right of ownership of water and the fishery, the public right of access to water and the fishery, the protection of their environmental and recreational status, the recognition of the value and status of our freshwater fishery, the restoration and protection of the quality of water and the fishery, and

NZ faces an election on November 26th. We believe it is a crucial one, probably the most crucial ever, in view of the teetering state of our rivers, proliferating problems with paid and exclusive access, the increasing emphasis on their commercial use for private wealth generation, as well as other outdoor issues.

the recognition of the independent management of our freshwater fisheries and how that assists in resource processes.

Only three bothered to reply at all, one to say that it wouldn't be contesting the next election. Neither National nor Labour responded. That suggests to us that the non-respondent parties simply don't see recreational fishing as an issue worth spending any time responding to. It is of deep concern to us that not only did the current Government not bother to respond, but a personal discussion with the Prime Minister has still failed to elicit a response, and his Minister of Conservation refuses to either meet with us or answer our written questions. We cannot see how that can be interpreted as anything other than complete arrogance.

New Zealand's freshwater fisheries were established by the dedication and hard work of individuals and voluntary organisations, not Government agencies. Their efforts resulted in a freshwater fishery that was (and in places perhaps still is) the envy of most of the rest of the world. Where laws were necessary, they were crafted to establish and preserve an egalitarian resource that was owned, managed and universally accessible to anglers themselves. This is our heritage, and this is what we will fight to preserve.

I urge you to carefully consider the preceding article on 'Talking politics' in this newsletter, and seriously think how you might use its suggestions. Then read the article 'Political Parties Speak' in the **special issue thirty-three of Fish and Game New Zealand** and more importantly, score the responses as on page 30. You will find, as our survey also demonstrated, that there are really only a couple of political parties in NZ with any interest at all in either restoring our waterways and the fisheries they contain, and protecting our public recreational rights and heritage. We dearly wish it were more, as it is a pretty sad conclusion. But that is why we consider the results of this election to be so critical.

"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."
Ansel Adams

As for the other parties, their actions suggest that they either would sell both the fishery and the ideals it was founded on down the river, or they simply don't see recreational fishing as an issue worth spending any time responding to. Are they right, or are they wrong? Your actions at the ballot box in November could answer that. It is pretty simple really. We suggest that you just don't give your party vote to either of the main parties this election. Of course, we would prefer that you give it to a party with strong policies on recreation and water protection. But that is up to you. It is your heritage at stake. Will you hook into it, or watch it continue to slowly erode away?

SWOTTING UP ON TROUT FOOD

by "Hares Ear"

Ever looked at the size of mayfly nymphs in a stream?



Mayflies are favourite trout food, especially for those calm spring and summer mornings when trout in rivers, will nymph and swirl in the shallower stretches. Even in rivers where the current is often swift over the large boulders, mayfly nymphs are sought after by trout.

Note carefully the size of the nymphs and in your fly tying you can attempt to match the size of your artificial to the size of the natural. Most may fly imitation nymphs in shops are too bulky. On size perhaps we should be using 14s rather than 12s and 16s instead of 14s?

The Pheasant Tail nymph, originated by the late Frank Sawyer in the UK, is an excellent pattern to tie up for a mayfly nymph imitation, probably imitating the *deleatidium*, which is often the most abundant nymph in lowland reaches of many rivers.

The pheasant tail nymph is very simple to tie consisting of just copper wire and cock pheasant fibres. Frank Sawyer did not use thread on his - using the copper wire for weighting, ribbing and tying the fly!

However most Kiwi fly tyers use thread. Frank Sawyer had a thorax of copper wire but in New Zealand his pattern has often been modified to have a pheasant fibre thorax. Noted trout fishing author the late Norman Marsh puts dark brown hen legs from the head and underneath on his modification.

Based on the Pheasant Tail style you can tie up other artificials to match the larger mayflies. I have found an excellent nymph pattern is made by the Pheasant Tail construction on a size 10 hook, with a hare or rabbit fur thorax. One Nelson angler I know uses a purplish wool thorax to great success in a Pheasant Tail "variation", known in fly tying circles as a variant.

Caddis nymphs are another to take note of, particularly on the boulders of a stream. The caddis family generally live in a house type casing. Some caddis nymphs build this from an old twig, others from sand and some from stones. The caddis nymphs are difficult to imitate, although there are patterns developed to imitate the sandy and horn cased caddis. The horn caddis nymph is imitated by various formulae but one is:-

Hook: Size 16

Tying Thread: Black

Body: fine dark red copper wire underlay, covered with three herls of grey goose, sea gull or cock pheasant tail, started from round the bend of the hook and ribbed with fine copper wire

Head: Two turns peacock herl with two ends 2 mm long left protruding forward.

Club Trip?

