



SPORTS FLY FISHING NEW ZEALAND: NEWSLETTER SEPT/OCT 2015-

Presidents Report -September 2015.

After a cold and wet winter for many, we are now looking forward to the start of a new competition season. Your committee has been busy in the offseason planning and preparing for the year ahead.

John Gummer and Geoffrey Bernsten have returned from the youth World Championships in Colorado filled with new techniques and inspiration. The experience they have gained will be invaluable.

At the AGM (during the Pairs competition) we will be introducing a new membership category for members to consider. We have some exciting plans to grow the membership base so I would encourage all members to attend and consider our proposal.

FIPS Mouche, our international organisation of which we are a member, have amended some of the competition rules at the latest congress in Cancun, Mexico. We have taken this opportunity to create a set of rules that incorporate those rules, however adapt them to NZ competitions. Hopefully this will create a clear and concise platform from which we can all compete fairly. We will continue to take adherence to these rules seriously, following through on any breaches. These rules are now up on the SFFNZ website so please familiarise yourself with them.

The new season's calendar is also up on the website so please diarise these dates.

The committee has also committed to upgrading our website, giving us greater flexibility and accessibility for members.

The Oceania team is in the stage of final preparation for their competition in Ballarat, Australia in November 2015 and we wish them well.

Behind the scenes the 2016 Commonwealth and World teams are also well underway with preparation for their respective events.

Tony Houpt

World Team Fundraising Clinic.

The New Zealand World Championship Fly Fishing Team "The Silver Flies" Are running a series of clinics to fundraise for the 36th World Fly Fishing Championship to be held in Vail Colorado in 2016. The first clinic will cover river fishing techniques from Czech Nymph to wet line and everything in between and will be held on the iconic central North Island Whanganui River. You will get to learn on the river guided personally by one of the best fly fishermen in NZ. Numbers will be limited, so to secure your spot or for more information contact Team Captain Paul Dewar:

p.dewar@clear.net.nz

The NZ Silver Flies Team is: Cory Scott, Dan Comer, Lloyd Struthers, Tony Houpt, John Bell and Sam Bourne.

NZ Fly Fishing Team Clinic

The NZ Fly Fishing team selected to compete at the World Championships in Colorado, USA in 2016 are running a number of clinics to help fund their campaign.



The NZ Fly Fishing Team

“BE IN QUICK LIMITED SPACES”



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> Clinic to be held on the Whanganui River on the 28th & 29th November 2015.
> Suitable for both experienced and novice fly fishers.

Whanganui River, Central North Island.





> Help support the team and join team members to develop your fishing skills
> Improve your casting, learn where the fish lie and how to catch them
> Learn on the water, and become one of the 20% that catch 80% of the fish
> Maximum 2 guest anglers per each NZ Team Member

To secure your spot at the clinic, and get further details please contact:
Team Captain, Paul Dewar via e-mail: p.dewar@clear.net.nz

www.sffnz.org.nz

World Youth Fly Fishing Championships- Vail Colorado USA

All photos courtesy: Paul Gummer

Our two youth anglers Geoffrey Berntsen and John Gummer have recently returned from their first taste of the World Youth Champs. Along with Paul Gummer who acted as Team Captain the lads thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are already making plans to attend the event again next year.

The venues which they fished were much similar to those which the Senior Worlds will be held on in 2016 which offered the Worlds Team some in depth intel, which we have never had before heading into a major championships.

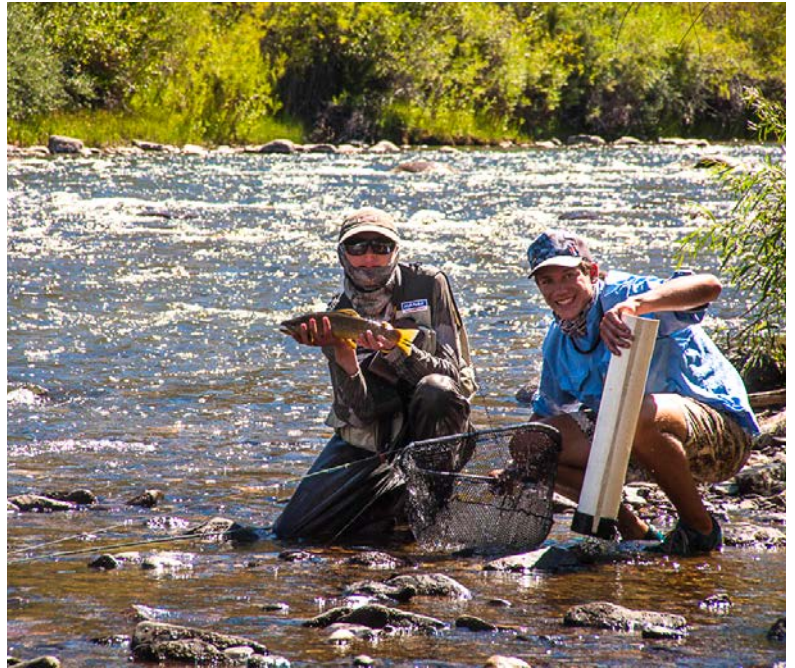
Being their first international competition and coming up against many young anglers who were competing in their fourth and fifth Worlds the kiwi lads found the going tough in some of the venues, yet performed exceptionally in the later sessions picking up some great placings in their groups.

With Vail being at an altitude of 2500 metres the lads suffered from altitude sickness for several days and although acclimatised during their stay felt the effects throughout the tournament. A big part of these events is being able to meet like minded fly fishermen from all over the world and forging friendships that will last for many years to come. While the world is a big place, the fly fishing fraternity can seem rather small, and the lads made some great friends and contacts that will serve them well in years to come. Fishing new water and to several different species of fish was also exciting with the two landing their first Brook Trout, along with Cutthroat, White Fish and a Salmon. Light gear and fine tippets and at times very small flies #20+ were necessary to fool the Colorado fish. With the experience of this Worlds under their belt, the two lads now turn their attention to the Oceania's and the Commonwealth Championships over the next 12 months, which each are a part of. This World Youth Championships was the first that have been attended by NZ and it is hoped that along with John and Geoff, SFFNZ can nurture several more youth anglers in the coming years with an aim of sending a complete team of five. If you are a youth angler or know of any youth anglers that would be U19 as of the 1st January in the year of championships, and are interested in exploring what competition fly fishing is all about, then please send us a message through our Facebook: **Sport Fly Fishing New Zealand**





Team Youth NZ



John during competition on the Eagle River



Above: Sylvan Lake



Geoffrey with a Colorado River brown (left) and in action on the Colorado (right).



Results:

Teams:

- 1st-USA
- 2nd- POLAND
- 3rd- CZECH REPUBLIC

Individual:

- 1st-Hunter Hoffler (USA)
- 2nd- Mason Sims (USA)
- 3rd- Emilo Jose Berjaga (SPAIN)

31st- John Gummer (NZL)

45th-Geoffrey Berntsen (NZL)



Different folks different strokes



World Champs spoils



John throwing loops on Dillon Resorvoire



Guided by Minturn Anglers Guide Bob Strebb

Committee News:

The SFFNZ Committee has had a busy year working through many changes and issues that have arisen, which have been addressed going into the new season. Recently the committee met in Taupo and have the following announcements to make.

Membership Fees:

In recent years SFFNZ membership fees have fallen into being paid as per the competition season. As the season fluctuates from year to year it has been decided that the annual membership should be dated the 30th June of each year. This fits with our societies constitution so therefore this seasons membership will be valid until the 30th June 2016 and you will be invoiced for the following season after that. You are required to be a financial member of SFFNZ to be able to participate in competitions.

Team Selection Criteria:

The committee has made a decision to return to the double points system for the Nationals, instead of triple. In the past regional championships had seen less representation by our top anglers however in the last two seasons all regionals have been well attended with tight competition. This has raised the standard of our regionals therefore more importance can be put on those competitions as selection criteria. Therefore National Team selection will comprise of:

-The New Zealand team will be selected by adding points from the Lake and River NZ champs together with both the best two ,Lake and River Regional placing points in the year of selection for the International competition.

National Champs Qualification and Grouping:

The top 20 anglers on the regional lakes and river points table shall fish the National Championships. Those tied on 20th place will all fish.

It was discussed and agreed that if we continue with two groups at Nationals we will continue using regional points to seed the two groups.

In a situation where there are equal placing points then the highest total of regional points will determine the highest seeded angler, if there is still a tie it will be done alphabetically by surname.



2015 Oceania Fly Fishing Championships:

Sport Fly Fishing NZ will be sending two teams to the Oceania Champs to be held in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia in the first week November. The competition will be a loch style 5 session event based out of Ballarat Fly Fishers Club on Lake Wendouree which along with Lake Fyans will be the two lake venues.

Due to injury of several anglers the team has changed slightly since first announced and will now be:
Steve Brown (Captain/Angler)

Tony Houpt

Paul Dewar

Mark Clasper

Chris Young

Tim Rich

Brendan Lyon

Geoffrey Berntsen

Neil Hirtzel

Paul Baker



Chris Young with a crackling brown from Oceania Team practice

The teams had a recent hit out on Lake Maraetai and were put through their paces by Captain Brown, where they worked on several analytical strategies and how to make the most of each anglers strengths to work out a new venue. This tactic will help immensely when taking on the Aussies on home waters.

Updated Rules:

While we have always taken on the rules set by the International governing body Fips Mouche, the translation and wording of some rules has allowed for some misinterpretation. Therefore SFFNZ and in particular Paul Dewar has worked tirelessly to come with a set of rules of our own that still fall within the Fips Mouche Rules, yet apply more directly to our local competition structures.

These rules will be effective from the first competition of the season. Please make yourself familiar with these rules. Here are several new rules that have either been brought in or have been modified. As our first comp of the year is on a lake, we have selected four rules to focus on.

- Micro rings (now allowed)

18.4. A maximum of 3 micro rings (leader rings) of a maximum outer diameter of 3 mm can be used. A maximum of 3 knots can be joined at a micro ring, they are considered as 1 knot.

-Controller netting fish (boat)

5.7. Netting of fish is the responsibility of the competitor who will measure the fish and have the measurement confirmed by the other competitor (controller) before releasing it. However, the controller may wish to do so net a fish if requested to by the competitor.

- Positioning of boats

5.4- The competitor in command of the boat may take all tactical decisions including where the boat should be positioned; and whether a drogue is used or not. The competitor in command of the boat must ensure that the boat is positioned so each angler has equal fishing opportunity as much as possible.

Positioning the boat deliberately to disadvantage the other angler will be considered un-sportsman like behaviour

- New net length regulation

- 20.2. Landing nets must not exceed seventy one inches / one hundred and eighty centimetres in overall length, when fully extended.

A FULL set of the new SFFNZ Competition Rules 2015 can be found here. <http://www.sffnz.org.nz/index.cfm/pageid/19/ViewPage/Competition-Rules>

At The Vice- With Steve Brown

At times many of our stillwater fisheries fish best with a static presentation. Fishing under a dry fly/indicator commonly called dry/nymph, fishing the bung, or static nymphing, is usually referred to in NZ competition circles as 'Plonking'. It can be very effective or plain dead, it simply depends on the fishery and the food source in demand at the time. Sometimes takes can be explosive while most of the time subtle and slow, this is where having an appropriate indicator comes into play. Steve Brown shares with us his latest creation along with some unique drawings.

The ultimate Indicator for plonking:

This indicator came to me from a stick indicator used in coarse fishing.

I was trying to design an indicator that would be more sensitive to what was happening to the nymph.

So the theory behind this indicator is that when it lands on the water it will lay flat on the water until the nymph has made full depth and as this happens it will draw the indicator up plumb.

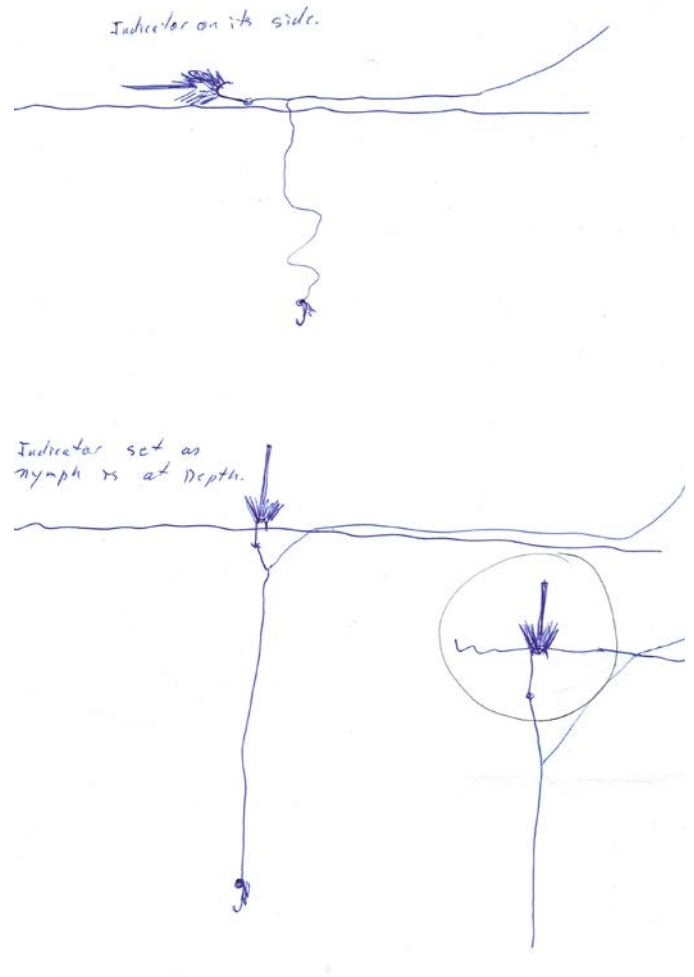
This tells you two things: one, that your nymph is at depth and secondly, how long it has taken to get to depth. Once you know how many seconds it has taken to get there, allowing one or two seconds for discrepancy, then if the indicator has not come up plumb, you can assume that a fish has taken the nymph on the way down and you need to strike.

Each indicator is made a different size for the weight of the nymph, as you want the indicator sitting in the water film as per the detail drawing.

This means any slight pull down of the nymph will cause the indicator to sink easily, but as the weight comes off the indicator from a fish taking the nymph on the way up the indicator will lift and the post will wobble or you will see the colours change as the indicator twists.

You will also have to size up for a bigger wave as this indicator becomes harder to see.

I give these indicators two coats of musilin, letting each coat dry in between, and you will find that they will float all day.



Construction

Aerowing post glued at the top and painted black with marker pen.

Two colours of glow bug yarn combed out before treating and then again after treating.

Experiment yourself with different materials.

Good luck and happy fishing

Yoda Man



Overseas Anglers:

Living here amongst what is considered by trout anglers worldwide the El Dorado of Fly fishing, while most of us are well aware that what we have on our own doorsteps and get to experience every day we spend fishing is uniquely special and should be treasured, it is only when we see and talk to overseas anglers that have visited our shores, that we truly realise how great we have it here. To see the looks on their faces as powerful, wild fish, rip off downstream with the drag screaming. To see their hands tremble as they stalk and sight fish to the biggest fish of their lives and the constant praise they express toward our kiwi hospitality and natural scenic beauty. This all instils a sense of pride, and a reaffirmation that New Zealand is the greatest fly fishing destination on the planet. The very place we call home!

Visiting anglers are nothing new to NZ it is one of our biggest draw cards for tourism, yet in recent years many of the worlds top competition anglers have been making their way to our waters in their off season to sample the hardest fighting, most intelligent trout of the planet.

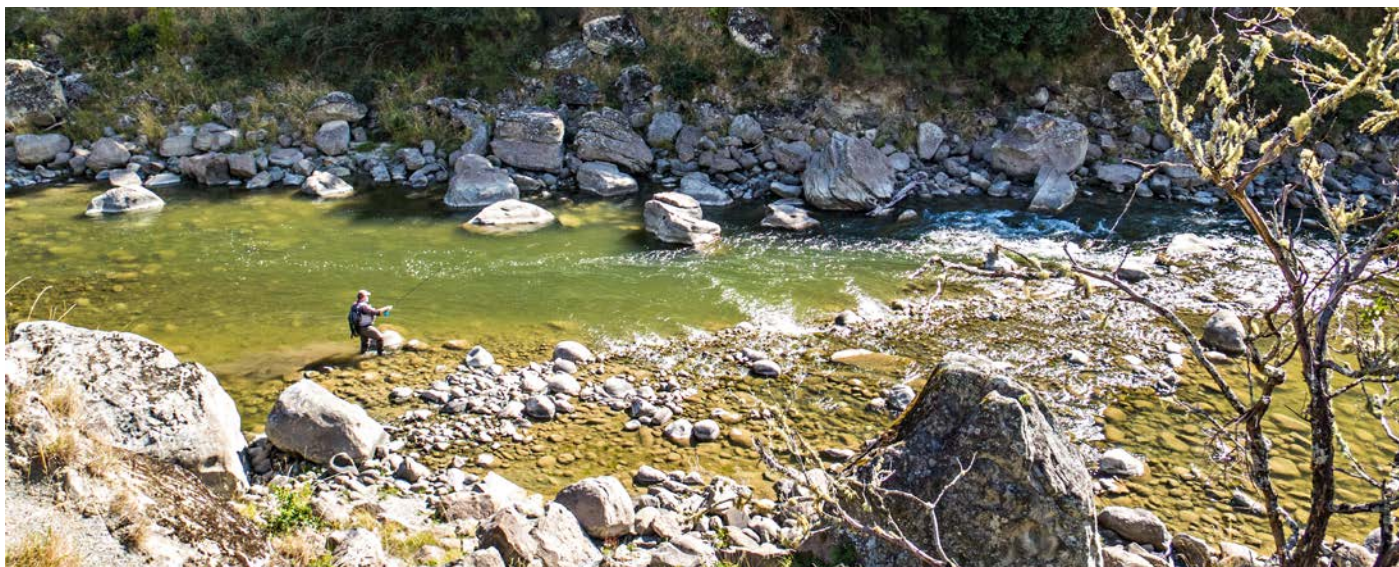
Having these anglers visit, also enables our own competition anglers to forge friendships and relationships with those countries and also become exposed to the latest techniques in use around the world. Recently some of our members had the pleasure of guiding top anglers from England, Australia, France, Slovakia and more, around their local fisheries. We endeavour to showcase some of these trips in each of our upcoming newsletters.

First off we were lucky enough to have Czech guru Igor Slavik in the country for three weeks, who was guided by Cory Scott to some of the more popular rivers as well as some of Cory's backcountry secrets. Igor has been one of the top Czech competition anglers of the last 10 years fishing in the Czech Republics first league. As an angler Igor has many Czech titles to his name as well as a top placing at European Championships and a Silver Medal from World Champs in 2009, he was also Manager of the Czech Team who won gold in Slovenia in 2012.



Overseas anglers like Igor can teach us so much about looking after our fisheries. And Igor 100% supports the above sign!

(insets top-bottom) Welcome to the Ureweras. Back-country brothers. Igor's first NZ Fish on the Whirinaki.



Igor's introduction to NZ was a baptism of fire and after driving down to Lake Aniwhenua as soon as he landed after his 36 hour flight, he was on the Whirinaki and laying into the biggest fish of his life. The look on his face was priceless as a 6 pound rainbow tore off downstream. Rather dazed in a state of Jet lag, that evening Igor lost his car keys and was quickly introduced to the kiwi number 8 wire skills. Only hours later Billy Thrupp and Cory woke Igor well before dawn and headed by foot up into the Whirinaki, Okui Hut area, his first full day in NZ and deep in the backcountry. Over the next few days Igor made his way down through the East Cape, camping in his car fishing the Waioeka and onto the Ruakituri which completely blew Igor's concept of a hard fighting fish. Igor fished the many rivers of the East Cape region for the next week experiencing some amazing fishing. Being a huge fan of rugby and the All Blacks and having played rugby in his younger years Igor was keen to see an All Black game, yet with no international fixtures scheduled for that time of the year the next best thing was a trip to Waikato Stadium to watch The Crusaders Vs The Chiefs, and Igor even got to meet several All Blacks after the game. The following day Igor enjoyed the rather unique cultural experience of fishing the Rotorua stream mouths, the Waiteti and the Awahou. This fishing was nothing like anything he had ever experienced in his life with 2000+ fish schooled up in the cool stream mouths combined with the entertaining antics of the locals, a real eye opener! From here Igor headed to the Taupo region where he fished the Tongariro, Otamangakau, Whakapapa and the Whanganui over a week and set a new PB for a brown trout. And then ticked another box when on his way back to Auckland to fly out Igor took a diversion out to Waihi Beach and went sea fishing, picking up a snapper and trevally on fly in the back of the harbour with Billy Thrupp.



A personal best brownie had Igor dancing



In love with sight fishing NZ browns



An East Cape brown fooled by Igor's secret cdc dry.



Crusaders Vs Chiefs



Rotorua kiwiana experience



Partners in crime, taking over the Scott household dining room.

Igor shared a few memorable points of his stay in Aotearoa with us, and cant wait for his return which is looking like 2017.

"I had seen these images of Pure nature - it was what I expected and I got it. Wild nature, wild fish, wild rivers. I like to fish alone with no other fishermen around and there were plenty of rivers/ lakes with nobody there, I loved that!. With many electric fences, you have to have friends who can get you over fence, or politely ask farmers for access and many were very friendly. The size of the fish in NZ is incredible, they are huge, sometimes it is not easy to catch them and this is also a great challenge. NZ people are nice and easy going, maybe I just had good luck and met all the nice ones, but I don't think so, it is just their way! The All Blacks - I am definitely in my heart one of them.! I like (also hate) that NZ is so far away, this keeps NZ safe and if I could I would love to live in NZ, that describes how much I love this place." - Igor Slavik



Between a rock and a hard place success.



The grin didn't leave for three weeks.

Awards:

Aside from presenting the Champions awards at this years National Champs, we were also proud to announce and acknowledge the achievements of three of our longest serving competition anglers Strato Cotsilinis, Peter Scott and John Bell who have all fished for NZ at ten or more international events, having these guys still actively fishing with their wealth of experience is extremely valuable to the society. We caught up with the three of them for a quick chat on their love of fly fishing and competition. This newsletter we had a chat with both Peter and John for a brief look into their lives as flyfishermen. Strato Cotsilinis who last year stepped down as our long serving President, as well as being acknowledged for his ten plus Silver Flies representations was presented with a special award in thanks for his many years of hard work and dedication to the society. Strato had been difficult to track down for an interview with word that he was on the other side of the world doing what he loved, fishing in Alaska. We endeavour to catch up with Strato as soon as he gets in from fishing!



L-R: SFFNZ President Tony Houpt presents John Bell, Peter Scott and Strato Cotsilinis with their 'Master Fly' awards.

John Bell:

When did fly fishing first appear in your life?

My dad who was an Englishman who used to do a lot of trout fishing up in Scotland first introduced me to trout fishing when I was ten here in NZ, we used to spend weekends at the usual haunts of Taupo and Rotorua, and I can recall my first fish which was right up in the headwaters of the Whakapapa, up this trickle of a stream while on a hike which I had taken a rod along on, it was a tiny fish however, but it wasn't long before I caught my first legal size fish which was on Rotoaira at the outlet canal from the shore. For years and years we did the typical winter Taupo trips, I used to love the stream mouths and I'd take off by myself and fish till midnight and get up at 5AM and fish again, most of my fishing was in the dark when I was a kid. Then as I grew older I did the same Taupo winter runs and Lake Aniwhenua became a big part of my fishing life. We would do annual trips for many years and set up a tent down at the camping ground for over a week. We didn't have a boat so it was all shoreline stalking, but that was one of highlights back then.

How did you get into competition fly fishing?

I'd tried a few comps around 1996 and 97 at regional comps but didn't really know what I was doing in terms of competition fishing and didn't get anywhere, those comps were the Auckland ones and they were held on waters that I'd say were pretty flukey for me as a beginner. Then in 1998 I entered the Rotorua regionals which was held where I'd had more experience fishing at Flaxy Lake and Whaeo canal and I did alright picking up a third place and then went on to the Nationals where I also finished third and qualified for the World Champs as reserve. The following year in 99 we went to the Worlds in Australia and in my first

international the team got a bronze medal. Straight after the worlds I went to the Commonwealth Championships down in Melbourne and ended up with a bronze medal in the individual and the team got silver. So that was a pretty amazing introduction to fly fishing competition in my first overseas competitions I returned home with three medals.

Your most memorable competition experience?

Most definitely the Worlds we hosted here in NZ in 2008, in terms of intensity, pressure, and the fact that we were in the gold medal position going into the last morning. Just the highs and lows. But to get silver was still amazing, that comp would still be my highlight, the most intense and most memorable. But traveling too has been great, Portugal was awesome! The fishing not so great but the trip awesome. Tasmania was also another great place, I loved that, a great place to visit with this plateau of 3000 lakes with it being walk in only.

What do you enjoy most about the competition scene?

Well most of my friends, as I'm based in Auckland are not into fly fishing, so the competition scene means straight away I can hang out with guys that are totally focussed on fishing. Who don't need to be sold the idea that going fishing all day and fishing hard out is a good thing to do, whereas my friends would go NA NA NA. Everyone is just keen and like minded and you just get on with it and also you are constantly exposed to learning, everyones experimenting with new stuff and it's a good way to pick up on new stuff pretty fast. Most people involved freely share their information with you and thats what I like about it, just learning from new people cause you cant stop learning.

Peter Scott:

Your first experience fly fishing?

I was a late bloomer and caught my first fish on fly in the Tauranga-Taupo River 20 years ago.

How did competition fishing come about for you?

As I started late in life, I started competition fishing so I could learn faster. In my first competition the Auckland Champs I entered having never caught a fish other than with an indicator in Taupo. I'd never caught a fish wetlining, never caught a fish with dry fly, I tried to fish a dry fly with a Taupo rig and it was pretty awful, I think I landed one fish and finished next to last. In 1998 I made the NZ Team and competed at my first World Championship in Poland and then the Oceania's the following year.

Your most memorable competition experience?

Both the trips to the World Champs in Poland were amazing, although 12 years apart it was an amazing country to go to, with great people and great fishing! It was soo different to NZ and people still live in villages, not big cities. Going to Europe and catching Grayling was a buzz as we don't have that species here, which are a fantastic and beautiful fish that love coming up to the dry.

What do you enjoy most about the competition scene?

Well when you fish against the best you learn quick, and the people are very generous with their information and knowledge. The people I fish against are what keep me coming back.

And to look back on having represented the Silver Flies at more than ten internationals how does that feel?

Well it makes you feel a bit old

Winter Angling:

With winter signalling an end to our competition season and seeing the closure of most waters around the country, our members have made the most of some of the winter fishing waters that are available with most reporting some great catches. The Taupo fishery has been firing with all rivers producing the best fishing in many years. While there are many other pieces of water open all year most rivers have been running high throughout winter and the frigid record low temps this winter have seen most other areas fishing slow. Rotorua Lakes shoreline also turned on in many of the heavy deluge and barometer drops. For those closer to Auckland day trips to spring streams in the Waikato region were the go, with some great fishing.



A common sight this winter

(below) Sam Bourne Waikato springy



(below) John bell, Hinemaia Taupo.





Cory Scott Lake Rotoiti



Neil Hirtzel Tongariro River



Gareth Godfrey on the Tukituki River



Tim Rich Waikato Hydro lake

Upcoming Competitions:

With our new competition season fast approaching events are being finalised and we have New Calendar online. Entry forms and updates will be posted for these competitions as we draw closer and the competitions are finalised.

the 2015/16 SFFNZ Competition Calendar can be viewed here.

<http://www.sffnz.org.nz/index.cfm/pageid/5/ViewPage/Calendar-Entry-Forms>

The Totally Fly Waikato Regional Championship- Lake Maraetai.

The first competition of our 2015/16 season will kick off on the Waikato Hydro Lake of Maraetai on the 19/20th September. This is the third year running Maraetai has been used as a venue producing some great fishing and some big browns. Competitors are reminded to make sure their boats are in good running order and that all appropriate safety equipment is present and working. Organisers will be going over health and safety procedures before commencement of competition.



continued

The National Pairs: Lake Rotoaira.

The biggest event on our competition calendar will be contested on the 17/18th October. The Pairs event has long been seen as the more social of all our competitions and a great time to meet new anglers and share techniques and information. With more of a focus on the two angler team result, paired anglers combine results to win the overall title and prizes. Lake Rotoaira also provides one of the best catch rates for competitors of all of our venues with a staggering 420 fish caught over two days in 2014. Once again we appreciate the support from our Sponsor The Park and would like to remind competitors that it is compulsory as part of entry that you book and stay at The Park. Briefing will kick off at 7:30PM on Friday night with a presentation from our sponsors and is a good chance to mix and mingle with experienced competitors, if you are new to competition. We also appreciate the support of the Lake Rotoaira Trust who continues to allow us to hold this event year after year and we remind those competitors looking to attend that along with a Taupo Region licence you are required to obtain a Rotoaira Permit as well, permits are available from Creel Tackle and the Turangi Information Centre, you must produce your Taupo licence to obtain the Rotoaira Permit. Our societies Annual General Meeting will also be held on Saturday night, following day one's briefing and a spot prize draw. This is your chance to have a say in the sports future. Entry forms to THE PAIRS will be available shortly on the above calendar link. For more info please contact contest director Paul Baker on:

paulbaker@paradise.net.nz



A stunning start to the 2014 Pairs at Lake Rotoaira.

**SFFNZ IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY 'THE PARK' FOR BOOKINGS FOR THE UPCOMING PAIRS
CHECK OUT THEIR WEB OR PHONE:**

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