

# Nelson Trout Fishing Club

Issue -156 June 2017

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## Committee

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**Meet and Greet New Members:** Ray Day and Pete Lawler

**Fishing trips:** **Looking for somebody to run this job**

**Fly Tying Convenor:** Michael Stevenson

**Club Librarian:** Cameron Reid 547 1197 [camnvic@xtra.co.nz](mailto:camnvic@xtra.co.nz)

**Editor:** Richard Breakspear

**Trophy Master** Richard Boyden

**Club Sponsorship & Newsletter Advertising** Ray Day

**Cub Speakers:** Committee members

**Club Night Tea/Coffee:** Maree Peter

**Newsletter Distribution:**

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**Past Presidents:**

03-06 Richard Boyden 6-08 Lester Higgins 08-09 Ross Walker

09-11 Dennis Ealam 11-13 Ray Day 13-15 Tony Entwistle

## NELSON TROUT FISHING CLUB

**Meets once a month at: Fish and Game Offices, 66 Champion Road, Richmond.**

**Normally the 3rd Wednesday of the month 7.00pm.**

*Please phone 5224166 if unsure.*

Any views or opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the committee, or club editor.

[www.nelsontroutfishingclub.com](http://www.nelsontroutfishingclub.com)

*Cover page:* Hook up at last - on a log! By Peter Lawler

## The Final post

As I sit to write my last Presidents report I ponder on the last two years. Wow have I learnt a lot! Thanks Tony for passing on this job to me, I have felt I have learnt a lot and have grown as a fisher person.

I have not been your usually Trout fishing club President but I have never been classed as normal in any aspects of my life, so why change a habit of a life time. I was forced in to this roll and it has been good for me to get a bit more involved with the boys in the club as you all know it is a very male dominated club /sport but I have always been lead to believe that GIRLS' can do anything and tried and not let any of you intimidate me too much.

You all have been very understanding, very patience and very helpful I cannot thank you all enough. Especially the committee my band of merry little men it's been bit like Snow white and the 7 dwarfs.

Over the last two year we have had some very interesting speakers from out of the district but also for the internal structure of the club. It is amazing the versatility we have amongst our members when you start to get to know them a bit better.

The club trips have been well organized and well attended too, we are looking for a new club trip organizer as James is standing down, it a rewarding job as you can organize trips to where you want to go fishing, and take like-minded people with you. - Could this be YOU?

We have lost some club members as our average age does not seem to be getting to much younger.

It is the winter fishing time now and I am told there is still some good fishing to be had. The good thing about winter fishing is that you don't have to on the river so early.

I am down the coast for the first week of July so will be wetting the line down there in between the bike rides (if it is not to wet). – I might even have some photos for the next mag – watch this space.

I have enjoyed the comradery of all the club members' over the last two year and intend to still be an active member on the committee.

That is all from me for the last time **Maree Peter Most Gorgeous President**

## **Sports fishing for youth trust**

The Secretary

Nelson Trout Fishing Club

We write to thank the Nelson trout fishing club for the assistance of many of its members at our kids fishing days. When we established the fishing ponds several years ago the objective was to encourage youngsters to take up trout fishing and to develop an appreciation of the outdoors. We believe, with the assistance of the club members acting as guides, we are achieving this. For example Fish and Game have issued over one hundred family and youth licences in the last season.

The following is a quotation from one of the many letters of appreciation which we receive. You will note that it acknowledges the great contribution of guides and also points to a reality which all fishers will understand.

*We have loved having the ponds, and the guides on hand. It has helped Mum to learn how to fillet, and Dad has got valuable information also. Cameron has now caught a number of trout, and loves spending time on the rivers. Before attending a fish out day, we had no idea, and it was also a very good way to have a go without spending a lot on equipment that we didn't know would be used. We have now spent lots on equipment!!*

As you may be aware we opened the ponds for youth and family fishing over the December/January period and they were very well attended by families and other youth. Below is a photograph we received showing two very successful young fishers over this Christmas period thanks to the guidance they have received. :cont



David and William 28.12.16

The following is another quotation received from grateful parents . It demonstrates again that the ponds are assisting the development of young fishers who can have a lifetime of fishing .

*"The opportunity to attend the free Kids fishing events has not only given us another great family time activity, but it is something the kids will endeavour to do for a long time if not a life time we hope"*

Once again, our thanks to the Nelson Trout Fishing Club and to its members for the assistance as guides to these young fishers. As you can see from the quotations above this assistance is very much appreciated by the children and their families.

**Regards**

**Ian Kearney**

**Sports Fishing for Youth Trust**

# Nelson Trout Fishing Club

**Trophy Presentations 2016/2017 1 July 2017**

**Heaviest Fish Nelson District** - Michael Stevenson 3 lbs Rainbow  
Pelorus River CF 57

**Heaviest Fish Outside Nelson District** – Michael Stevenson 8.8  
lbs Brown Lewis pass CF 37

**Best Conditioned Fish all Districts** -Michael Stevenson 3 lbs  
Rainbow

Pelorus River CF 57

**Spin Fishing** -Heaviest fish all districts -Michael Stevenson 4.75  
lbs Rainbow Wakamarina River CF 44

## **Best Story in club Magazine**

1<sup>st</sup> “” Friday the 13 th “” by Jacob Lucas March 2017 issue

2<sup>nd</sup> “” Club Dinner to Annual Event “” by Bruce McLean July  
2016 issue

3<sup>rd</sup> “” a Day on the River “” By Michael Stevenson November  
2016 issue

**Best Photo on the cover of Club Magazine** : Brian Richards Dec  
2016 issue ,

“”Waiting for the take “”

2<sup>nd</sup> Don Clementson (Nov 2016 ) 3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Lawler (Apr.17 )

**Services to the Club:** Richard Breakspear

**Gumboot award for the Year:** Chris Clenshaw

## Other Club Trophies in Storage :

*Fly Casting Distance \*\* Fly Casting Accuracy*

*Fly Casting Distance Ladies \*\* Spin Casting Distances-Men*

*Spin Casting Distance Ladies \*\*Spin Casting Accuracy-Men*

*Fly Tying – Trophy (small ) and Fly Tying wall frame*

*Tongarirro River Heaviest Fish – Boat Oar*

## Stalking Kingfish *By Michael Stevenson*

I had booked three days of trout fishing starting Thursday, 19 January hoping to get a chance at some big browns. Late on the night of the 18th, the rivers we were to fish got hit with a weather bomb and torrential rain in their headwaters. Both systems raised to levels not seen in many years.



The small streams in the foreground are actually side channels of the main river that are usually dry.

We drove for most of the day Thursday trying to find anywhere to fish. There was one spot at the outlet of Lake Rotoiti but we didn't get a take. That afternoon, we decided to flag the trout fishing and take advantage of an alternative available here in NZ...fishing tidal flats for kingfish and kahawai.

We left very early Friday morning for a long drive to arrive just before low tide. My friend had fished the area more than a dozen times which meant he knew a good bit about how to go about chasing kings. He also fished but gave me a lot of help with how to strike and fight saltwater fish.

Fishing is mostly on the rising tide when baitfish return up the flats.

One of the keys to successful kingfish fishing is to spot :*Cont*

short-tailed black stingrays. These rays grow quite large and kingfish often follow them closely to ambush baitfish. I'm not sure if the kingfish are waiting for the rays to disturb the baitfish or whether they are trying to not be spotted. Either way, the rays are what you look for. Care has to be taken when wading the flats because there is another sting ray, eagle rays, that are much smaller and will lay still on the bottom. Stepping on one would really ruin your day.

I had brought my 8 wt with a 6 wt as an emergency backup. We tied on heavy streamers using a 20 lb shock tippet and began double hauling to get them out 40' to 60'. Conditions were less than optimal because of a stiff breeze and heavy overcast with showers despite a forecast of fine weather. We had hiked almost a kilometre from the car parked just above the high tide mark. We were looking for channels (or gutters if you prefer) where the fish would be travelling to get onto the flats.



As the tide rose, we gradually waded back toward shore. We had been casting steadily for an hour or so when I had a hit and was into a kahawai. They fight a bit like a rainbow but run harder and jump a bit less. They also have more stamina. It was several minutes before I had a fat 6 pounder to hand.

Five minutes after we started fishing again, my 'guide' was into a bigger kahawai. He duly landed one of about 8 pounds.: *Cont*

That was all the action of about two hours as we continued working what looked like good water. We had seen only one black stingray but it was small and didn't have any kingfish 'riding' him. There were plenty of eagle rays to keep us cautious. Conditions had improved to where we had more sunlight for better spotting but no kingfish showed and kahawai are almost impossible to spot unless they panic some baitfish or pass very closely. I was still using a smallish streamer with dumbbell eyes that had taken the first kahawai. The red body helped with visibility in the poor conditions. I was almost ready to pick up when I had a bump, so I picked up and plunked the fly about 3' to the left. One strip and I was rewarded with a powerful strike! We thought it was a kingfish at first because it made a strong run but didn't jump. When the fish got out about 50' it jumped and we could see it was a big kahawai. After a few minutes, I could start walking it toward a sandbar to beach. Things were going fine and we were only about 20' from the sandbar when it started circling me. I had been on the fish's right the entire fight but when it got me on its left, the hook just dropped out. That was the end of the action as high tide arrived. We took a break to have a beer and a bite of dinner. Afterward we returned hoping to find a late leaving fish but didn't get a take.

Saturday we didn't have to rush because low tide wasn't until 10:45 am. We got to the flats about 10:00 to give us time to wade out to the farthest sandbars. As we about halfway out, we saw another fisherman hiking out quickly to beat us to the best spot. While a bit irked, there is a lot of water there so we continued on out. We finished up about 100' away from the other guy. I was allowed to use the 'kingfish fly', a white and green streamer with an epoxy head and eyes that had been the most successful fly in taking kingfish. Just on low tide, the other guy hooked into a kahawai. While he was fighting his fish, my friend hooked into one as well. Both fish were landed and the other guy (a young man wading wet) said that while he was fighting his fish he saw a black ray with 3 kingfish riding it. We all continued fishing with no further luck despite the other guy seeing more black rays and a couple of kingfish. The water was pretty cold for summer shallows and I began to really feel it. A flat bottom boat with three fishermen in it came out from shore and worked out where it was too deep for us to wade. I started to work back toward the car because the forecast for rain to start about 2:00 pm as the: *Cont*

forefront of a major storm looked to be accurate for a change. Just about noon, my legs started to ache from the cold (breathable waders but no leggings), I was tired from all the heavy casting and then the final straw was needing to empty my bladder. Discouraged, I headed back to the vehicle. I noticed my guide/friend start out when he saw me leaving. I got to the SUV, warmed by the hike, took care of necessities and donned my raincoat in case it started to rain before I could get into the car. I then noticed my friend turned to cross a channel to head out to a new area. I was not about to be left behind, so I picked up my rod and headed out too.

We wound up on the far side of the channel from where we had been fishing. As we approached the outer limit of the high sandbank, there was a major disturbance about 30 yards ahead of us. "Kingis!" As we got close we could see 3-4 black rays and two had kingfish accompanying them. One went by close in front of us. I flipped my fly about 6' in front and the small kingfish made a pass but didn't hit. We continued to work the rays whenever they came close enough. About 10 minutes later there was an almighty 'SPLOOSH' boil right behind my fly. My friend hollered 'You got him!' Unfortunately, I had to tell him, I never got a touch. He explained that the big boil is usually when the fish turns to run right after they feel the hook. He was sure I had hooked up.

We were still seeing the rays occasionally as we worked back down the shallows while the tide rose and the weather got more threatening. Then I heard, 'There's a ray here with a kingi on him and it's tailing. At the same time I found I had stepped into a loop of my fly line. I frantically cleared the mess and hustled over. 'He's moving off to the right!' So I cast about 30'-40' in front of me and strip...strip...WHAM!!!! GOT HIM!!

In 3 seconds the fish was into my backing despite a strong drag. I got lucky and it decided to turn before I lost much backing. I then kept pressure on it with a low angle with just enough arch to not point right at it. Several minutes and I could see it about 30' out circling me from left to right. We were close to a sandbar and I thought we were going to beach him easily. Right then the fish took off and I lost every bit I had gained right to the backing. My main effort was to keep from having my knuckles shattered. Several expletives were uttered repeatedly. Kingfish don't jump but they are very powerful. The "work the fish to within 30' only to have it peel off most or all of my fly line" was repeated at least twice *Cont*

more. By now my left biceps was aching (I reel right handed). I could hardly believe it when the fish quietly gave in and I could lead it to the sandbank to beach. YES!!!! my first kingfish on a fly! We measured it against my rod and later it showed to be 68 cm. Estimated weight at 10-12 pounds. They look longer because of the deep fork in the tail.



By now it was 1:30 and the rain had just started. Because the incoming tide had cut off the direct route across the channel, we had a long walk back to the car but I didn't care. Not bad for a trout substitute.

Nick King came to June meeting giving a talk on Fish Management



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Thanks to James MacDonald for his talk etc.. A Great night was had by all.**

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