

Issue 184

TROUT FISHER

New Zealand's dedicated magazine

Autumn 2023

**CLASSES AT LAST!
CONFLICT RESOLUTION
POCKETS FULL OF PINKS!
FISHING AMONG THE FLOWERS
CONFESSIONS OF A SALMON ANGLER
NEW ZEALAND – 100% PURE DESTRUCTION**

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Cover

Here

First NZ Class: John and Angus, glue-sanding *Tom, straightening split strips* (Nick Taransky)

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"Goods price inflation is likely to fall ... (Finn Robinson, ANZ)

A BRIGHTER FUTURE

What a year 2022 was business-wise, with costs rising up to 10% per issue and sales falling 14% YTD. Neither surprised me. Instability is integral to neoliberalism and its 'lolly-scramble' economics. Barry Cawthorn's letter shows its effects environmentally too – and assuming enough of us want to, this destruction *can* be halted, in the ballot box and thereafter, through education.

Meantime, I intend to halt this latest inflationary hiccup, because I too see signs of a brighter future, with the cost of this issue reflecting Finn Robinson's recent prediction. That version needs stability, however. So if you bought this in a store please consider subscribing, because retail includes 40% in-built waste *before* returns. Print or digital, in fact, subscriptions are clearly *our* best option.

In return, I will aim to produce a better product and in print terms, please note this cover has not been laminated. The cost may be minimal, but it makes the cover curl in damp weather and its environmental footprint has always bothered me. I invite reader comment and will evaluate the result.

So here's to 2023, a brighter future, and reducing carbon footprints while improving life. Try roasting your own coffee, for instance. From personal experience, you don't just learn your beans' footprint. Experimenting with individual bean sources also increases your appreciation of the finished product.



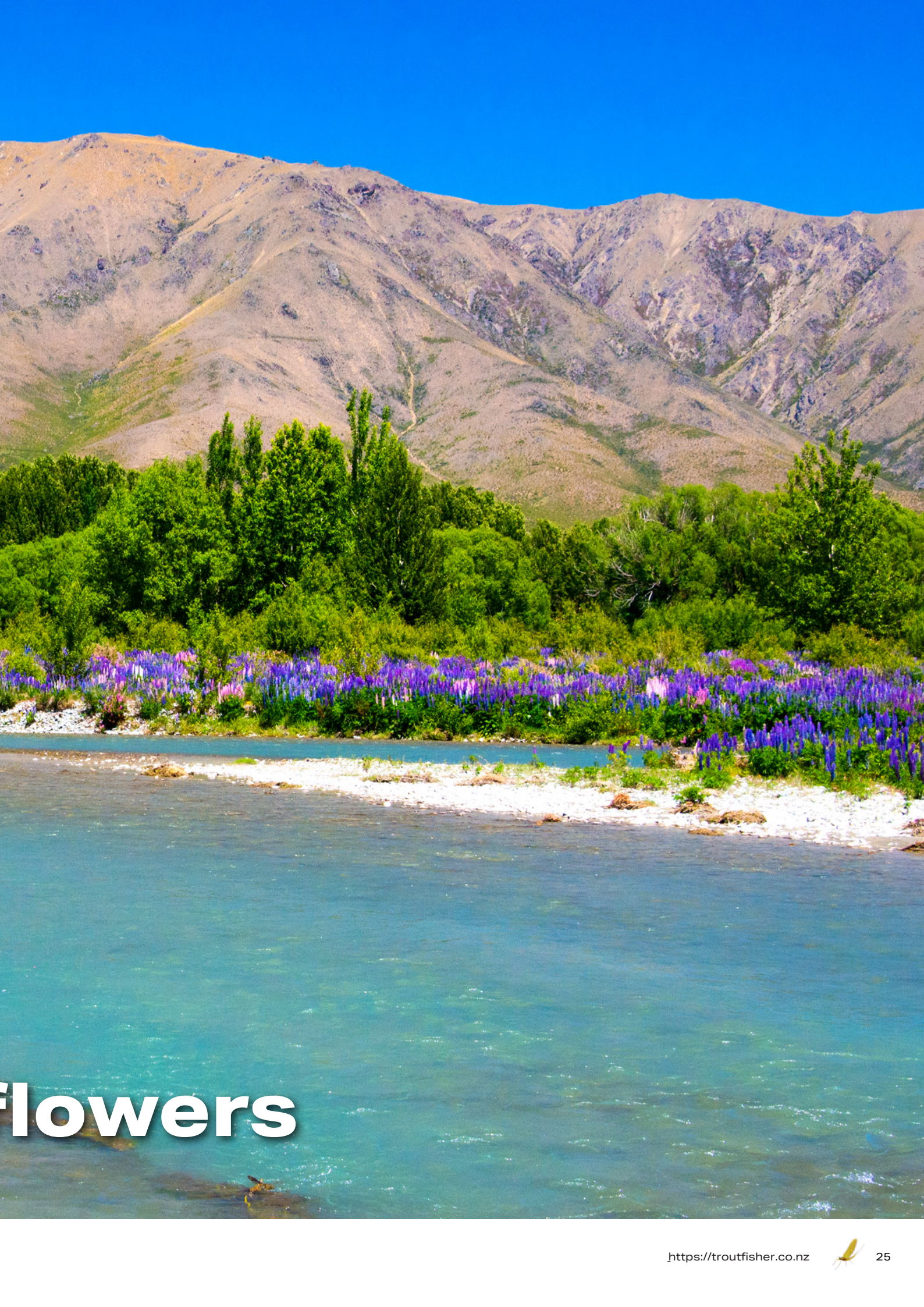


Lupins provide a colourful background on the Ahuriri River . . .

Fishing among the f

By Les Hill





flowers





Fishing is much more than just catching fish – words repeated so frequently that they have become an angling cliché. However, among those who repeat the phrase, there's a varying real belief in its truth. I notice too that most anglers become considerably animated if they finally hook a fish at the end of, until then, a fishless day. In the same way we frequently suggest that just hooking a trout is 'job done' but smile much more broadly if it actually slips into our net.

I'm certainly in the same camp as those who do like to land one trout at least during a day of fishing. But doing so in attractive surroundings is much more luring and fulfilling. For an angling photographer, beautiful riverside surrounds add immensely to the angling.

I fish widely, camera ever ready to capture angling action, but particularly capturing the fun in a beautiful location. And some of my favourite places to fish with this in mind are the river beds of many South Island streams – riverbeds that blossom and bloom with colourful floral displays during spring and early summer.

On a cloudless day, when colours are at their richest, there are few more radiant riverbeds than that of the Tekapo river. The floral show, dominated by lupins and the rich orange of the Californian poppies, in places compels even the most active anglers to pause and soak in their surrounds.

Just a little further south the Ahuriri River possesses an equally richly coloured riverbed, a display dominated by thick lupin beds of varying colours. Trodden tracks following along close to the river cutting through the tall stems provide evidence that other anglers have passed. One can easily ponder the analogy with the words of William Wordsworth as he admired the view from Westminster Bridge – 'Dull would he be of soul who could pass by a sight so touching in its majesty.'

