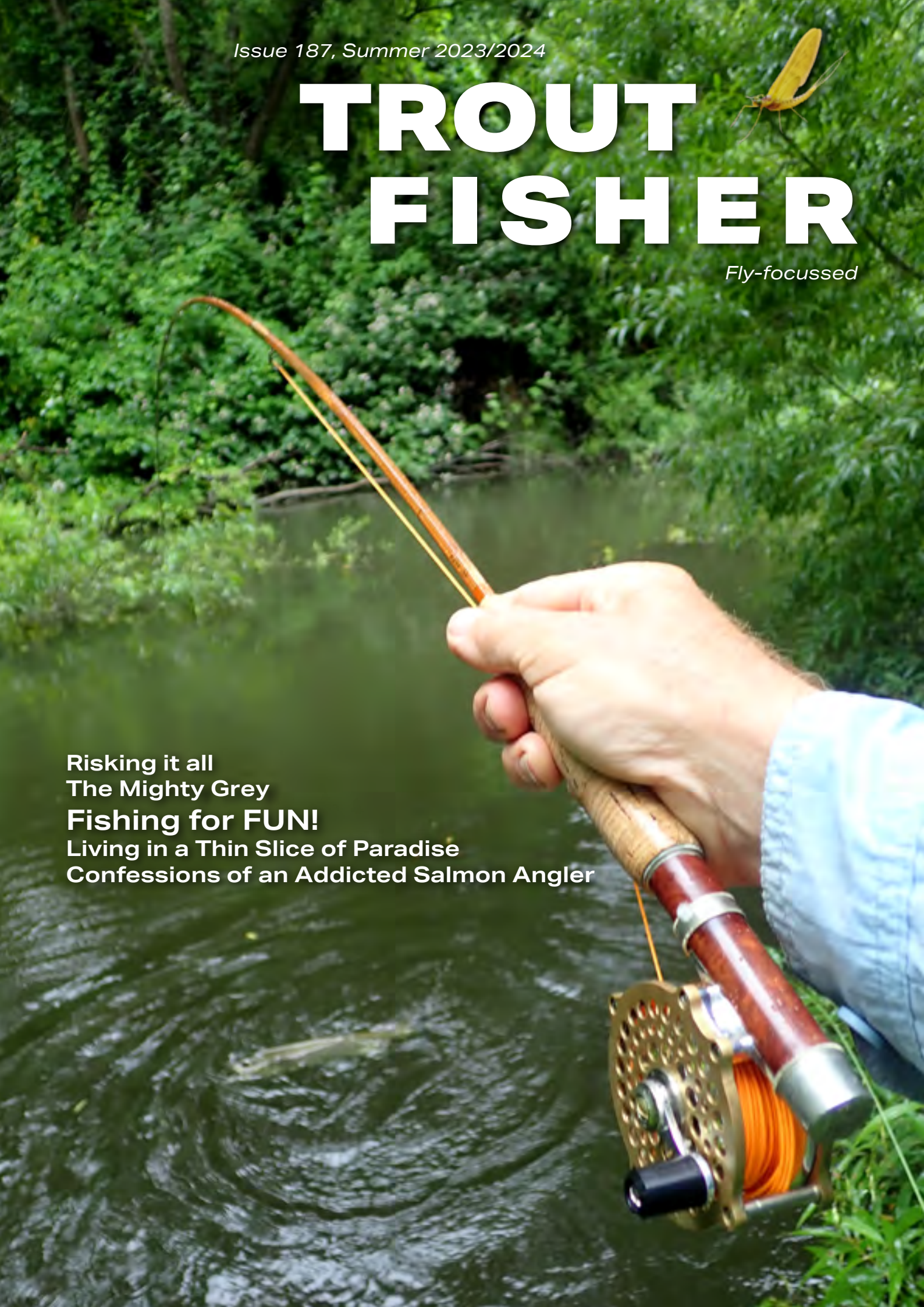


Issue 187, Summer 2023/2024

TROUT FISHER

Fly-focussed

Risking it all
The Mighty Grey
Fishing for FUN!
Living in a Thin Slice of Paradise
Confessions of an Addicted Salmon Angler



TROUT FISHER

Fly-focussed

Summer 2023/2024

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Willow Grub feeders – a subtle feature of Summer fly fishing (Nick Taransky)

Here

An early season Lake Tarawera sunrise from the shoreline angler's perspective (Trout Fisher)

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Legal Requirement for Rotorua(Te Arawa [Ed])/Bay of Plenty Lakes

ALL vessels and trailers that have been in the Waikato River within 30 days must go to "The Wash Place" wash station (338 Te Ngae Road, Lynmore – Ed), adjacent to the Gull Service Centre to be washed before going to any of the lakes in the Rotorua/Bay of Plenty Lakes. Payment facilities are available for debit and credit cards, and coins. Boaties are required to complete an online form (accessed via a QR code or website address provided at the wash station) to prove they have completed the required wash-down before they can enter the lakes. This is in addition to the gold clam-specific Check Clean Dry requirements for all boats that have been in the Waikato River.

(F&GNZ/MPI: 10/11/2023; more info: www.thewashplace.co.nz)

Apologies to those of you for whom this switch to digital-only has occurred without warning. I have been flagging the possibility for some time, but nonetheless, was hoping to put this issue out in print and see whether sufficient sales eventuated after the election to keep going (elections always deflate sales and this has been one of the worst). Recent bulk retail issues have sold miserably, however, and the Winter one especially. Combined with a substantial increase in mailing cost to put that issue out, the accumulated losses forced my hand. It was simply too risky to commit to another printed issue.

I do not see the economic situation changing soon either. Given the recent election result it's pretty obvious New Zealanders have mostly realised that we cannot keep heading the way we have for the past 200 years, or National would have achieved a clear majority. With the economy likely to stay depressed in the short term at least then, and given the negative environmental footprint of print publishing, combined with the wastage of sale-or-return retailing, the move to digital-only makes best long term sense. My intention is to keep going until it's plain this medium is viable. If it is, then I see the magazine reverting to bimonthly; if it's not, then I will close up completely – and I definitely hope that will not prove to be the case. It's been a pleasure producing this magazine over these last 32 years; a far more rewarding experience than my previous endeavours.

Meantime, there are intriguing times ahead, because kiwi trout fishers are entering new territory with this intended Ministry of Fishing & Hunting. Fish & Game have no clear picture what is involved at this stage but believe, from talks to date, the outcome could be beneficial for anglers if this new government, "walks the talk". Doubtful, given National's history over the time I have been publishing and therefore expecting it is intended to create further privatisation of our sport, I simply hope to be proven wrong.

I also hope this next government will not further diminish the freshwater resource available to support trout. The recent election suggests that if 'getting our country back on track' means freeing-up industry to turn even more of New Zealand into a mirror of its northern hemisphere counterparts, the public will not play along. The recent move by ECan over the Rakaia WCO suggests some think otherwise, however, and we need to stay vigilant.

Enough business and politics. My thanks to the numerous readers who have taken the time to register support of this next phase of Trout Fisher, whatever results. Have a great Christmas and New Year and before then, in between and after, it's Summer 2023/2024, it's holiday time and there are trout waiting. Tight Lines!



Oh yes, Mum! Bring it in quick! I want to wrap my snaggletooths around that rainbow!! Lake-Kuratau (Johnny Gummer)

Fishing For FUN!

All views expressed solely by Jaime & Tarn Fitzgerald



I pushed on full steam ahead, arriving at the tail of a promising-looking pool . . .

After catching a few smaller browns, I sat down for lunch. The fishing had proved so productive early on, which had made it hard to stop, take a breather and soak everything in. This section of the river reminds me of being in the Rocky Mountains. The landscape changes dramatically, from lush green alpine bush, made up predominantly of Eucalyptus and Gum trees, to broken-up rocky outcrops and formations. Surrounded by burnt out vegetation from the 2020 bush fires, the charring is still evident on its trees. It's rugged, hostile, and requires your full attention. Even the slightest gradient can result in slipping on scree and sliding down towards the turbulent water below.

I pushed on full steam ahead, arriving at the tail of a promising-looking pool. Right there in front of me sat two big browns, pushing close to the double digit mark. Here's my moment! Without hesitating, I stripped out some line and lobbed it ahead of them, high sticking the line back down. My flies swung wide of the fish, and they didn't see it.

Anticipating how my flies had swung in the fast water, I cast again, inside and closer to the bank. This time my flies drifted right into the fishes' path, but there was no movement as it passed by the two browns. As soon as my line drifted past them, almost out of the tail-out of the pool, one of the fish turned downstream and absolutely smashed my fly! Setting the

