

TROUT FISHER

Fly-focussed but totally transferable

Winter 2024

Confessions of an Addicted Salmon Angler ~ Hopper Addiction
Truly Wild ~ Living The Dream ~ Fish Statistically
Fishing in Secondhand Bookshops



THE FUTURE IS IN THE WATER
Pollution of New Zealand's Rivers & Lakes

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THE FUTURE IS IN THE WATER 2

Once known for its bountiful population of trout, flounder, eel, whitebait, and many other food sources, Ellesmere has been destroyed by phosphorus and sediment . . .

Todd Storey visits Lake Ellesmere, 11 4 2024.



Confessions of an Addicted Salmon Angler 8

When fighting salmon you seem to lose track of time and everything moves in slow motion, which it isn't. You lose awareness of what is going on around you as you concentrate on the battle between you and the fish.

Part 6, by Larry Burke



Fish Statistically 12

Those records tell me that I catch most fish within a few minutes. They suggest that feeding lake trout will take lures on the majority of days but typically, in bursts lasting no more than a minute.

Talking Plenty with Peter Storey



Kiwi Cane 2024 16

While the rods and formal presentations were very well received, even more so was the feedback on the friendships made over the weekend . . .

By Nick Taransky



Truly Wild 24

I'd been dreaming about this trip all summer while on holiday up in the Coromandel, and now I was actually doing it. The idea was to go truly wild this time with the few simple parameters being to adventure, packraft and fly fish.

By Ainsley Haslett



Living the Dream 30

You know you're on island time when you find yourself wandering with nothing but a pair of shorts and a fly rod, the coral sands massaging your feet as you stalk the various flats for your quarry, tuning into the surroundings and just letting things happen – unplugged but connected.

By Simon Hoole



Fishing in Secondhand Bookshops 38

This year I came across a couple of most unusual fishing books. One is quite an incredible book, "The Feather Thief", about an obsession with tying trout and salmon flies. It's so wacky it might be a tall fishing story - except it's true.

By Tony Orman

POLLUTION OF NEW ZEALAND'S RIVERS AND LAKES 42

New Zealand once had the reputation of being the world's top fly fishing destination. A number of the top USA anglers told me they were no longer coming to NZ, however, as we do not look after our rivers, streams and lakes.

By John Kent

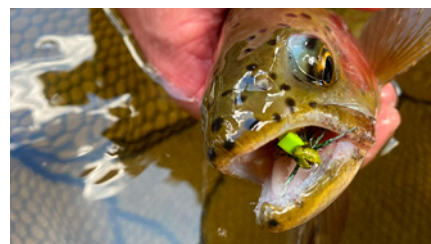


NEW PRODUCTS 50

Hopper Addiction! 54

Typically dry fly fishing is all about finesse, with presentation often being the difference between success or spooking fish. However, a hopper is like slapping down steak and chips on the table . . .

By Matt Hoole



Trout or Salmon in Pastry 62

The result is a classic, eye-catching table piece . . .

Wild to the Table with Tony Smith



Cover

Visitor Advice, Kaituna Quarry Reserve, Lake Ellesmere, Canterbury. (Todd Storey)

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Lake Ellesmere, 11/4/2024

THE FUTURE IS IN THE WATER

By Todd Storey

Canterbury is home to many of New Zealand's lakes and streams and they have been places where people grew up fishing or exploring. However, these waters have changed over time and the fish that were once abundant, are slowly disappearing.

Lake Ellesmere, also known as Te Waihora, is one of these waters. Located south of Christchurch, Lake Ellesmere is also known to Maori as Te Kete Ika a Rakaihautu, meaning the fishing basket of Rakaihautu, who was a leader who travelled around the South Island after coming to New Zealand with his son (who named the lake after him) on the canoe Uruao.

Once known for its bountiful population of trout, flounder, eel, whitebait, and many other food sources, Ellesmere has now become a lake destroyed by the contamination of phosphorus and sediment, poisoning all food sources within the lake. The lake also has a problem with algal blooms, attributed to both natural and unnatural environmental factors.

So, how have we reached this point. I took a trip along the Little River Rail Track, to see what the lake looked like, what wildlife I could observe and where things were going wrong. Immediately on arriving, I observed a sign stating that there was no swimming, no touching anything in the water nor on the shoreline, no fishing allowed, and all dogs must be leashed and kept away from the water. This is because of the toxic algae which has taken over the lake. However, at first observation of the lake, it could be taken as just a regular lake, muddy around the shore but clearer out the further you went. While other areas of the lake (further out or along the shore) could have displayed large algal bloom present, instead I saw groups of different bird species inhabiting those areas, many feeding from the lake bed. This was interesting to observe, as their presence suggests the birds are both affecting the lake and being affected by the lake.



Royal Spoonbills targeting the shallows, sweeping the lake bed from side to side with open bills. Vibration detectors inside their bills tell them when to shut.



*Kaituna (food: eels) River,
entering the lake and (overset)
a close-up of the heavily
contaminated flow . . .*

