

Issue 192

TROUT FISHER

Fly-focussed ~ totally transferable

Autumn 2025

Reconciling Method And Madness
Confessions of an Addicted Salmon Angler
Angler Access In Southland ~ High Country Trout
Totally Different ~ Water Temperature

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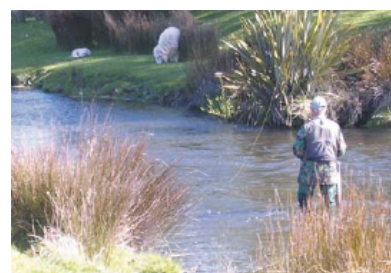
Cover Longbow and arrow – see page 12 (PWS)

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2 Water Temperature

Anglers often have to adapt to changing weather conditions in their sport. For instance, a sudden cold snap can affect the fish quite a lot.

By the late Monty Wright



4 Totally Different

October's spawning was followed by little obvious smelt activity. Then, with the November full moon, there was more clear sign of smelt over the sandy lake bed between the weed and shoreline that seemed impossible to identify.

Talking Plenty with Peter Storey.



14 Working out The Gully

The 1998-99 season seemed to arrive in a short space of time, as often happens when life gets busy. I did the usual Lake Coleridge opening, though this time instead of the family group I went with Hazel, as it was something she had never done.

Confessions of an Addicted Salmon Angler, Part 9. By Larry Burke.



22 BOOKS

Earlier this year in March, Minister Shane Jones lauded the final approval of New Zealand King Salmon's Blue Endeavour open ocean aquaculture project as a significant step for New Zealand's aquaculture and a win for the economy.

Tony Orman reviews The New Fish by Kjetil Ostli and Simen Saetre.

24 Reconciling Method And Madness

We have a love-hate relationship with coho salmon. We love them for their appearance and athleticism. Fish fresh from the ocean are iridescent, with metallic green or blue backs and silver sides; spawning fish, in comparison, are brick-crimson red. Both chase and slash at flies and are acrobatic when hooked – we love their exuberance. However, we also hate them.

By Garry Scrimgeour and Pat Fargey



32 Trout with Herb Butter and Braised Silverbeet

Flavoured butter has always been a crowd favourite. The most commonly enjoyed is garlic butter, much loved with bread, steak and chicken. In the chef world these prepared butters are known as compound butters. In the south of France you may get a selection of them with bread as a simple appetiser. This one is a version to melt over cooked trout or salmon.

Wild to The Table with Tony Smith



38 Angler Access In Southland

My trance was interrupted by a motor bike. A farmer rode towards me on the riverbank and was coming on fast. I waved but he didn't wave back. My pulse quickened and I wound in my line. Was this one of the dreaded anti-angler farmers of Southland? He jumped off the bike, dogs barking and made straight for me on foot. I swallowed heavily and put on my best smile, mentally preparing to be kicked off his land.

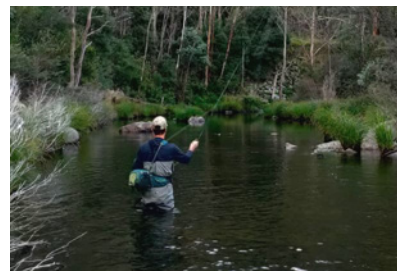
By Nick Moody.



40 High Country Trout On Dry Fly

Is there any more mouthwatering a prospect for an angler than a trout sitting high up in the water column, swaying side to side searching eagerly for food? It's a vision that has single mindlessly caused fly fishers to lose their sanity, fantasising obsessively about 'the take,' or conjuring up scenarios to satisfy the intrusive thoughts that penetrate our minds daily.

Matt Hoole visits the Cotter River



48 R.D. (Dick) Fraser

Flyfishing the rivers and streams of the remote backcountry of New Zealand's magnificent Southern Alps, where it's a safe bet many a big Rainbow and Brown trout had never risen to an artificial in their lives, has lost the man who pioneered that supreme experience for many devotees of our favourite sport and pastime which gratefully includes yours truly.

Rick Rouse remembers a friend.





When fish seem selective, show them something . . .

Totally Different

Talking Plenty with Peter Storey

October's spawning was followed by little obvious smelt activity. Then, with the November full moon, there was more clear sign of smelt over the sandy lake bed between the weed and shoreline that seemed impossible to identify. On 26 November, however, at the back of the same waning moon, heading back on what looked likely to prove a single-hit-without-connection dawn session, I caught a recovering wild hen feeding over the off shore weed beds. She answered the conundrum, spewing countless 20-30mm, round-headed juvenile smelt in the net, suggesting this month's activity was more the result of the October spawning than another run of adults with that full moon. (Interestingly, this fish took a direct tail-at-eye 'escaping koura' imitation on the surface.) So, the trend of greater awareness flagged last issue had continued and I was already lowering the odds, by targeting the lake bed within optimum trout habitat limits, currently 17-20 metres.

Those tactics have worked too. Last season's pitiful total of 32 fish landed (fishing at least 80% of available days!) was passed mid-January, despite the usual summer holiday mayhem. Although there's still plenty of surface activity, almost all my fish since November have been caught on or near the lake bed, with either smelt or koura imitations. The catch has been roughly equal recovering and maiden and some of the latter hatchery-reared, both old and already large enough to have me expecting a good chance of landing double figure fish again this Winter.





... maybe even *Black Palmer lake-style* – a turkey cock rump feather, pulled butt end through the eye until the tip sits beyond the eye of a #6 long shank as a tail, with a 3.5mm gold bead 'egg cluster', and the remaining stalk half-hitched along the shank to the bend. This immature 2.6kg wild hen took it with gusto, shortly into a third drift after the previous two over the same area with a GB Woolly Bugger-style had sparked no interest.

Totally different AND obvious in poor light, perhaps . . .



RATATURK

An 'escaping koura' imitation, intended to sweep lake or river pool beds, with occasional rod twitches to match natural escape behaviour. This most successful of many variations can be tied by hand or in a vice.

Materials: Long shank hook (this is #6); 3.5mm tungsten bead 'egg cluster'; rat, hare or similar guard fur tail and body; wild turkey tail feather marabou fibre legs and claws.

Feed the bead onto the hook.

Bind the hook from behind the bead to the bend and loosely back.

