

Issue 193

TROUT FISHER

Fly-focussed ~ totally transferable

Winter 2025



CHASING RAINBOWS

Can we restore Christchurch/Selwyn lakes?

Confessions of an Addicted Salmon Angler

Adventuring into Australia's remote fishing spots

Clarke's Caddis REVISITED ~ HEADWATERS Reviewed

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Cover Ngaruroro Rainbow (Clive Shaw)

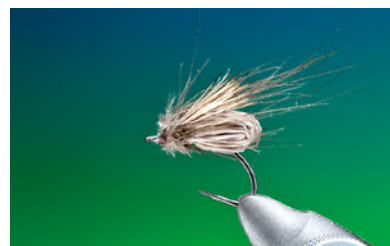
Here: Dragonflies hatch out of the water (PWS)

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Clarke's Caddis Revisited 2

Winter involves plenty of fly tying for many of us with local water either closed or heavily dependent on weather. Whenever prevented from fishing the lake I head into a group of highly-valued fly tying books . . .

Peter Storey reviews Barry Ord Clarke's latest book, ties a variant on Issue 191's fly and uses it in Lake Tarawera.



Letters 16

Thanks for the latest edition. Of great interest to me as I am coming over to the North Island for about ten days shortly with some friends and we will be staying close to the Ngongotaha stream mouth for a few days.

Peter Storey responds to subscriber Chris Hilton's enquiry.



BOOKS 18

I've just read an extremely enjoyable book . . .

Tony Orman reviews HEADWATERS.

Chasing Rainbows 22

How time flies! Clive and I had done 12 back-country trout fishing and tramping trips over the last 27 years but our last one was in early 2020. Time for our lucky thirteenth!

Tramping through the upper Ngaruroro River with John Gommans and Clive Shaw.



Can we restore Christchurch/Selwyn Lakes? 40

While Christchurch and Selwyn are well known for their picturesque rivers and forward thinking wetlands, another thing they also share are concerning lakes.

Todd Storey revisits Lakes Forsyth and Ellesmere.



Reassessment 48

The end of the 1998-9 season brought a time of reassessment. It had been a good season, fishing a new place and learning new tactics . . .

Confessions of an Addicted Salmon Angler Part 10, by Larry Burke.



New Tackle 56

From Kilwell and Manic Tackle Project.

Adventuring into Australia's Remote Fishing Spots 60

It was getting dark when we left the Gungarlin river and Campground in the Snowy Mountains of NSW. After hiking to Daveys Hut and back earlier in the day, I then spent a couple of hours casting to splendid-looking rainbow and brown trout in a large pool, the fish showing no hesitation in coming up and sipping in my size 14 Yellow Humpy.

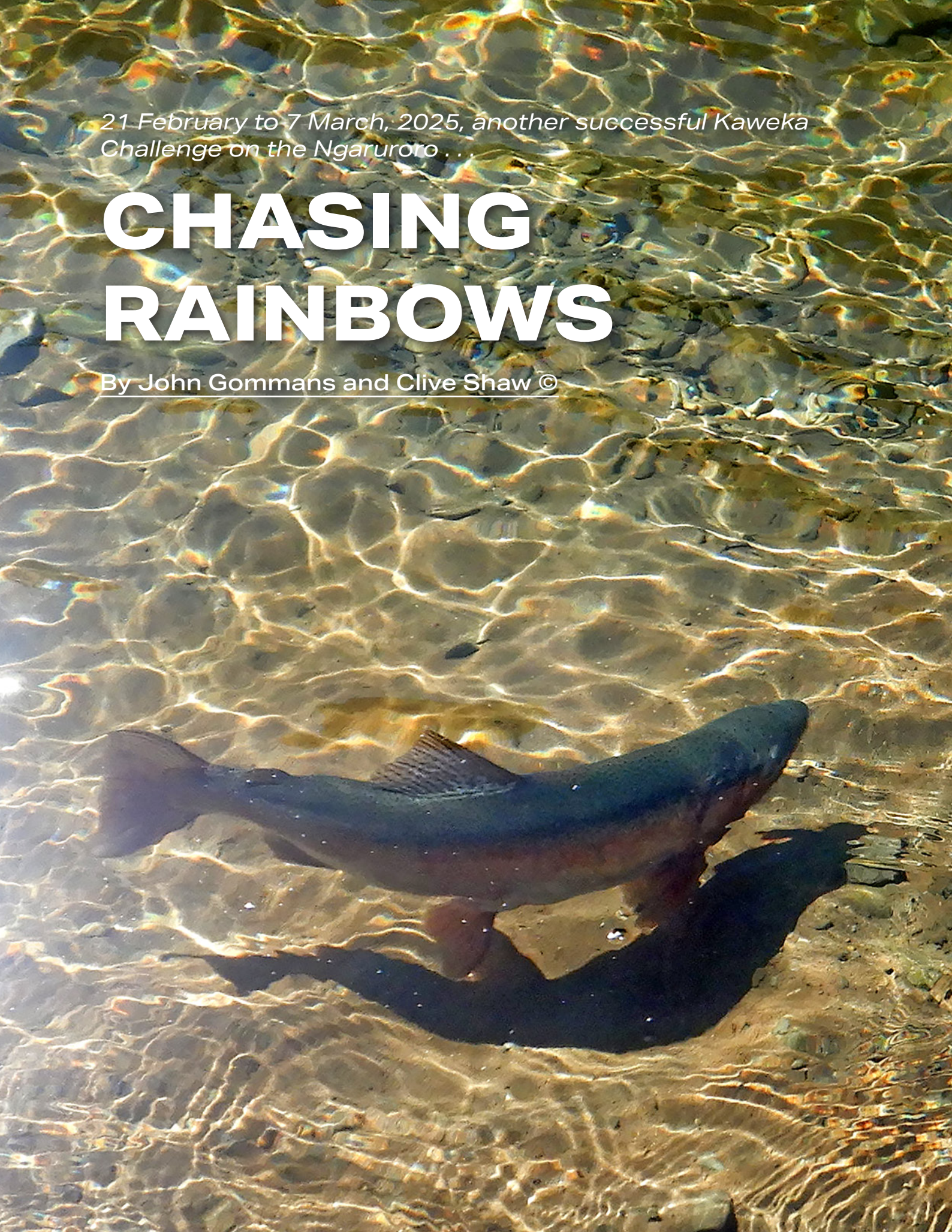
By Matt Hoole.



21 February to 7 March, 2025, another successful Kaweka
Challenge on the Ngaruroro . . .

CHASING RAINBOWS

By John Gommans and Clive Shaw ©





How time flies! Clive and I had done 12 back-country trout fishing and tramping trips over the last 27 years but our last one was in early 2020. Time for our lucky thirteenth!

One of the joys of being semi-retired is having more free time and flexibility. This combined with Clive working in Gisborne for 6 months, instead of needing to fly in from England, enabled us to plan our first back-country trip since COVID closed our borders. However, in my case aging was also associated with a major flare of arthritic back problems last year that, although settled and successfully tested on an overnight trip up the Waioeka River north of Gisborne, still had the potential to recur during a prolonged tramping trip.

We therefore needed a flexible itinerary that allowed for a more leisurely pace than our usual back-country adventures, and to select a river that allowed for an easy exit should aging bodies fail to cope. The choice was easy; a venture close to home, into the upper reaches of the Ngaruroro River in the Kaweka Ranges; chasing rainbows in late summer. The Ngaruroro River is well known to us from previous trips. It has several huts and potential campsites and is served by a number of helicopter companies enabling easy access and food drops, significantly lightening our packs. Thanks to improvements in technology, we no longer needed the heavy mountain radio sets and could simply text or email for a helicopter pick up via a Garmin InReach.

The flexibility proved helpful too. Only three days before our planned drop off at Rocks Ahead Hut, the helicopter company realised that they already had a long-standing booking from another fishing party for the following day. Clive and I altered our plans to accommodate them, starting our trip further down river at Kiwi Mouth Hut and extending it to 15 days. This proved advantageous as it gave us more river to fish and HeliSika rewarded us with two free food drops instead of the one originally planned, meaning even lighter packs and less reliance on freeze-dried food; it also enabled Clive's new passion for homemade camp bread cooked over the fire and eaten with extra honey to be indulged, and much appreciated.



