

Issue 195

TROUT FISHER

Fly focused but totally transferable

Summer 2025



It's THAT time again!

Concentration ~ Public Servants not Rulers

A Late Start ~ Reoccurring Dreams ~ Armchair Angling

WHAT'S REALLY IN OUR LAKES?

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Cover: Hang on a while, please! (PWS; Chorus Cicada)



ARMCHAIR ANGLING 2

At face value, float tubes are pretty laughter-inducing. The sight of me backing into the water wearing waders and diving fins, and with the paraphernalia of float tube, life jacket, rod and net can be quite comical – especially if I trip on a rock while grinning at a camera!

The late Russell McKendry's thoughts on float tubing, revisited for a Summer Holiday issue (and the publisher's rehabilitation)..

Concentration 10

It was three mornings before I landed a recovering wild fish out on the lake and then another two weeks before landing fish on multiple successive mornings. That's a typical early season pattern outside the central crater until the smelt come in to spawn. Indeed, it always pays to remember that no part of lake outside the optimum habitat range for trout attracts many fish.

Talking Plenty with Peter Storey



Public Servants, not Rulers 16

In the 1860s the new colony of New Zealand set up an "acclimatisation societies" administration which over a century later in 1990, morphed into the current Fish and Game organisation. Ever since then successive governments have tried to take over the administration of trout and salmon fishing and game bird shooting

Opinion, by Tony Orman

Shared Trout Tapas 20

This is a simple preparation, easy and quick to put together, tasty and summery, a dish to share as an appetiser. You can adapt it to your own taste. Ideally, use a shallow serving dish that can be taken from oven to table.

Wild To The Table with Tony Smith



It's THAT time again! 25

There are certain moments on the New Zealand angling calendar that feel almost ceremonial. That first frost heralding the start of the Central North Island runs, opening day, and the pinnacle for me personally... that first chirp of an immature bright green cicada echoing across the garden. That sound isn't just summer arriving – it's a call to arms for fly anglers across Aotearoa, a signal that trout have shifted their gaze upwards and the summer-surface season has begun.

By Andrew Harding



What's Really In Our Lakes? 38

Over the years, as a university student down in Canterbury, I have explored many lakes and streams across the region. As an environmental science and chemistry student, I have also been taught through lectures and field studies what pollutants and contaminants have been and still are getting into rivers and lakes around New Zealand.

By Todd Storey



A Late Start 44

I had a late start to the 2001-2002 season as work became a priority. .

Part 12 of Larry Burke's Confessions of An Addicted Salmon Angler

Reoccurring Dreams 51

Some rivers we visit can be extremely productive yet fail to ignite a spark within us. Perhaps the scenery is unappealing, or the rivers may lack the flow and structure we desire, making them less interesting to fish. Maybe they just feel empty of charisma. We may return, but only to catch their trout. Other rivers immediately have us gazing out of the office window, daydreaming of what lies around that next bend; opening multiple web pages at home to survey maps for new trails, desperate to find that hidden path through to untouched waters.

Matt Hoole introduces one of his favourite rivers







ARMCHAIR ANGLING

By the late RUSSELL McKENDRY





At face value, float tubes are pretty laughter-inducing. The sight of me backing into the water wearing waders and diving fins, and with the paraphernalia of float tube, life jacket, rod and net can be quite comical – especially if I trip on a rock while grinning at a camera!

I love it, though, as a change from stalking or wading, and there are situations when the float tube gets you to exactly where you need to be. Boats are great, of course – especially with quiet, electric motors – but the float tube is positively sneaky. No need for long casts on many occasions because fish seem to accept the float tube as something natural.

I'll never forget the day I was chipping a cicada pattern, near the trees at a deep drop-off. The light breeze was drifting me towards the fly and I simply retrieved slack and guarded against drag. Soon I was only a couple of rod-lengths away from the fly. My intention was to back-pedal and pay out line until I was in a position to place the fly a little farther along the tree line, but I was stopped by a sudden glint of silver in the bottle-green deep. Then another. Then a shape. Then a fish. It was coming up from very deep water and heading for my fly, swimming up in a tightening spiral. I could see it as if I were looking down a well! Very calmly and deliberately it engulfed the fly as though the float tube and fly rod did not exist. When I tightened on it I found myself a lot less calm and deliberate than I had been only moments before. That has become a very fond memory, made possible by the good old float tube.

Something else I enjoy is the simple portability of the float tube. It weighs very little and can be carried like a pack for a considerable distance, if necessary. It takes up very little space in transit and it's quick to inflate – especially with a little electric pump hooked onto a vehicle battery.

