

Volunteer Salmon Hatchery News Letter. Edition 45, March 2024.

Welcome to our latest news letter. The call for volunteers made in the previous edition resulted in two volunteers offering their services to our organisation. It has to be noted that these volunteers are the youngest we have on our list of helpers and they travel the furthest to assist. Emily and Shaun come from Queenstown and have agreed to offer their services to our organisation doing duties at Bells Pond on the last weekend of every second month. They have offered to do 4 hrs work on each visit.

We must acknowledge the people or organisations that have made donations to our organisation since the previous edition. They are Chris Main; Johnny Halverson; The Otago Branch of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association. Without the assistance given by the aforementioned, we would not be able to look after the every day needs of our facility.

To that end we must acknowledge our Corporate sponsors who have assisted our organisation in providing funds for the big ticket expenses. They are the **Meridian Energy Community trust, The Morven-Glenavy, Ikawai Irrigation Company (MGI) , The Waitaki Irrigators Collective, and Oceania Dairy Ltd.** Without the support from these organisations we would simply not be able to operate.

The committee is indebted to the small group of volunteers who look after the operation of our hatchery sites. The effort put in by these individuals is sensational and more help would be appreciated .

The incubation team raised 37,000 smolt for release into the raceways at Welcome stream and Bells Pond. A huge effort and a satisfying result for all those involved. Especially after the problems of the previous year. Welcome stream raceway held 5,000 smolt and bells pond new raceway held 32,000 smolt.

We encountered a problem at Welcome stream. On or about the 6th January, an apparent illegal weed clearing operation up stream from our hatchery caused a weed jam over the raceway and distorted the raceway allowing approx 3,000 fish to escape into the stream. It took 15hrs work by 4 volunteers to uncover the raceway from over 5 tons of weed. The matter was reported to the Otago Regional Council and to date we have no word from the ORC as to the results of their investigation.

The committee has engaged a surveyor and a solicitor to prepare an easement for our site at Bells Pond. This has cost our organisation \$5,000 for the easement and the associated costs were covered by the "Meridian Energy Community trust." Our sincere thanks.

The major cost to our organisation is fish food. Last financial year of Fish food cost

us \$17,400. The price has not gone down and it is looking like we will be requiring about \$19,000 worth of fish food for the financial year 2024. We receive funding for \$6,500 worth of fish food and the sale of firewood makes up the rest.

Last Financial year a very small number of members raised \$17,885 in firewood. A bit of assistance from members would be further appreciated. If you are willing to help please advise Trevor Hill or Linn Koevoet. We are fundraising and we are processing Blue Gum. This is from the Oamaru area and is available for \$280.00 3.5m³ (green) or \$320 dry. But be warned customers are not letting it dry.

Does anyone have any contacts in the logging industry, as we are looking for pine logs as we no longer have any to turn into firewood.

We are still collecting batteries and we will be liquidating the saved batteries in the next month or two. Please help out with this simple fund raising.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday the 26th March 2024 at 7.30pm at the Glenavy Hall. The Incorporated Societies Act 1908 has been replaced by the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. This does affect our organisation. We have to re-register by October 2026. We also need to make an addition to our constitution in that a section needs to be included under the heading **Dispute Resolution Procedures**. This section is mandatory in the constitution. The last edition of our news Letter (No 44) detailed the full proposed addition to our constitution. A notice of motion to ammend the constitution , to that effect , will be moved at this AGM. Supper provided and a Gold coin donation is sought to defray expenses. Everyone is urged to attend this meeting as our future rests with this meeting.

The new Salmon season is now upon us. From all reports the numbers are poor and the size is small (4-8lb) . The usually talkative Salmon anglers have all gone silent. There are fisherpersons going out salmon fishing but conversations about catch are non existant, and are infact avoided. I will leave you with the question Why?.

Our organisation requires information from the salmon angler, **regarding fin clipped Salmon**. To that end we are offering up to 5, \$100 sports vouchers to the anglers who record and verify that they have caught a fin clipped salmon. Please photograph the salmon showing the fin clip and have the Photograph verified by a witness. As with last year if there are more than 5 fish registered the sucessful anglers will go into a draw for a voucher. Remember 8% of all salmon caught in the Waitaki last year where fin clipped fish.

Happy and stress free fishing in our fantastic Waitaki River.

Tight Lines

