

Volunteer salmon Hatchery Newsletter.

Edition No 43 April 2023.

Welcome to our 43rd edition of our news letter. Our summer, what summer, has been and gone. We are now entering the Hatcheries most busy period of the year and volunteer assistance is Required. Please dont leave it to the ever deminishing number of volunteers. Give us some of your time, we dont ask for much just some assistance.

We must acknowledge our major sponsors, these are in no particular order, Waitaki Irrigators collective, Morven Glenavy Ikawai Irrigation company, Oceania/yilli Dairy Company Ltd, Meridian Energy Community fund, Mt Cook Alpine salmon.

We must also acknowledge our members and others who have made donations to our organisations they are as follows; Chris Main ; Glen Billett; Harry Janda; John Halverson; Jerry Walton; Rob Watson; The Haywood Family (Southland) .

Without the contributions from our sponsors and members we would be struggling in the area of finance.

We must also acknowledge the small but enthusiastic volunteers group who beaver away continuously, I can name you all but if I forgot someone I would be crucified. Your work looking after the Bells Pond site and Welcome Stream site is invaluable. If you wish to help these groups please contact Peter Anderson or Mike Hutchings or Linn Koevoet or Trevor Hill. We need helpers.

All dry firewood has been sold.Thanks to two cold fronts.

We are still collecting used/expired batteries. This is an easy fundraiser to participate in for our organisation. Every battery counts. We are hoping to liquidate our stock pile later this year as the funds are needed.

Since our earlier trials and tribulations things have settled down considerably. Finally in March we were able to view our fish properly in the Bells Pond raceway for the first time. Thanks to the river becoming clear in March . Our rising 3 year olds are magnificent fish , our rising two year olds are progressing well and hopefully not too many will early mature. What was encouraging was that being able to see our fish for release we had more that expected. It is estimated that we would have 4,000 at bells pond plus the 9,500 at welcome stream.

The AGM was held at the Glenavy Hall on the 29th of March. The guest speaker was Corina Jordan the new CEO of the New Zealand Fish and Game council. She spoke to those in attendance for almost 40 minutes. She was very well received by those present who where impressed by the way in which she spoke and the knowledge she imparted .

The new committee is as follows. Chairman Trevor Hill , Secretary , Linn Koevoet ; Noel Simpson, Les Crosbie and Alan Brooker Committee ; Peter Anderson Welcome stream Liason member; and Mark Webb , fish and Game Liason member.

At the AGM , Paul and Sarah Smith were presented with a certificate of appreciation from the members of the volunteer salmon Hatchery. Paul and Sarah were with us from the conception of the idea and the landowners of the site at Willow Creek Farm on Welcome stream. Their assistance, though not trumpeted , was significant over 14 years. Willow Creek farm has been sold to new Owners, who take over on the 1st of June. Again we all thank Paul and Sarah for their help.

With only a week to go in the fishing season we have had the greatest number of fin clip fish return in what appears to be a light salmon spawning run. We have had 8 confirmed fin clipped fish caught and 2 unconfirmed so far. As we have exceeded 5 fin clipped fish caught all successful anglers names will be placed in a hat and the winning 5 vouchers will be drawn. All anglers who participated will be advised personally in due course.

Your committee applied for funding from the Lower Waitaki River Management Society Inc and where successful. The exact amount received has yet to be calculated but it appears to be in excess of \$4,000. This funding is to be applied towards the costs of a 30,000 litre water tank at Welcome Stream and the replacement of the Vacuum cleaner pump at Bells Pond. Your committee is very thankful to the LWRMSInc for the grant.

Another project that your committee has been working on is the obtaining of an easement on the Property occupied by Alister Bell on which our Hatchery/ rearing site is located. Obtaining this easement will protect our organisation with access to our Facilities and assets should Alister sell his farm or should anything untoward befall the Land owner.

To that extent we have engaged Gordon Clark, surveyor, to survey the site for identification on the Land Title and we have engaged the solicitor for Alister Bell, Grant Proudfoot, to prepare and register the easement against the title. The surveyor costs are approx \$2,000 and the Solicitor costs are not more than \$3000 plus GST.

The committee has lodged an application with the Meridian Energy Community Fund for a Grant of \$5000 to cover most of the costs associated with the obtaining of the easement. This will be considered in May.

Up coming events. This is a call for helpers.

On **Wednesday the 3rd of May commencing at 9 am** we are sorting the rising three year old fish in readiness for stripping. We need to net 300 fish and sort into groups, Males; females; and next years fish. Some of these fish are greater than 20lbs and some will be tested for ripeness for egg harvesting. It is not expected that many will be ripe maybe 5-10 max. But because of the size of the fish we need helping hands. Please let Trevor, Linn or Noel know if you can help.

Also on **Saturday the 20th of May commencing at 10 am** we will be fin clipping 9,500 fish at Welcome Stream hatchery site. (Entry between the scraper tyres in the waitaki bridge section of McPhersons Road. (Rapid 426.) Gumboots advised as well as a wet weather jacket as the fish will get you wet. A sausage sizzle and light refreshments will be available on completion of the task. Please we need numbers to this event.

Last but not least we must acknowledge the upcoming donation, supplied by the Glenavy Fishing Camp (North Bank fishing Huts) of a number of old man pine logs from the trees on the north side of the camp. These trees will be felled and trimmed and placed into a pile for removal. The smaller and more easily delt with branches will be retained for use by hut holders. Our organisation will arrange for the removal of the logs by truck to our wood clearing site in Glenavy. This wood may be ready for sale by January next year depending on some helpers.

A date has yet to be set for the fin clipping at bells pond but as there is only a small number (4000) approx we believe that we can find enough persons at short notice to help out.

This news Letter is sponsored by **Oamaru Sports and Outdoors**, Please visit Richard and his team for your sports and outdoor needs.

