

wright-monty-2018-10-23.mp4

Monty Wright [00:00:10] I got introduced to it. It's when I was a young guy, you know, six or seven. We, we had a place at the Howard Flats, which is in the entire peninsula. And we we used to do a lot of sea fishing there, we would sea fishing mainly for for yellow eye mullet and stuff like that as a kid. And we used to go floundering at night with a spear and a light and. And that's where my first introduction to fishing was. My father was an avid hunter. And and also, of course, he talks started with the fishing. And we we decided one part of it, that we were stuck in the one place the family decided, I didn't decide I was too young. But anyway, the family decided that that's what led by a caravan and the lake next door neighbor across the road was was a fly fisherman. And so we started going fishing and going to a place called Temuco, which is in South Canterbury in New Zealand, and does lot to make a river there and the open sea and a whole lot of room there. So then I started to learn to fish from that day on. One of my father's closest friends was was a fly fisherman who had a cottage in a place called Conical Hills, which is in the tap, a new area and on the edge of the forestry there. And that was on the pomahac a river. And that's was my extra introduction to things. And from what I've originally learned to spend fish, then I learnt a floating worm, which was pretty deadly in those days, and then I moved on to fly fishing.

[00:01:46] So by the time I was 10, I was already fly fishing and and by the time I was 12. I was starting to tie flies. So things just moved on from there.

[00:01:59] And I joined the. My father was a member of the Targo Anglers Club and the lead in which is the oldest club in the southern hemisphere for anglers. And he was he was one of the members of that and on the committee and went right through to be the chairman and everything else as he did for this organization. He was chairman of Fish and Game Matonga as well.

[00:02:21] So from that point on, I was into fishing all the time about what year? One of them. But when you started fishing, I started fishing and about nineteen fifty. Yeah. Yeah. So yeah. Because I'm, I'm seventy eight now so. Yeah. So it was, it was a long, long period of time and we fished, we used to go at the weekends and go fishing down with the Matara Palmer haka at the beginning of the every season that we've got a river north of Denise near called the Shag River. That particular river had a competition all for the club on opening weekend and you could go there and catch a fish in way in for the competition. So we used to do that on opening weekend. And then the next weekend we went to a place called the Kaitlin's River, which is in South tigo. And my father originally came from around that area. So we fished there because the whitebait, which is at a Galax IT species coming in and moving up into the river. And also in the afternoon we were already had a hatch of flies on the surface. So mayflies on the surface. So it was a great place to fish early on in the season. After that, the water sort of dropped level dropped down a bit and there's a lot of logs in the water and it made it quite difficult to fish. But we did fish it during the year sometimes. But from that point on, I moved on to fishing other places. As I said, at the weekends be about every second weekend, the attagirl anglers would have a competition and they had hats all over a tiger and someone north of here and as well. And we would go to the competitions for the weekend, would go out on a Friday night after work, and we would come home Sunday afternoon and late afternoon. So. And so I learnt competition, fish competition, fishing pretty early on in life, how to catch fish, how to persevere and how to get on, do the job properly. And also learnt a lot from all the other anglers that were at it. And that was one of the major things, I think that moved me forward as an angler, because that was was part of learning the learning process. And I can

remember a guy by the name of Doug Betts, who was a spend fisherman, and he always won some of the competitions. And I was really interested. So by the time I was fifteen, I had a driver's license. One day I got the vehicle up my father's vehicle and I went and I followed him and watched him from a distance through a pair of binoculars to see how he fished. And my God, did I learn a lot. And from that day on, I started to get a bit carried away with Spanish fishing. But then I slowly drifted back to the fly fishing again. So and that was a similar thing I would do in those days. And the Pomahac a river that we had a couple of old guys that used to fish with three floors. The old English methods. And down across, down, across three floors all the time. And they were really quite interesting characters too in a couple of times. And I saw them when we were fishing. I would just go and watch them for half an hour, see what they were doing. So I was on a learning process full time. It's a.

[00:05:37] Yeah, I think so. One of the thing that always interests me is people's how you know, all the good spots. And I said and I always say to them. Well, look, when I worked in the job here for fishing guy Matangi, that's somewhat, you know. You know, where everything is, you know where all the fish are. And there's the standard stock answer, as you know, where all the fish are, either in the water. So the thing is, you can never say that there's a good spot here or a good spot there. But I'm saying that something that I learned through drift diving here with my work I just tested last year. And I went to a another place for upon Mohawk River, whereas at a council meeting from fishing, I'm a Targo, which I'm the chairman of, I I said to one of the guys said about, oh, can you tell me a place that used to go fish on the pomahac and we would go and fish now and catch fish. And I said, well, I could tell you, but but if I did that, I'll have to kill you because you're good for there all the time. So anyway. So that's the thing was that I said, well, I might test that theory. So this year I went and tested the theory at the right time and February to see where the fish were there. And I used exactly the same methods that are used years and years ago. And where I first saw these fish when we were drunk diving when I first was on the organization as well. And lo and behold, we were there for about three hours. We caught five nice fish in that period of time. The best one was nine and a half pound, but they were C running fish. Three of them were sea run fish. Two of them were local fish. One was a a resident fish. And the other fish was a was a strong fish and were moving in and out all the time. So. So, yes, there are places and rivers and and this it's well known, this particular places where I will sit and feed all the time. But there's always higher holding areas and a lot of rivers as well, which you really important to learn those areas, but they change from time to time as everything changes. I fish the upper tarry a lot and the menu toto and I've got to consider it a place called White Beata.

[00:07:47] And in that water there, the the the willows used to close the whole river. And now they removed all the rope, the willows from it. The majority of the well, I should say, not all them. And that changed the pattern of the river, the revenues to spell out onto the farmland beforehand and then could receive back in during the summer. But the fish were out feeding on, correct, sir? And what about Akman Midge's and everything else on this in the shallow water moving back into the deeper channel? Once they took them the. Well, I was away. That whole thing changed for the whole pattern of fishing changed. So that was something I had to learn. We all had to learn again, fishing in that area. So you do get variations and things like that.

[00:08:36] Yeah, well, I must admit that. Originally I started because I didn't catch a fish early on. I kept a few we kept a few fish, but when I first DePalma aka as a young guy, there was a bag limit of 20 fish per day. What would you do with 20 fish per day? And so no iSelect we selected fish. And yeah, I would come. We would come home from the

weekend with ten or fifteen fish and and we would sit. We would spread them amongst our friends. I learned fellow fish really without any bones and really, really early on. And I've carried that on my own son, does it not. A lot of other people do it now. How I particularly felt fellow fish, which is a little bit different than most people because that's the carcass stays all in one piece. Doesn't matter. It's a big fresh or a small fish. So that that was one of the things that we did. And we. We didn't used to freeze any fish hardly at all, because it was no need to say what you actually took sides. Things moved on. We we got less and less taking fish. I had a small group of people all the time that always wanted a few fish. So we wanted to fish, for instance. Once in this organization, they came to me and asked me that they had the World Bowls Organization were here. Lawn bowls. And they wanted five or six double figure fish or close to double figure fish for centerpiece for the function.

[00:10:10] And where could you catch those? And I said, I know where I can catch those. And I went and we caught. We selected them. They had to be a certain size. And it was the size of a chili bowl. So if we called a fish, fit it in. The chili bean just filled in the children. It was the right size. So we only we only won five. I like what the sex. We kept the six for that. But it was caught those fish for that particular function. So those are sort of things that you do.

[00:10:38] But I still release fish as well. Like I don't know how many fish eye catching you now. Probably around 200, I suppose. Could be more some days. You know, when they cicada hatches are on in the southern lakes here or the Yoo-Hoo catch 20 fish in a day. No trouble at all. But that's that's just part of that. Minimal amount of changes at the end and and it changes in the fresh as well. I think one of the biggest changes and losses is the different species of mayflies. And I always think back to fishing. My original fishing on the Matara River because we. My father used whitefly called the Purple Grass, which you probably know a lot on the matter on the Matara River. And and that was interesting because now you would never, ever consider using a purple grass and that particular species is gone now. One of the other things that was interesting about New Zealand's fly fishing in that area. There was a an overseas angler came here or an overseas lawyer came here to get away from his family. I'm just trying to remember his name. But anyway, I wrote a wee bit about it and the history of a tiger and Southwold.

[00:12:13] And and he he came here to get a try and get away from the family because he was he was a bit of an oddball sort of a guy. And and he was sick of the how things were going on in his country. And he got on a boat and ended up in his hetland. And anyway. And he would.

[00:12:32] But he'd was a fly fisherman already. And he started tying flies for that whole southern region because he loved them. He was living in Gore and and he titled things like Matara Reds and Pomahac Reds wiped he reds. They were just some of the red flies. I know his name now it's Lysaght, Jack. The Jack's name was Lysaght and he was one of the flyers he tied was a Lysaght dark red speller.

[00:13:02] And to me as a young guy, that was one of the most successful flyers that for all those southern regions. And it was it was a great flight. And you could tie it in a wet or a dry, but it wasn't really read. It was a really Brownes sort of a column like a rich, rich, rich brown sort of a color. And it worked pretty well. But he typed flies that were like the weka River or the Kaitlin's used it on those sort of rivers and the end of what it was while he blacks and the pomahac of blacks. And he had a whole list of flies for them. Atara and also the Y Khaya Rivers and a lot of them rivers. And he had it tribal because he'd seen those mayflies. We don't see those mayflies anymore. He didn't time them because he thought

they were a lot of pretty colors. He tied them because those were the N6. The interesting thing about this gentleman, he used to get on the train at Gore and take the train from. From Gore to wipe ahí and then fish to wipe heheh for the day. Then back at the train at night and get the train home so the trains will go and he the way he used to do the same. He'd come all the way up to Belle Clutha and he'd go take the train from there down to to the Copa. So and he. And that's where he gathered the insects as well as catching fish. And then he tied the flies to match them. So it was an interesting sort of character. Unfortunately, there's very little written about it. But. But interesting how the family actually found him, because one of the he one of the people from overseas came out here, saw his flies, took them home, photographed them and put them in one of the magazines. And the father, they said, oh, the sky. And he found them. And they came they found out where he was able to leave.

[00:14:57] They had no idea where he was in world. So just one of those little interesting thing was fly through fishing season. But anyway, he at that. But you don't use hardly any of those pants today patterns on the Weiping. He are quite different today on the Matara. They're very, very fine. There's hardly any dad of any Heikal on them at all. They're mostly emerges or different things have changed. And and I guess that's one other thing that happened here. There was it was a check on this council and he was he was the chairman as well when he was on for many years, called Bill McClay. And he he was the same. He came here from overseas through Australia and he brought him fishing to New Zealand. And my opinion is Borton inefficient in New Zealand? I was fishing the pomahac a river this day and this guy was standing up on the bank watching me. And I thought I'd done that to other people. I wasn't used to. People don't look to me anyway. And anyway, I I caught a second fish and he came down to the bank edge and it was a nice fish about about £2. And I thought, I'll just. Take this fish and got into the bank and he said, you know, you've already missed three or four fish. And I said, what do you mean I've missed three or four? He said, I saw them come and have a look. And I said, I know where you're going wrong. And I said, Gone wrong. I thought, damn done what I've done. Well, you know, and he said, try one of these. And he handed me my first ever. He is in them. And I thought, oh, my God, look at that. And I've never seen one tied like how he had it tied before. Enough. And best in front of. Oh, right. He should. Now you go out there and that fisher over there, the fish where it runs through the rocks with the water run for the rocks. He said there's two fish and there came to have a look. And they didn't take it.

[00:16:55] He said, now you go over there and put this through their second cast, Bay and the Edge.

[00:17:04] Have you got any more of those? Of course. What happened? Home. Tie some more up. From then all we were all on them fishing. Unfortunate. Unfortunate. But fortunately I kept to myself for the first two or three competitions and and did really well. And so did my father, which was really good. I was really, really pleased with my father because in those days, if you win a competition, there was a 10 limit bag. So you were allowed to buy 10 fishing. So we kept in fish. You say so. And and when he went up with one of these nymphs a little Brennan, then it finally got out and away we went. So. But that was just one of the things to do with angling is gain. So it's it's it's a sport where you can talk and discuss these things on the riverbank with a person. Sometimes you've never met before. And then my angling interviewing people. I've met a lot of people like that where you can just you know, they'll just say two or three things have put that in the back there. And one of these days, I'll pull it forward. We've had parents and some of that rebels with the fish. Got a lot smaller. The pomahac was like that. The Matara was like that. The wife he a wee bit. So the main rivers like the Clutha, not so much the tarry head areas. We had

smaller fish and still does today and has a real mixture of fish. But going back to the Matara and and the Pomahac. It was nothing to catch twenty fish at a pump. Hockaday and not one of them bigger than 30 centimeters long. So when you caught one that was, you know, 25 Shahnameh mean 45 centimeters long. You had a really nice fish. And the other thing that was there because I had a sea run population coming in, the closer an end to the Bamar or of--a, occasionally you would catch in our lives for six, seven pounds. But the interesting thing was that that they stayed like that, a lots of small fish. And Matara was very much the same for a long period of time. And then all of a sudden the whole thing changed. And what changed was that the fish numbers got bigger, the fish got bigger, and the Pomahac River, the numbers dropped off. And also that happened in the Matara as well. The fish size improved and and the numbers dropped off. But now it's gone back the other way. And the Matara, we have heaps of fish and the Palin and a half to three pound McChord or close to three pound mark and a lot of two to two and a half pound fish. And it's quite common right throughout the whole river. Sure. The sections in the river that you get bigger fish in and and in an instance, because you get to see round population again coming in the lower part, you can't quite get some bigger fish. And then when the pomahac a river, it's more leveled out. So there's a lot of fish there. The band, the two to an hour pound. Now you still but it's good to have a good range. You need a good range of fresh. But but prior to that when we had we had a lot of these smaller fish, you didn't get a lot of bigger fish. Now, whether that's caused by agricultural runoff, I'm not sure. We've had some incredible floods through our rivers. And over the years we've had a lot of change in the world. Unfortunately, one of the worst things to me that ever goes brought this country to do a fishing was the willow tree. Because Willows, they planted them everywhere and they went up and down the whole river and in the willows that they used to crack. Well, I just grow anyway. And although from the other side of things, as a as a duck shooter as well. And I'm a person a person who's looking after duck populations. Well, I was quite good because you need them for the milking sites. It has really affected the whole river system. And we have sections now that are unofficial and some rivers because of the willows and the regional councils have to try and control them. And unfortunately, we're not Australia ever brought in a rule of law and a lot of their waterways now where you start at the top of the river and you clean the willows out all the way down. Now, we did we did do some of that in the Targo and and we planted different willows, willows that would still hold the bank together, but it wouldn't break off and just grow anyway. A lot of these are hybrid willows and they work really well. But unfortunately, the next thing that happened is that people changed in some of these organizations and they said all we need to do the williger spray program. So they sprayed all the willows again. So the ones that we put in to do the job then got sprayed out as well. So we lost thread and that's that's unfortunate, but a bit of bad information and I didn't want information to get him from one person to another. So, yes, I think that there's been some drastic changes in some of the biggest change now because the amount of water that's been taken out, we've always had in the tiger what we call mining licenses. Mining licenses were issued over a hundred years ago. And you could take all the water the went past where you had your mining license. And that is a battle that's going on at present because those all have to be renewed by 2021. And we've where we fish and Game, we're working through all that. It's costing us and the anglers an incredible amount of money to fight these two. So we've got a set amount of water that can actually stay in the river. And interesting thing about that was at some. Well, areas that may have affected it by taking all the water and other areas, it may not affect it too much. But if you're going to have a good flow of water all the time, you've got to you've got to have it. Not only for sale monnett fish, but for the native fish as well. So the native fish are very important part of the whole whole. Seen him with a Targo. For instance, we have several species of rare New Zealand fish. So we need to look after them as well as trying to make sure our Somalis stay there. And also we need

to look after the native fish as well. So we have to have these understandings with all these sort of people. So water taking out of the rivers is really difficult. And what what some of the farming community, although I've got a great I feel I've got a lot of friends that are farmers and I feel for some of them, they've overcapitalized maybe in some ways because they they used to take all the water and they don't realize that that this is that there's still a bit greedy and let some farm flow through. I don't mind them storing the water. And this periods every every week or month with a bit of surface water going past, it doesn't matter if they take it, but often it is stored and used it as they require. But unfortunately, what's happening is they just want to take and don't want to store. So they want to take. It is a bit like having your cake and eating it too. But the big problem, proper problem north of here is that the a lot of cases that they've taken all the water now, the fish cannot grow legs and climb up to the next pole. They don't seem to understand it. And we had several discussions with a lot of farmers early on. This was back 20 years ago. And I remember two or three meetings I was at where farmers got up and said of one drop of water flows into the sea, it's one drop too much. That is no way to control your country. You have to be able to work it both ways. We have to live together as both agriculture uses and also as as as anglers as well. And, you know, I think that's one of the things that annoys me, a great deal of present. But we and saying that I get on greatly with a whole group of farmers and we have little populations of farmers where we have groups that get together to discuss all these these matters. And we we come up with an agreed flow that should stay on the river and the regional council. Now, forcing that and a lot of cases, a certain amount of water has to be left in the river all the time. And that's under the new laws, which we have as well. So because fishing out of tiger work under legislation, you put out the New Zealand government, you say we're an independent group of people, but we work out the legislation. So we look after the fish and the ducks at no cost to the the New Zealand right player at all. They will comes out of the anglers and the hunters pockets. And a lot of people just don't understand that. I think we're another government department, but we're not. We're. So that's a bit of a misdemeanor that's going on around often. And a lot of the pharmacy that way to said, oh, it's not a government organization. Well, it's not a fact, you know, and and a lot of money is wasted where we could be helping improve some seconds or prevent one of the big pop problems. I think that we had with the increased agricultural, mainly with the dairy farming was unfortunately that a lot of soul. TEJ And bank erosion created early on. And although I'm I'm I'm keen to make sure that the banks stay is as firm as possible. I don't see quite often that it's keeping animals out of it completely is a good idea.

[00:27:21] And I think that that's proved in many places throughout the world, especially in some sections of Australia and the in the south of Australia, where they've they've put fences that all off. Now, you can't even get near the river because what happens grows older. It grows a lot of native plants and also grows a lot of BlackBerry courses and other bits and pieces. And we have a lot of gorse excuse me as well. We're doing that.

[00:27:46] So I guess that's just right. You know, and it's that's about the community has to be able to get on together. So, yes, there has been some damage and rivers and there will be some more. But as long as we can work together as groups, we we need to be able to counteract as much as we can.

[00:28:08] So I think, for instance, sheep grazing to the edge. It's quite successful because it keeps a lot of the edge clear, and I.

[00:28:16] And I also want to have some native trees in some area. So I keep my native birds as well, because I'm I'm very proud that we have some of our native birds. The

Tooheys and the Bell Birds and the Silver Eyes and that we all see and enjoy this song and see up and down the bank ribbon. We've got a lot of introduced birds. New Zealand like chaffinch is one of the best indicators when the mayflies is going to hatch the challenges because they tell you what's going on, because all of a sudden they flip out over the water. How what are they taking? Here are my golf. I've got to find this out quick. So. So your eyes are working flat out trying to find out what's gone on. So that's sort of the sum of the parts.

[00:29:02] Well, I I I. Well, I personally started here as as as as a fish and game officer. It wasn't my trade. Believe it or not, my trade as a place for a toddler and stonemason. And and I always wanted to do something a bit different. After a while. I needed to have I think about life and and and plastering and tiling. And stonemason is on knees all the time. And it's a tough life. Hard work. Every work somebody. And anyway. And I decided that I needed to have a change. I ended up at the freezing works. Would you believe Atlanta Academy? Right. So and then I went from I applied for a job as a field officer because I was already on the council, up at the council fish. And getting council has a three year term. And it used to be the Acclimatisation Society.

[00:30:03] And I was off as originally as a closet isation society council and voted on by the anglers. And and that's Ruffo. This is where this is where I'm going to be. This is what I want to do. And so I I applied for the job.

[00:30:22] My father was the chairman at the time. So he had to stand out from everything. And anyway, so he stood down and I didn't get the job. I got I got to the final interviews. I didn't get the job.

[00:30:34] And then that the chap that they employed didn't work out too good. And a few months later, I they I was asked if I still wanted the job. And of course, there was a big cut in wages by one of the jobs. So. And so I worked here for four twenty or twenty eight years. And that was doing everything to do with the fisheries. And the guy and the guy and ducks. So. And that was you know, we did a whole lot of things. Krill survey work and doing a spawning survey work, all. Bits and pieces like that. And duck counting duck numbers, the whole lot. And Fish and Game do do that all the way through. So the council is set up every three years. Yeah.

[00:31:19] You you vote for the people at and the people put their name in the pot. And this this year was 17 people wanted to stand for council. The council was made up of tiger councils, made up 12 people. Now that Tiger Council is it looks after this region alone and we send one person to the national office. Now, the national office does not control what we do in a tigo, but we all have an agreement with with what happens with Fish and Game New Zealand. As that, we will discuss everything. So a lot of the laws and rules are pulled together there for for all of New Zealand. So we've moved on from there. And we're a tiger, make their own rules, regulations for what they want. How many fish can catch a day? How many ducks can shoot a day and all that. And that's all worked out through the staff and then export of the council meeting. And the council will make the decisions, how it works, that council. You've got one chairman and you also have an executive of another four people, plus the person who is the national office representative.

[00:32:32] So they make up the executive to make any decisions. So all the money that comes through comes through us and then we have to add in Targo, which make the most money. Well, we'll put the shares. I earn the most money and we we put money into the pot to run the rest in New Zealand. So the New Zealand Council don't make any money of

their own. It's all supplied by the regions and therefore we have meetings together to see where the money should be spent. And in some regions, because we make a lot of a lot more money than a lot of the other ones, that money will jack up somebody like North Northland or the West Coast or areas. Some not all areas earn enough money in their own region to run their region. And the councils make those sort of decisions as well. So your council is made up of a whole lot of ordinary people. And this is unique in the world that you can be a plasterer or a doctor or a surgeon or a bum. And you can you can get onto the council and then you can sit there and make the decisions around the council table. And and that's that's how it all works out. And that all has to go through the New Zealand Council or Department of Conservation, some of the rural laws that a lot of the laws that we work are under the Conservation X and the Wildlife Act. So those who once were set up by government and we administrate them and. So we actually look after that for the government. Well, one of the reasons we go is this is the leave us river, the neighbor's river. There was a one of the power companies wanted to dam the whole Lavers River up and and they were going to the neighbor's valley is a magnificent valley. It's got a backcountry fishing license on a backcountry fishing licenses where you need to have a full license that anybody can go and fish it. And it hasn't set any as it doesn't have a beat on it at all, just the backcountry fishing license. But you have to have a full seasons license to do that. So now that can either be a person. We've got several rangers. Like I'm I'm retired first now. So I I've got a retired persons license. Or you can have a an ordinary full season license or you can have an overseas anglers license, which all accounts which are forward. But you have that full license.

[00:35:04] You can't do it on a two day license or three day losses to fish those areas. So that particular one, we've had to go to court with that. And in the end, we won that particular case and the the dam never win a hit. Now we have this magnificent pristine backcountry fishery which not only predicts the trout fishery that protects the whole ecology of that valley because it has some re-unite efficient and go one called Gollings collects it, which is in there.

[00:35:37] And it's got quite a few other native reunited plants on it as well. And sex some insects and battlespace all through that valley. So fishing going put all the whole battle up with that. And a sure we were assisted by other people like the canoe canoeing people who who wanted to still be able to canoe that section of river as well. And and a lot of the local people who who also with the farming community and people that had previously lived in the mountain because it was a gold mining valley originally and it has a lot of gold mining relevance to it, but it would have been flooded and lost.

[00:36:16] And and we'd won that case because we fought it right through to the end. And I'm very, very proud of that. And as a as an organization. So that is the sort of things we have to do. We have that going on at present with some other streams. We've got some streams of present, which, again, they want to take too much water out of. And therefore, they won't flow during periods, dry periods of time. So we're fighting those cases as well. And that's another part which you do also. Fish and Game, there are a lot of these dams. I spoke earlier, Ron, about storing water. Well, in a tiger, we've got a lot of storage lakes pull burn up. Amanda, Burn Onslow, which are all storage lakes. They're these storage lakes are used for two or three things, some for power generation and even our headlights. How I like how we are as one of the big likes and they're used for power generation. And also some of them don't have any spawning in them. So places like like some of the palms that they've stored, they've put in.

[00:37:29] We actually have a hatchery which we run with an organization called McCray's Mining Company, who they take water from the Tarry River and we run that. So we've got that all set up. And we've we run our hatchery through their pump and at and then we put it take the fish from there and we put them in some of these dams. They don't have any spawning in them. So the anglers can catch those fish in those areas. And we also look after all these high country ones as well. We set the bag limits on like Pulver Dam, which became a icon of a trophy fishery, which is drifting away, a wee bit of prison. But, you know, to catch was it became a fishery that everybody wanted to come. He wanted to go on. Fisheries is still what fishery? Cause the fish were all five, six, seven pound. At present, they're going back again in size, but it will come back as a threshold, which you go through for a period of time. And so we we had to retrain, had to change the regulations on it because everybody was turning up.

[00:38:36] And we unfortunately, we created some of that problem because originally it became that we're all small fish and they weren't. And anyway, so we we we made we made it well-known. Here's a fishery that a lot of small fish that you can go and catch, you know, a lot name like Hounslow, which is close to that, is as a fishery like that at present, lots of small fish. Anybody can go catch a whole heap fish. And but if you went and pulled in and caught them after we were all with everybody. Gangly all of a sudden, the whole fishery improved because we lost some of the small fish. And then also we had some problems with the with the spawning in that area as well. We so unfortunately, people got on the side of the deck, the creek. And that also affected things as well.

[00:39:28] So it'll come back. And that's what you've got to keep working on those things all the time. And it's really interesting work. I don't get paid for it. It's free time. When I retired, I wasn't going to be a counselor at all. But after I'd had it three years away from the organization, one of them said, would you like come back on as a counselor? And I said, Well, I don't think so. Yeah, I think I will. I think I put my name forward and see what happens, what happened.

[00:40:00] And I've been on it ever since. And I really enjoyed being a counselor. It's strange to say that because I think. I think that that's not really the case in Atara and not really the case and probably all of New Zealand. We have. There's always a group of younger people coming through. That's the one thing that concerns me about the council is that but I can understand how the council thing works that way because there's a lot of people can't get time off to go to council meetings. But as as angler's all through, we've never had a great number of women in the sport we've had. We sure we get we used to have women's licenses and and it and it worked reasonably well. We transferred to the farming family license. So we had a family of license and that worked really well as well. And a Targo, we fought like hell for that. It took a lot of getting through and we've got that successfully right throughout the country these days and it's become quite common. So. And then but we still always have a group of youth that are coming through all the time. We we run. Take a kid fishing days. We've just run a whole heap, Frances, at one of our reservoirs here in town because we have to put trout in the local water supply in town. And two of the dams that are here that the water supply dams for the city. And we at one day the tank, a good fishing day. We have 200 people in. And we had that twice this September. So. And then we take other groups there, too. Now, we've we've done a group through here. We've got a learning to fish. We have a women's group that goes through Tiger Fish and Game every year for the last three years. And that's worked really, really well. We've juice and a whole lot of women to it. Some advantages through that are some of the women that have taken that up are quite important places these days because. And and that helps as well. When we come to doing some other bits and pieces with different

organizations, too. So. So that's been good for us. But yes, I think the I think the women thing is slowly growing. And I only see it I see it growing in the hunting as well. And I think it's more out there now because of the situations that some of the young people find themselves in.

[00:42:50] I'm involved with the Targo rugby, for instance. And I know that all all those my boys in a tiger wrecked me while I call them my boys. But they actually I'm just part of the team. They're they they're all hunters and fishermen. You see now their wives are all become hunters and fishermen. It's all their partners have over come under supervision. And that's something that spread through spreading it. And this is something that's quite noticeable. And now this is not only here, it's happening right through New Zealand and as you know, New Zealand rugby mad. So. And so that's another thing that's happened. Okay. And the North Pole, there's a lot more sea fishing down and down. Here is a way that is there's a bit of sea fishing down as well. But generally, it's it's it's the other side that's happening. We've even had their own office. So which is really, really good.

[00:43:45] So I think I think that there's only going to be so many people want to do that. And you can try your hardest and do your best to try and bring people into the fold to teach them. And and and that's good. And to today, because there's so much publicity on television and and other things like what you're doing here today. Sure. You're going to bring some people into the sport. I'd like to talk about something that I talk about, but I'm a client here on Bill McClay used to run a fly time course here and he ran it. And the club, it was actually a Saudi office at the time for a start.

[00:44:31] And he developed a group of 20 or 30 X expert fly tigers. Now that group of experts fly tigers, there's still 2 or 3 of them around. But originally when you met them on the river, when you interviewed them on the river, they didn't know how to fish. They and I remember once at a place and on and the many, many Attallah, where I came up against one of these guys and I said, you need to use such and such for this. Catch that fish, anything with a red body on will do.

[00:45:09] And he opened his box and I. My eyes just about popped out of my head. All these. I said, who tied these?

[00:45:16] He said, I did. And I thought, oh, my God, they're magnificent. And I said, But can't you see what you should be using?

[00:45:25] I have no idea. Is.

[00:45:27] I have no idea. Well, I put on and I told him to put on my suit. Put that on. So I stayed there and put it on. And I.

[00:45:37] And and I said, now all you gotta do is get it up there. He couldn't cast either. Oh, no. And I finally he got it into the right place. And we had the tape and we got the first year and are gonna tell you. I was I was so relieved because this was a battle. And here it is. God could tie these magnificent flies.

[00:45:59] He'd learned that pap he'd never learnt deficient. And when I said to him, we said, how come he saw all I it couldn't fly. Time because my mate. He was. He wanted to go fly time. Fly time. So that's how I went. And he I just thought it'd be something interesting to do. Now let's see D. Does he not fish store? He fishes a little. You know, we

get two or three times a year. Oh you know, you've gotta spend time on the water and that's one of the things you've got to do.

[00:46:28] You've got to spend time on the water, whether it's an hour after work. And that's the advantage of having the water ponds that we haven't. And the water supplies, you can go up to the two Sullivans Dam or or the Southern Risible, cast a line on the way home and catch fish or possibly catch a fish. But at least you're casting a fly on the water and that starts the whole thing off. And if it's blowing, you'll learn that you've got a cast with a bit of sight action or not over there. Otherwise, you catch your ear and, you know, you just learn all those things.

[00:47:03] It's a simple thing you have to learn and then you can teach people how to where to put the fly. But then they've got to keep it in here to do it on when they see the situation. It's got to click and strong. Third is not to do now or when they see a tower come out of the water. They've got to remember he's mentioned you see that those are the things that you have to get through to people to kill. And. I went to a course in the university and in the North Holland. And one of the guys who was talking about publicity said one angler catches the fish, goes to work. He works with 25 people, creates an incredible amount of information because he also starts those people on the right line. And that's where getting the information is true. So you've got to teach them how to get it on the water, how to what to do. And that is something that we're not good at. We still need to keep on working on that. So you you sort of need to it. You need to have anglers. And we've done that here. Now, we've started, of course, to improve people, but a lot of people won't come to those courses because they feel they don't need improving. Well, I feel they're too far behind. So that's something that needs to be taught. I think in lots of ways you can see plenty of movies on guys catching fish, but they're not telling exactly how to do it like that. That's a bit of a worry to me. And it's not fly fishing, so I spend fishing and everything. I'll go back to Mr. Doug Betts, who cast a what they call a Monty Kelly, a Spode upstream and pulled it back. They were all in the complete wrong way to do things. And yet that's how we caught fish. He cast it up and he pulled it back down through the rough and out. When I first saw him doing it. What is he doing? But he caught. He can't catch a fish. And when it came out of that run and hit a bit of pocket water, that's what the fish were. Mm hmm. So those were the sort of things that you have to to teach people and that sometimes the old saying you can take a horse to water, you can't make him drink. You know, you've just got to try and work on those things all the time frame.

[00:49:39] Well, originally, I think I became a competition, competition fisherman because I was fishing with my father and his mate and several other people on the attagirl anglers stuff, and I was wanting to win. I'm competitive and and I'm still competitive, not to the extent that I used to be like, OK. You know, I fished for New Zealand. I've won the gold medal. So I'm not big the rest of the people in the world. I don't worry about that anymore. It's passed up over. Enjoyed it.

[00:50:13] And I loved it. And and I made some great friends effort. But I'm a lot of people aren't competitive. It goes back to the hunting instinct again. I think some people are the hunters and some people aren't. So. And and it doesn't matter what you look at. You're a good garden or a bad garden. For instance, some people got garden because they have to. Some people go gardening because they enjoy it. So it's the same with fish.

[00:50:43] So I think what I think is that I learned the competitive side of it and I'm competitive in everything I've done. And I don't necessarily have to be at the top, but I want to be up there somewhere. And like, I never, ever wanted to be chairman of Fish and

Game Matangi. I had no I'm quite happy being accounts or it was when I was venge when I got asked if I would stand for a job, I said, well, I don't ever want to do that particular job, but end of a situation which happened at the time. Yes, I'm prepared to put my name forward.

[00:51:21] And if they choose me, they choose me. And if they don't, they don't. I like I don't mind and I'll do the best I can. So I guess that's the thing. Do the best you can at everything that you do as what? And that's probably why I said everything I do. I do try to do the best I can, do everything I do.

[00:51:42] So it doesn't matter whether it's this rugby garden, a garden, being a father, being a husband, being a whole lot. I try to be the best. And I and I and the other thing is I get on with people. And that's another important thing in life. And even when you get to my age, don't become a grumpy old man. You've got to you've got to get on with people still, even though, you know, even though I'm watching a rugby game and my wife says to me, you're not coaching now. I know, dear. I know I'm not coaching. But but I can see where they got it wrong. And that's really the same when I walk up a river and see an angler. Well, I had to interview these anglers. I could see what they were doing wrong and I didn't mind it.

[00:52:27] Do you mind if I just give you a little point here? Oh, no, no, no. Good. You know, Anderson, well, there's a wee bit hole over there beside that log, and I'm certain there'll be a fish sitting there. Why don't you just cast it over alongside that? Your fish that. But while I just put a cast past Dave, but not quite do a couple more times just in case and that sort of thing. You've got to it yet to give to people, I think. And I think, you know, and I've interviewed a lot of anglers and I've learned a lot from them, but I've tried to help a lot of them as well.

[00:53:06] Well, for instance, you've heard about creel service creel surveys where you go and interview. Now you'd have a six year river., it might be a kilometer long from HORSBURGH up to Bill's corner. Okay.

[00:53:20] And it's set out on the map and you interview any anglers that are in that. And in any given day. And you would do that during the summer and you'll do it twice, once during the weekend and once during the week. During the whole year. So during that summer fishing period. And then you follow that information and every angle you to view at that stage, you would measure any fish they've got. Ask what they were doing, how the Bellona been there and all that sort of thing. It's an ending. And while you were there, you were to record any picnickers, any swimmers or in of that. So you built up a bit enough knowledge of that particular section of water that you could use it elsewhere when you pull that information together. You could then go to your if somebody wants to say, well, I'm going to cut that bend off from the river. Oh, no, I can't do that. It's used by this man, the people and those people swam there, you know, or they picnic there two or three times a year, you know, just things like that. So you need to gather all that information. And we've done that right throughout all of the tigo and settlement of Dowland as well. Some of the other areas have done it, but not a lot of them, but a lot of Tiger's information as a whole. Years of background information that's been gathered right from the late 50s, right through to pull all that stuff together. And the Tiger Kriol survey stuff was all written up. And and a chap who started was a chap called Donald Scott, who was a counselor here. He was a lecturer at the Tagi University on Mullins. And and he bets that he pulled the whole week. We've pulled a whole lot together, and that gives us all that information. So if you were going into a hearing, you have to have the information. If you haven't got information,

you're out the door. And having all that now is so important. So we got a pool burn day dam for the day, run right round and view every angle of it's on the dam and tell them and find out what they've caught hell on. They've been there. They've got families to picnic people with them and their wives. They've written a book. Just write all that down and you've got all that information. You know what people got to live for. And just for instance, here's an example. I went to one day that Paul Dam and that guy was there, weren't fishing. And I said, hey, getting on. He said, I haven't caught anything. I said, it's funny. I said, there's a good little corner here. I said, but a few trout just out there. The weeds get this long there. So you wish you were him. And he said he said, OK, I've got the money and and the sink back here. I said, that's no good, OK. The flat rock out there, just just go out, put it up. Walk out at your knees. Put it on the flat rock. Come back, sit down. See how you get on. Well, I went interviewed a couple of people on the way back.

[00:56:13] I go on Huggo on information. I knew what was going to happen because the fish run around the California during the week.

[00:56:24] But you cannot sit on a bit of flat rock. You can see the worm working around. So that's the sort of thing. And those sort of information, if you can gather all the way around as you move around the whole thing.

[00:56:44] Well, that's. I don't know if I should get into it. I have my own ideas about climate change, and I know that we're doing a lot of things and putting a lot of stuff into the atmosphere.

[00:56:58] And some really interesting parts about that is that if you read some of the information and some of the ground core cores that have been those done, for instance, like claws, cause at least that have been taken out of like why hold them? And you look at the sediment layers there, things it gives you a different look outlook on life. And I think some of the panic that's going on about CFS rises and that is something that's happened in the past and probably will continue to happen in the future. And we'll go hot and cold because those sort of things and I think some of the readings of some of the ice stuff is the same, that over millions of years we've already had this. And sure, we may have speeded up. I don't disagree. We may have space to them. I think something that interests me more is the silt layer and rivers, because the stopping the salt getting has killed all the invertebrates and filled all the cracks up with the invertebrates lived. And also, it's had an effect on the sea as well, because that's got washed out into the sea, too. So it's affected the littoral zone in the sea. So and again, if it happens. And we're going to the water levels kind of rise. When you look how much they've said it's kind of rise over the next hundred years. Okay. That's a little affected. And what has happened in the past, for instance, the earthquakes that we had in New Zealand millions of years ago. Rivers running the whole tide of different direction nowadays. Matara Never. They were like, why? Like want to connect and like, walk it up, never rain where it runs out and here. And there's a saying that the Tar River didn't run where it runs out now. And that's geological stuff that we know where it's good grand information. So Earth movement is probably something we can't control, which will give you a cell, a sort of an effect. And like washes in effect, it affects something in that particular area. So sea level rises is something that may happen. I'm not gonna be around to see it. And I don't mind helping out with some of the things that they think should happen to improve it. But I'm not too sure whether we should get over panicking about it. Scientist and university said to me once that if you put a big block of ice on that on that table it and it runs off into the back, it's there with the rest of it going because it's full of it's full of oxygen ice.

[00:59:55] It's got to hear it all the way through. People don't seem to understand that. And it's the same if you put a bit of ice on a drink. You know, rises a level a slight bit, but hardly anything because there's air there as well. And I just I'm not a scientist and I just take these are just my own opinions case, you know.

[01:00:17] And it's something that I I'm I'm in an organization that has to take it on board and and do the best we can.

[01:00:28] But I don't think we can we can have too much effect.

[01:00:30] And the big storms that we had, 100 year floods, we've had one hundred year floods and the Pomahac River, we've had probably a fifteen hundred year floods in 100 years.

[01:00:47] So while I gone all of it, you know, there needs to be a township called Kelso. There's nothing there at all here, just a big old building. And and because of these big floods ahead and okay, if you're gonna clear all the tussock country, you're gonna get a lot more quicker runoff. And that's where I go back to the celp thing. If you're clear, the tussock country and and you took all those tusks away, turn it into agricultural land, you are going to have some effect on everything downstream. And that's not just the river. That's the sea as well. So it affects us all. And that takes us back to the silt thing again. Where's the soil? It's probably the more opinons, much better for it to stay there where it is. Then come on. But you still need to recovered in that ambush. And now it's not. And but the worry is that we're open areas as well. The likes of the Canterbury Plains and some sixes right down through here as well. So and we had we had grazing animals here. Mouths, you know, and OK, people say that, you know, the tiger, for instance, which are a big topic here at present Himalayan time, browsing our high country to pieces. But we had browser's here originally anyhow, and the persecuting is persecuted that let her keep persecuting the poor old tiger, which were more tiger in New Zealand. Now the law of the Himalayas.

[01:02:22] You've got to control them. It's what I mean. And all the time you've got to look at the whole situation and control it. And that's the same with us. We control bag limits. We control duck limits. We have to control everything. We have to control agriculture as well. We have control amount of water we take.

[01:02:44] Well, to tell you the truth, I think we've got far too many people coming to New Zealand to fish. Not only that, we've got far too many people coming here. Full stop. I would love a lot of them to come here and see our country. I'd love people to come and fish here. But what has happened is that the infrastructure can not stand. The populations of overseas people that we're getting in this country are prison. We have to be able to control. For instance, we have to be had to control the number of Anglos for a start. We should be controlling. We don't control guides, for instance. There's no control on God's. And if a guy comes here, I want him to have a guide. Go and choose a God. That is a good God. I don't want him to choose some jail guard down the road. That isn't a good God. So I think that something's wrong with the system.

[01:03:42] Unfortunately, we've struggled and Schriver to try and get it in place. It hasn't worked. Hopefully it will work some time in the future. But that to me is is ridiculous. And that's what I mean about infrastructure. Our infrastructure for our whole country. We don't have them and have toilets for the tourists that we've got here. We don't have the caravan. We have relatives became a van problem. And I I I do that. I came I haven't got a camper

van, but we came when I was a young guy all over the place. And and I loved it. And I can understand these people when they came, friends wanting to come in and run, ran a look and look at all the different laws and look at the beautiful country we've got and. Okay. But we have to have the infrastructure or something. To have all that in place. And at present, we haven't got it. And that's really, really disappointing. You know, it's I think it's unfortunate it's a government problem because we just haven't addressed what we've what we've tried to push forward. It's a beautiful country. I love it. I've been to a lot of other places in the world. I still like him. Okay. I'm biased, but I guess I still like home. And that's why it is. And that's where I'll be. I don't even enjoy gone through an apple any more because I get arrested. The airports. I've got metal all through me. And. And it's a disaster. So and I'm sick. I'm getting help. So I don't go through airports anymore if I don't have to fly anywhere. I'm very happy.