



Issue 36
May / June 2023

offsite

WORK HARD, PLAY HARD



Fiordland Fantasy
Tradie BBQ: Crispy Fish Tacos

FLY FISHING FOR DUMMIES

**NOBODY
SPEAKS
BUILDER
LIKE ITM.**



"We'll see you right"



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Cover Photo:

Dan Thomas firing out a cast to a cruising brown trout at Lake Otamangakau.
Image by Andrew Harding.



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Welcome to Issue 36 of Rheem offsite

When was the last time you did
something for the first time?

Here's what I think: dull daily routine
breeds boredom and apathy, while
spontaneity, novelty, and adventure
are the formulae for a life well-lived.
True wealth is found not in material
things but in lived experiences and rich
memories. After all, what use is that
shiny ticked-up ute, newest-generation
smartphone, or flash TV when you
finally cark it? You can't take them to
your grave with you.

So... have you always dreamed of
taking a trip to Fiordland? We've got
the inspo you need right here, courtesy
of Etoile Smulders (a.k.a. @captain_
smulders). Etoile exemplifies the YOLO
mentality and shows us what to expect
in the land of moss and monsters –
check out Fiordland Fantasy on page 4.

Are you fed up with the repetitive
daily grind and want to try a new
career? Then have a read of this

month's ColorCote Tradie Profile
(page 10) to find out how the Radfords
have kept things interesting in their
careers while also managing to make a
comfortable living.

Sick of meat and three veg, or
microwaved spaghetti with little pieces
of bread chopped up in it? Try some
Mexican for a change! Turn to page 22
for a crispy fish taco recipe from the
king of the Kiwi BBQ: Simon Walden.

Been thinking about trying a new
sport? Then flip to page 24, where
bonified trout whisperer Andrew
Harding lays out the foundations of fly
fishing and decodes some wacky myths
that might hold you back.

As always, get in touch if you have
any stories of your own to share. We
want to hear from you! Message us on
Instagram (@offsite_magazine) or email
me at jason@nzfishingnews.co.nz.

– Jason Harman



Words & Images by Etoile Smulders

FIORDLAND FANTASY





As most of you know, summer up north was just a huge disappointment. La Niña brought non-stop howling easterlies, severely limiting the days we were able to get out to sea to go for a dive. We were only able to get out for a dive mission a handful of times before we ended up selling our boat at the end of January. Without our own boat and the fish itch not yet scratched, we were fanging for a proper dive mission by the time March came through.

Unlike what we were enduring up in the North Island, the dive conditions on the South Island were all-time this summer. All summer, we had been seeing the insane content and hearing stories of the bluefin tuna running off the coast of Fiordland coast in large

numbers – a dream fish of ours.

The return of the southern bluefin tuna has to be one of the most successful stories in international fisheries management. A population once on the verge of complete collapse, successful collaborative management from countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Japan, and Korea, amongst others, has meant that over the past ten years, the international population of this highly migratory species has boomed back to extremely healthy levels. In New Zealand, the numbers seen and caught off the coast of the South Island in summer and the North Island in winter have been increasing exponentially over the past few years. It is such an amazing fishery, and fishers in NZ should feel truly

blessed that this species is once again harvestable off our coasts.

Shooting a bluefin tuna has been on our bucket list for a long time. Spearing one would certainly make up for the lack of fish and diving over the past few months. We were eagerly waiting for a gap where conditions and timing with work trips all lined up so we could make a strike mission from Auckland and head down south and try and get one for ourselves (easier said than done). Our friend Nate, who runs Gravity Fishing charters, gave us a call towards the end of February saying he had a couple of days off and we should come down for a bluefin mission. The timing was ideal as my partner David had a work trip scheduled for the South Island around the same time, so we planned to

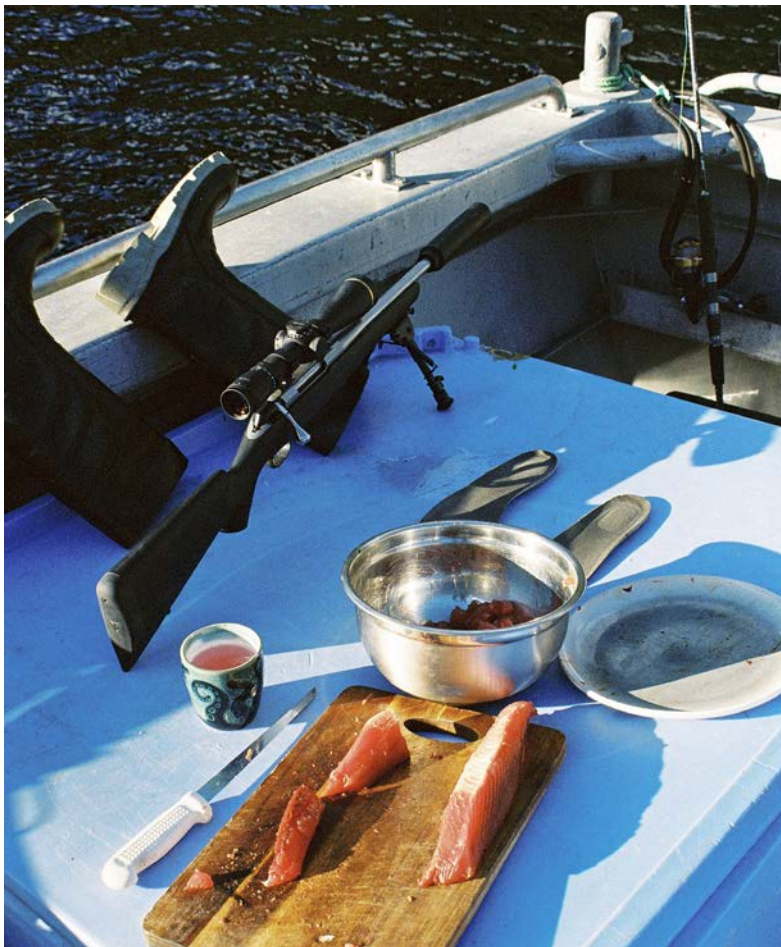
“All summer long we had been seeing the insane content and hearing stories of the southern bluefin tuna running off the coast of Fiordland.”

leave a few days earlier to squeeze this mission in.

We were frothing – finally, a proper dive mission. However, our dreams were soon crushed due to the Wellington-Picton ferry debacle. All ferry sailings for the rest of February were completely sold out. The next available ferry was only in the first week of March, and those dates didn't align with our mate Nate who has the boat – the ultimate buzzkill! In early March, David left Auckland to drive to the South Island for his work trip, while I stayed in the city. About three days after he left, he gave me a ring and said it's looking like we might get another chance to jump on the Gravity with Nate and head out of Milford in a

few days. The weather looked touch and go, but you have to risk it to get the biscuit, right? I booked a flight, and the next morning David picked me up in Queenstown. We met up with a couple of mates and drove to Milford Sound, and jumped on the Gravity that evening.

Luckily, David had packed all our bluewater spearing gear and drove it down south with him 'just in case'. Packing for a bluewater spearing trip is not an easy feat. Proper bluewater spearguns, bungees, and floats are needed if there is any hope of landing a decent bluefin tuna on the spear. We left Milford Sound early that next morning, heading south in search of the blue dogs. Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side. Gusts of up to



30 knots and a decent swell made conditions less than ideal for diving. We put out some handlines attached to bungees to see if we could catch one with a lure, but after a few hours of bobbing and swaying in the rough sea conditions, the only fish on the deck were a couple of skipjack tuna. We decided to leave the rough weather behind and head into a fiord for some protection from the wind. We might not have had the chance to jump into the blue today, but we were still frothing for a dive along the coast: to grab some crays, pua, and other fish species we don't get up north. As we made our way



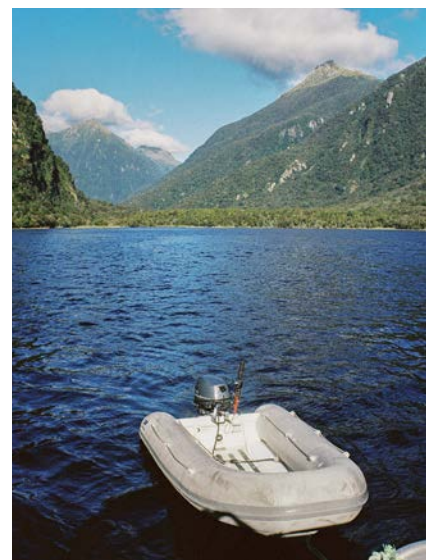
back to the coast, the water went from blue to mud brown. I looked at David, “Yup, we won’t be diving.”

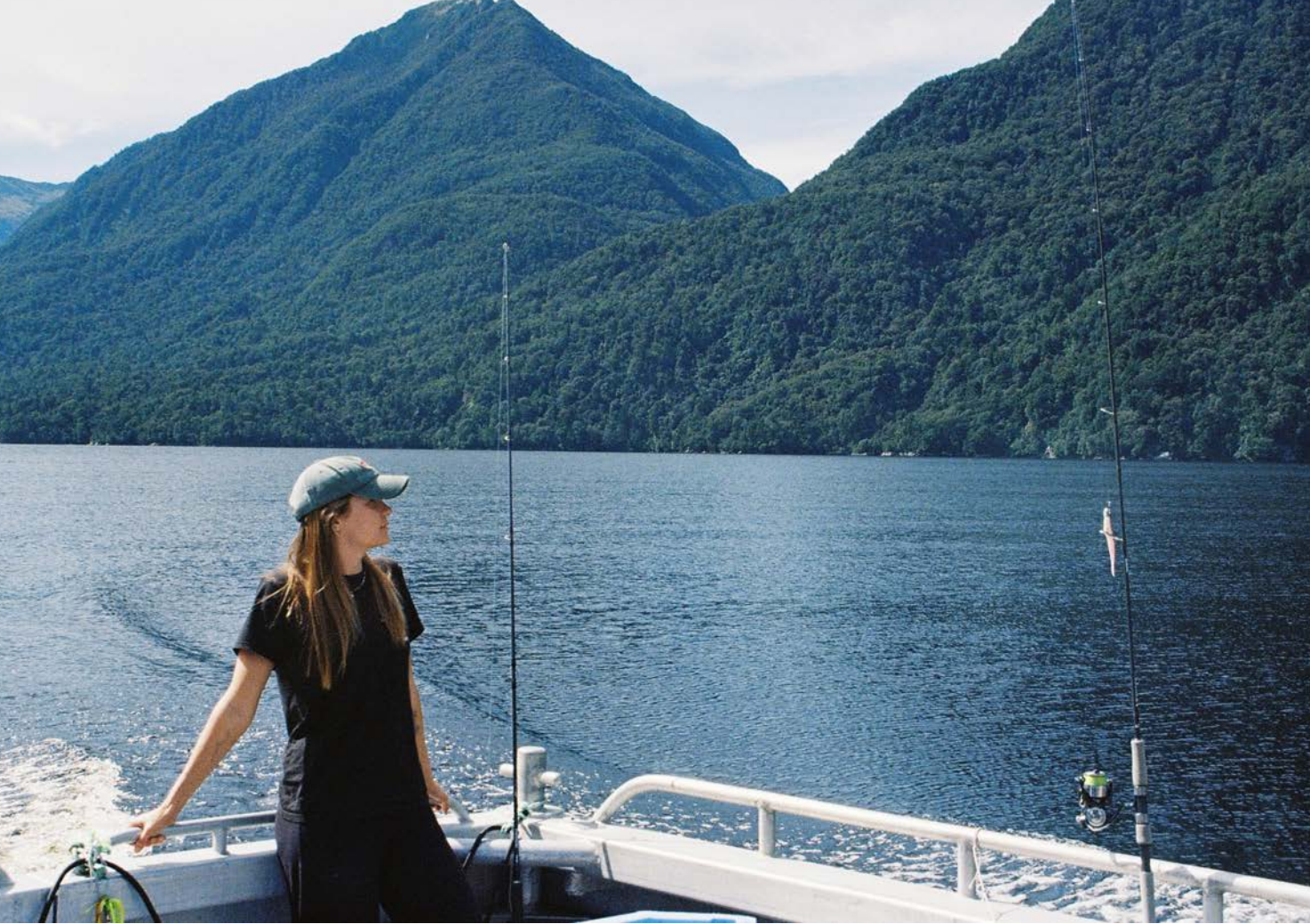
By this time, it was still early afternoon, so we had a whole day of ahead of us. We only needed to be back at the docks in Milford by late afternoon the following day. The weather for the next day looked mint, so we decided to hang out inside the Fiord away from the wind for the rest of the day and head out in search of bluefin again early the next morning.

If you want to feel small and insignificant, go to Fiordland. The landscape is completely out of this

world. Hands down, it’s one of the wildest and most beautiful places I have ever been. It’s hard to be bummed about not getting a bluefin when you are surrounded by such magnificent natural beauty and good mates.

We spent the rest of the day exploring up and down the fiord and cooked lunch next to a waterfall that fell straight into the ocean. We took the dinghy up the river and went for a walk along the banks in search of some deer, then threw some lines off the back of the boat at sunset, catching a myriad of fun sea critters while a delicious leg of lamb was roasting on the COBB Grill.







“If you want to feel small and insignificant, go to Fiordland. The landscape is completely out of this world. Hands down, it’s one of the most beautiful places I have ever been.”

Many beers were downed. It was the most epic day.

The next morning we headed out wide again for another chance to jump in a shoot a bluefin. It was a glass-off day, and hopes were high. We trawled around for a couple of hours, hooking into some decent-sized albacore, constantly searching the horizon for any sign of concentrated action so we could jump in. The action was pretty slow that day, not much was seen, and like the day before, we never got our chance to jump in. After plenty of hours of spent trawling and a couple of albacore on deck, we decided to call it quits and head back to the docks at Milford. We gave it a fair shot. Then, just as we

had called it quits and were pulling in the lines, two lures were snatched – bluefin! They were small ones, but bluefin nonetheless. How good! Stoke levels were high as we cruised back into Milford Sound to end the trip.

Even though we didn’t get a chance to dive or shoot a bluefin tuna on the spear, this trip still ticked all of the boxes. Good mates, good yarns, epic food, wild places. As cheesy as it may sound, this trip embodied the saying that fishing isn’t just about the fish; in the end, it’s about the journey that takes you there.





Install a Rheem®

Rheem Partners with NAWIC



Last month, a bunch of like-minded women gathered at Hirepool's Mount Wellington branch to meet other women who work in the trades, tuck into a BBQ dinner, and most importantly, get a 'hand's on' experience with heavy machinery. The event was hosted by NAWIC – the National Association of Women in Construction – a forward-thinking non-profit that's quickly become one of the leading voices for tradeswomen in New Zealand, and as a new sponsor, Rheem were lucky enough to be invited along. According to Jessica Bensley, Rheem's HR Manager, the event was a huge success.

"The Hirepool staff stayed back, which was really awesome, and they opened up the facilities to us. We were able to use different machinery – scissor lifts, long-reach cranes, rollers, diggers – and just learn more about them. We were walked through the process of how you prime a wood chopper, how you start it and how to operate it safely.

"It was a nice environment to pick up some hand tools and machinery without feeling self-conscious. And the team at Hirepool were fantastic – really inclusive, really friendly and really helpful."

For Jessica, the event also provided

a great opportunity for women who work in typically male-dominated industries to share their experiences.

"We got to mingle and talk to other people in the industry. Everyone worked in construction in one way or another – in the office or on the tools themselves. It was just great to talk to people about their experiences and network and make connections."

The partnership between Rheem and NAWIC started after Jessica and her team saw the important work that NAWIC do in the industry at the Master Plumber's conference last year (Rheem has been a sponsor of the Women in Plumbing programme at this

annual event for four years running).” Rheem has now committed to a 2-year sponsorship – and Jessica was one of the key advocates. For her, it was about “putting our money where our mouth is.”

“If we’re sponsoring Women in Plumbing, why aren’t we sponsoring this organisation and putting them out there and trying to help as best we can? There’s a shortage of plumbers and apprentices in New Zealand and there’s a whole market out there of women, so it’s just about bringing attention to it, normalising it, promoting it and sponsoring it as a manufacturer.”

Rheem also has some solid proof that the stigma around women in trades is long outdated.

“We helped one of our employees who was working on the factory floor to get a plumbing apprenticeship. She’s



“...it’s just making sure people aren’t discounted because of their gender.”

been doing it for over a year now and she’s loving it... it’s just making sure that people aren’t being discounted because of their gender. It’s about opening up that conversation.”

If you’re wondering where Jessica finds her motivation for this advocacy work, look no further than her family. Not only has she always worked in male-dominated industries, but she also has four daughters, one of whom is an apprentice automotive spray painter.

“My motivation really is for my daughters not to have any barriers... it shouldn’t matter what gender you are, and I just want to educate and help people realise that it’s not a big taboo that women should be doing these roles.”

And Jessica’s work is being noticed. She’s been asked to speak on

the panel at the Women in Plumbing conference in May, which is focusing on overcoming stereotypes. For her, this ties in well with what Rheem is doing in the industry.

“It means we can give a voice to what we’ve been talking about here and what NAWIC is about as an organization.”

If you’re keen to learn more about NAWIC and the regular events they hold throughout the year, head to nawic.org.nz. Their next event is a family one – parents and kids are invited to quite literally build a bridge with their kids, and there will also be a cardboard city for just the kids to construct.

Rheem will also host a NAWIC event themselves at some point this year – so watch this space!



Rheem proudly supports Save the Kiwi to achieve their goal and take kiwi from endangered to everywhere. If you’d like to take part and help save New Zealand’s national icon, go to www.savethekiwi.nz/donate – Your donation will help hatch and raise kiwi chicks in safety, increase kiwi populations, and protect wild kiwi habitat.

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THE RADFORDS

“The harder you work, the luckier you get.”

Words and Images by Grant Dixon

Returning home from interviewing Kerry and Sharon Radford for this issue's Tradie Profile, I was thinking of a suitable few words to encapsulate this remarkable Mangawhai couple's story. And there it was, right before my eyes, on the back of a Mainfreight truck: “The harder I work, the luckier I get.”

The words to describe their work are varied and include mechanic, panel beater, painter, inventor, builder, landscaper, boat importer, baker, and charter boat operator. Offsite, they are also divers, anglers, boaties, and classic vehicle enthusiasts!

The trade aspects of Kerry's life began when he qualified as a mechanic out of school, working for his parents in their Auckland garage. When they eventually sold, he became a business owner in his own right, purchasing Redwood Automotive in St. Lukes. Panel and paint work was part of the

gig, along with vehicle repairs, WoFs, etc.

Sharon's parents lived in Mangawhai, and it was one Sunday, as the Radfords returned to the Auckland rat race and were caught in traffic, they remarked that they were “bloody crazy” living with all the hustle and bustle of city life.

“The next morning, we were on our way back up north to see what opportunities there might be, and that was when running a bakery and cafe presented itself as an option,” Kerry says.

“Sharon's dad Bill Carleton was a baker, and that swayed us to do some due diligence on a potential site at Te Hana on SH1.”

They had located an old factory sitting idle for some time. Undertaking a traffic count, the Radfords determined that if just one per cent of the vehicles



stopped, they would have a viable café/ bakery business. But they had been badly mistaken if they thought they were moving north to a more casual lifestyle!

Stripping out the building and converting it into a bakery and café saw them put in some huge hours, even before the doors had opened. And that was just the start.

“It was baptism by fire. We had no baking experience and relied on Bill to get us underway. We somehow fumbled our way through, but when we had a count up at the end of our first week, we had doubled our turnover target.”

By now, Kerry had picked up a hammer instead of a wrench and worked as a builder. He would do a day on the tools and then go straight to the bakery, which eventually moved to Wellsford. A few years later, they picked up sticks and shifted to Mangawhai Heads, where they established the Head Rock Bakery on Wood Street.

It was then time for another significant change. The Mangawhai region was growing in popularity, not just as a holiday destination, but with

people keen to get away from city life and live by the sea.

Selling the bakery, the Radfords

“What I love about landscaping is the lack of rules. Building is all rules and documentation; with landscaping, the regulations are minimal.”

formed a building company in 1995, and there was no shortage of work. It finally led to the establishment of Mangawhai Landscaping in 2008, which Kerry says as a business had far fewer rules and compliance issues. But there were a few more diverse steps to take before that happened.

Kerry had always been into fishing, so as a side hustle, he and his brother Wayne set up a charter launch called ‘R’n’R’. Wayne eventually brought out his brother’s share while Kerry established PK Charters and Boat Hire with a 6.1-metre Broadbill catamaran named Waipai Magic, imported from across the Tasman. She was powered

by twin 115 Mercury outboards and proved a bulletproof boat well suited to charter and dry-hire work.

Encouraged by its performance, Kerry went to the Broadbill factory, where he ordered a custom eight-metre hull powered by twin Styr 160HP diesel engines. Christened Painted Black, perhaps in hindsight she should have been named Double Trouble! Despite having done his homework, the vessel proved to have been a ‘Monday’ boat. He encountered problems right from the start.

The build was meant to have taken six months, but it was delivered ten months late. The engines were problematic – with issues around cooling, aspiration, and access to the oil filters. Water leaked into the fuel tank via a rivet that had not sealed properly, capping the challenges off.

Kerry was still building all this time, ending up selling the problem child in 2008 after five years of grief. The Kenny Rogers song The Gambler – ‘Know





when to hold 'em, know when to fold em' – springs to mind. Any thoughts of setting up a NZ agency for the marque had gone down the gurgler.

With the boat sold and the building company wound up, Kerry was looking for something to do that still gave him a close association with the sea and an income. He researched several options, coming across the French-made Sealver boats. Son Corey, by now a qualified builder and a keen jetskier, was the main driver behind this.

Sealver boats are hybrid personal watercraft (PWC) powered hulls that offer the best of both worlds. The PWC can be used normally, and when coupled up to an alloy, GRP, or inflatable Sealver hull, you have a hybrid vessel powered and steered via the 'ski.

"I booked a flight to France and went through the factory. The build quality was superb, with the fibreglass being hand-laid, the concept created by an Italian superyacht designer. It was something that I recognised as suitable for our conditions. The boats rode well, were dry, comfortable and handled the Mangawhai bar conditions safely. Easily launched, they are rated for ten

passengers."

Kerry was awarded the sole agency. An order for eight boats was placed, with space booked at the Hutchwilco NZ Boat Show and NZ Fieldays. The Radfords were now in the marine importing business.

"We had them out to the Mokohinaus and used the demonstrator for fishing and diving trips for which they were well suited. We were encouraged by the feedback at the boat show where we sold the first one."

Thinking they were on a winner, the brand started to get some traction but everything went pear-shaped with the arrival of the COVID pandemic.

"At the time, you couldn't buy a personal watercraft (PWC) for love nor money, and our transport costs from Europe went through the roof, making the landed cost prohibitive."

Just as quickly as Kerry and Corey had entered the import business, they

were out of it.

"It was hugely disappointing and is still an opportunity going begging."

Back in the real world, the Radfords started making a name for themselves as landscapers, having

wound up the building company. With Mangawhai continuing to expand, their services were in demand. Licensed Building Practitioners, they could do everything from retaining and plumbing/drainage work to custom-built garden and pool sheds, carports, pergolas, concreting, and even filleting benches!

"What I love about landscaping is the lack of rules. Building is all rules and documentation; with landscaping, the regulations are minimal, mainly around retaining works. You can get on with the job, the client's money going into what you see on the ground rather than compliance."

Sharon does the plant selection and layout for the projects, with Kerry, Corey and their crew doing the construction and earthworks. In between this, she is involved in several community groups. For 20 years, Sharon was a St. Johns Ambulance volunteer and was heavily involved in fundraising for the new



ambulance base: starting up the op-shop, which provides good funding for the Mangawhai-based service.

The Radfords enjoy boating, fishing, and diving in their spare time, with Kerry also regularly tinkering under the

a fencing tool that he patented and entered into the Fieldays competition.

“It was all about making things easier and more cost-effective.”

The Radfords have been able to adapt to a changing landscape, making a success of various ventures where they have seen opportunity. Their business today involves son Corey and wife Kendra, daughter Jade and husband Neil, along with a dedicated crew – there’s one more truism that applies here: “Teamwork makes the dream work”.

“The Radfords enjoy boating, fishing, and diving in their spare time.”

More recently, Sharon took up a role with Civil Defence, coordinating the organisation’s efforts with emergency services. With the recent cyclones and a weather bomb that saw Mangawhai hit by over 300mm of rain in a few hours, Sharon has been particularly busy lately.

bonnet of his classic vehicles. Pride of place is a 1957 Pontiac Starchief V8, a vehicle at one time used by the American police because of its high-speed performance. At the same time, Sharon keeps their extensive garden up to scratch.

And the inventor bit? Kerry created



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FRAMES

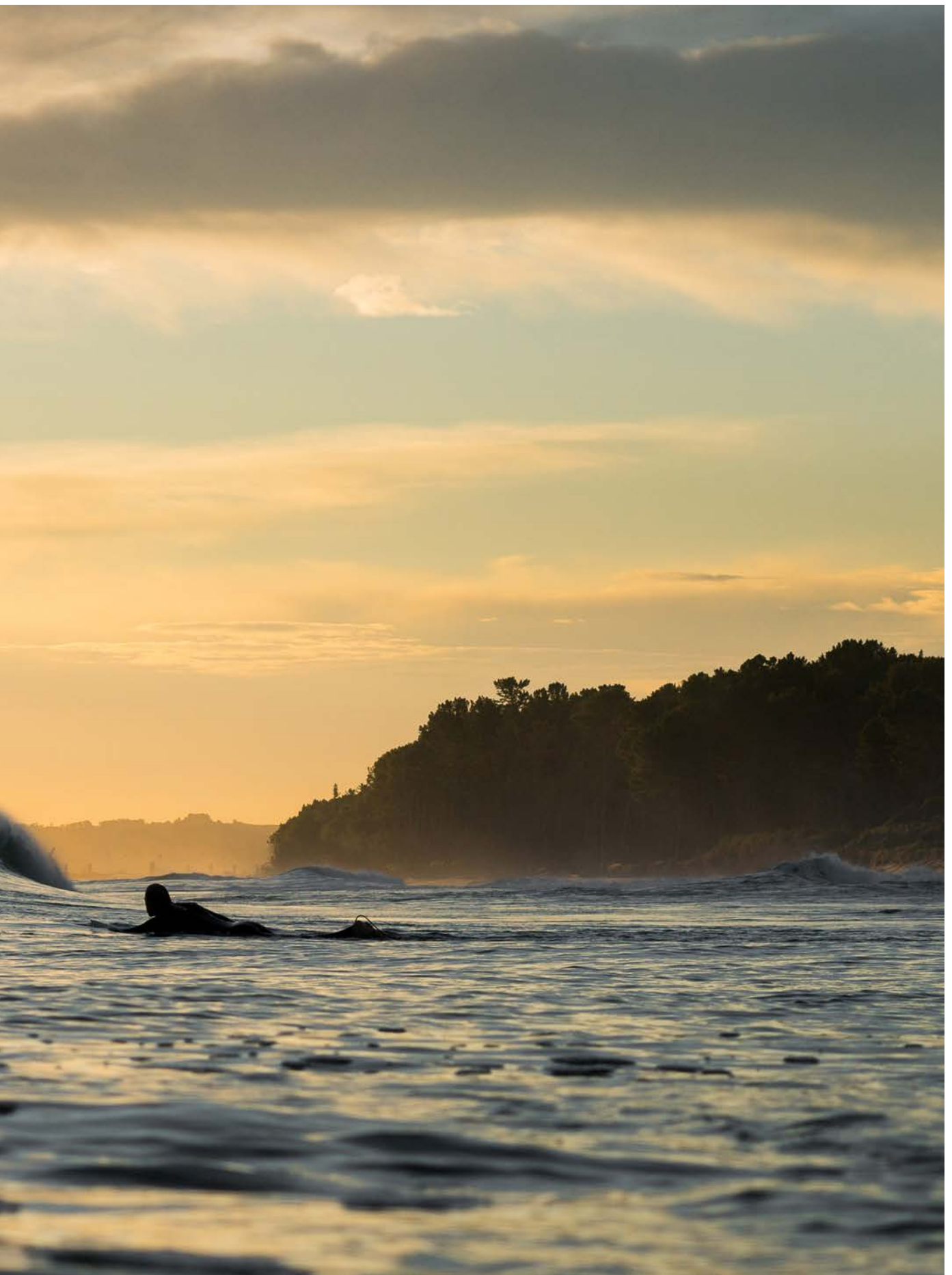


Frames is where we highlight Aotearoa's most inspiring outdoor imagery. It's the place in the magazine where you can slow down, take a deep breath, and truly appreciate the beauty of our backyard. Feast your eyes!



Etoile Smulders @captain_smulders





CRISPY FISH TACOS



Recipe by Simon Walden @thetradiebbq

These crispy fish tacos aren't just for Tuesdays. Bringing freshness to each bite with a quick-and-easy pickle and crunchy, crispy beer-battered fish, you can love these tacos any day of the week.



METHOD

Fill a cast iron skillet 2/3 of the way with canola oil and heat to 350°F/176°C.

Slice up all the veg for the pickle and add to a medium-sized bowl. Pour over the red wine vinegar, and stir to coat all the veg. Cover and refrigerate until needed.

Make up the beer batter mix following the packet instructions and add a Tbsp of Everything Bagel seasoning. Whisk to combine.

Pat the fish dry and season on both sides with salt and pepper. Add the fish to the batter and coat well before slowly adding to the hot oil for 4 minutes, turning once halfway through. Remove the fish from the oil onto a paper towel and season with salt while still hot.

Build your taco:

In a hot, dry pan, toast the tortillas for 10-15 seconds aside until soft. Add a squirt of aioli to the tortilla, followed by the pickled veg. Top the pickle with the crispy fish and a drizzle of sriracha mayo. Top with some micro greens and a good squeeze of lime.

Enjoy!



Your shopping List:

Pickle

- 1/4 Red Cabbage, Finely Shredded
- 1 Radish, Finely Sliced
- 1 Jalapeño, Finely Sliced
- 2 Tbsp Red Wine Vinegar

Fish

- Canola Oil
- 300g Hoki or Tarakihi
- 1 Fog dog Beer Batter Mix
- 1/2 Beer
- 1 Tbsp Everything Bagel Seasoning
- Salt & Pepper

Taco

- 4 Soft Tortillas
- Garlic Aioli
- Sriracha Mayo
- 1 Fresh Lime

FLY FISHING FOR DUMMIES

Words & Images by Andrew Harding

AN OLD DUFFERS SPORT?

It's not hard to see why fly fishing has traditionally been the butt of more than a few jokes within the fishing community: oddly dressed men and women, decked out in camo, wearing 70's style pornstar vests and hats that would be more at home on the parcel shelf of a white Nissan Maxima, all the while targeting an 'invasive pest' species, flailing away with a long stick in hand, hooking fish only to let them go again... sounds a bit naff, doesn't it? But is this the reality of this sport? Not one bit! As a lifetime saltwater fisho too, I can tell you that fly fishing is actually an extremely addictive and beautifully simple method of catching fish!

Are most fly fishers in it for a feed? No, not really. I personally think eating trout is like chewing on a corrugated cardboard box (ever wondered why chefs seemingly add a kilo of salt to

any trout recipe?!), but the thrill that comes from targeting this wily species and fooling them in the most beautiful surroundings, with the ensuing fight and lasting memories, will have even the most ardent saltwater angler hooked. Fly fishing is hunting in its simplest form: the stalk, the cast, the hook – not to mention the great exercise and mental well-being you get from being out there doing it.

GLASS IS KING

Despite what the glossy advertisements suggest, you don't need the best, high-end gear. However, a few key pieces of equipment will help get you started in fly fishing. The first, most essential item you'll need is a good pair of polaroid sunglasses. No, I'm not talking about the \$20 service station polycarbonates, but a good pair of glass-lens, polarised glasses. Fly fishing is a visual sport; you

tend to spot your quarry first, be it in a lake or river, and you need to be able to see in the direct sun, through surface glare, wind, and rain. Don't skimp on glasses. It would be like going hunting without a scope on your rifle!

WHAT NEXT?

Rock on up to a river, chuck a fly out on a 5/0 recurve hook, and wait? Well, nope. Learning to cast can be a time-consuming process, made all that much faster by joining a local flyfishing club or enlisting the services of a local guide. While booking a guide is the more costly option, you can always grab a mate who's keen to split the cost; a guided day will ensure you're well on your way to mastering all facets of the sport in a fraction of the time. It's money well spent.



WHERE TO GO?

New Zealand is blessed with water. We have oodles of it. And almost every region (except for the Far North) has waterways containing trout or other freshwater sportfish, such as perch. One of the best learning locations is a local lake or pond, which are often stocked with trout by local Fish & Game entities. If there are fish there, you can fool them, and you'll learn so much about trout feeding behaviour in these places. These types of 'bread and butter' fisheries provide an extremely valuable learning curve for budding fly anglers as all trout, in their simplest form, feed and behave the same no matter where you are.

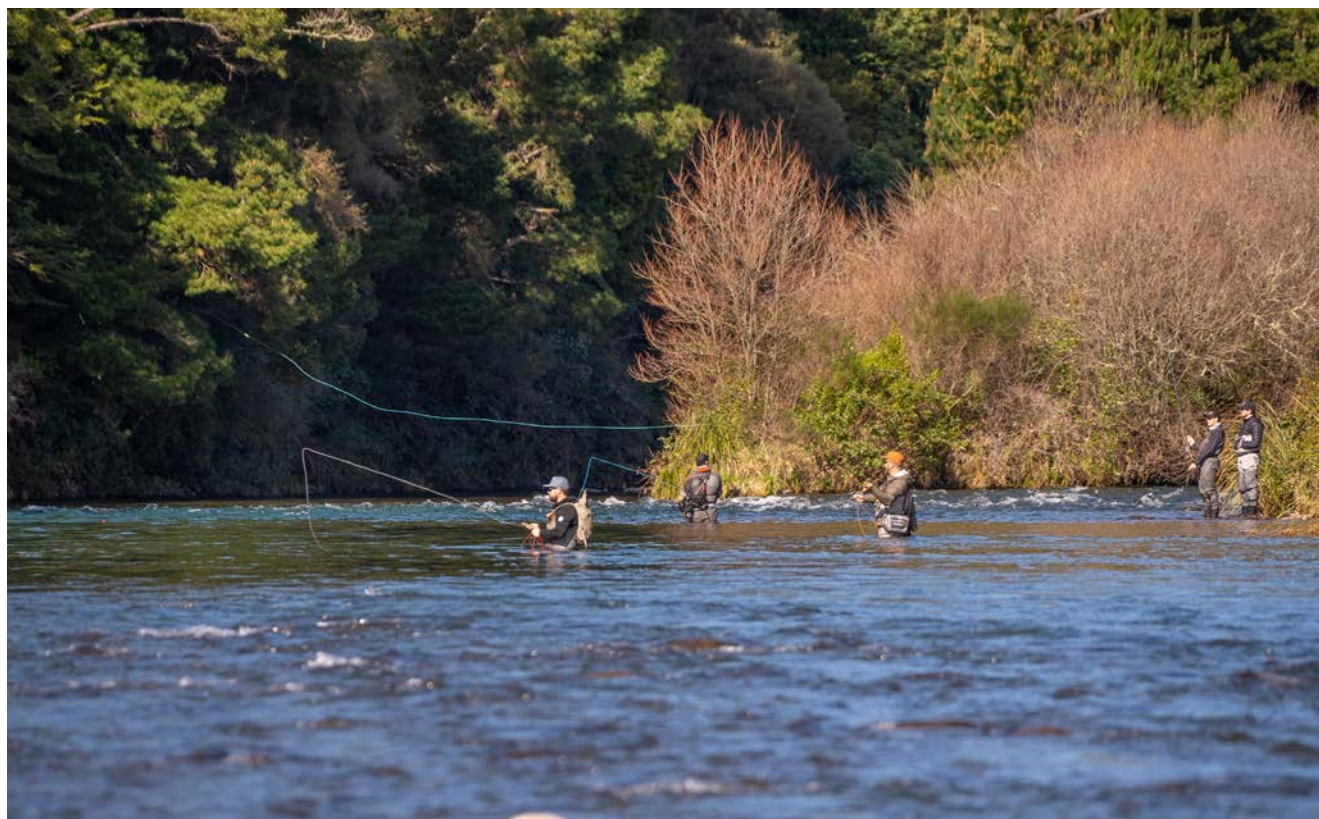
Fish & Game New Zealand also provide anglers with basic access pamphlets – which are available online and in-stores – to various waterways around the country. Grabbing copies of the excellent — if a little outdated — books by John Kent, 'North and South Island fishing guides', provide a very good starting point for where to go fishing.

GET A LICENSE

Don't forget you will need a license to fish for any freshwater sportfish (trout, salmon, or perch) within New Zealand. Whilst some baulk at the cost of a yearly license, the reality is it is the best bang-for-buck freshwater fishery on the planet by a long shot and in the grand scheme of things, incredibly good value for money.

WATCH YOUTUBE!

With an unlimited resource of videos on YouTube, you can watch how-to fly fishing videos till you go blue in the face. While some videos are focused on American or European fisheries, there are numerous how-to clips that apply to New Zealand waters as well. Fill your cup here until you are comfortable that you understand the basics and feel sufficiently inspired to hit the rivers/lakes.



THE POINTY BITS

Next, it's simply a matter of traipsing down to your local angling shop or online retailer and picking out a fly rod, reel, and line combo. As a starter, something like a 9-foot rod in a 6-weight configuration is ideal. Match this with a suitably sized 5 or 6-weight reel and a WF6F (weight forward 6-weight floating line), and you're in business!

Of course, let's not forget the pointy bits that you'll need to catch said trout: the flies themselves! With soooo many different varieties to choose from, it can be daunting. But best to keep it simple! I only use a few patterns and have been doing so for over 30 years. A small fly box with some cicada patterns for high summer, some 'royall wulff' dry flies to use an indicator fly year-round (an indicator is a very visible fly or tuft of coloured yarn that enables you to see when a trout has taken the fly), and lastly, some nymphs. Nymphs are what make up approximately 90% of a trout's diet and what you will be using basically year-round outside of January-March when the cicadas are abundant. As an aside, fishing cicada



"Fly fishing is an extremely addictive and beautifully simple method of catching fish."

dry flies is arguably the easiest method of flyfishing and also the most exciting! You can slap 'em down with no grace or technique at all; in fact, it's preferable!

Now, trout flies are generally small. If your sight is getting a bit iffy, such as happens to many of us when we hit fifty, you may struggle with tying the thin nylon (called tippet) through the eye of the hook. Some clip-on magnifying glasses will help here. On the subject of tippet, casting a fly is all about the transfer of energy: a smooth transition from the cast to the delivery of the fly, touching it down on the water's surface as gently as possible to avoid spooking the trout. To facilitate this, you'll use a tapered leader: an inexpensive, typically 9-foot section of monofilament with a fat end... and a skinny end! To this skinny end we tie the tippet. The tippet can be anywhere between 2 feet and 6 feet, depending on the circumstances. Most beginners will find casting a

shorter leader and tippet easier, but once you've mastered the cast, using leaders of up to 20 feet total in length will provide a better buffer between you and the trout and in general, give you a far great success rate of hookup.

WADERS?

You know... those dorky-looking things that look like oversized baby pants? While you can wet wade (wear shorts and boots) in New Zealand through the warmer months, waders will be a key piece of kit when it gets colder. With varying costs associated with longevity and fabric technology, a cheap pair of PVC or second-hand Goretex waders will help you get on the water – make sure to layer up with a pair of polypropylene/woollen long johns underneath for extra warmth.





“Fly Fishing is hunting in its simplest form: the stalk, the cast, the hook – not to mention the great exercise and mental well-being you get from being out there doing it.”

WHERE TO FIND TROUT?

In lakes: look for stream inflows and fish cruising along weed beds and steep drop-offs. In rivers: during summer, trout will often be found in the bubbly, well-oxygenated water found at the head of pools, while during the cooler months, they tend to expend less energy and can be typically found in slow, deep pools.

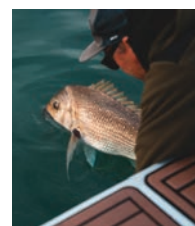
Give fly fishing a go this winter! The Central North Island is a particularly popular destination where anglers can target beautiful big bars of silver that transcend the rivers on their annual spawning runs. It's also a fantastic opportunity to catch up with mates – the camaraderie and banter often more enjoyable than the fishing itself.





The Great Tradie Fish Off 2023

Trade against trade, company against company, mate against mate. We now know who's the best in the trades at what truly matters: catching fish.



The Competition

The second-ever Great Tradie Fish Off saw over 500 NZ tradies hitting the briny from the 2-11th of March in the pursuit of moochers. This year, anglers could target snapper, kingfish, kahawai, and blue cod – meaning tradies from around the country had a great chance of landing a winning fish.

It may have been a free-to-enter

competition, but that didn't mean our generous sponsors skimped on the prizes. ColorCote, Catch and Offsite's key sponsor Rheem joined the party, making the total prize pool over well over \$10,000. Every prize included a custom competition clothing item from Chums too.

The Great Tradie Fish Off is a measure-only competition, allowing

anglers to decide whether they keep fish to feed their friends and whānau, or release them to swim another day. For the duration of the comp, competitors could watch all three live leaderboards to keep up to date with how individuals, companies, and trades were tracking. To make things interesting, the leaderboards were turned off before the live-streamed prizegiving!

Results

The weather turned it on for this year's Great Tradie Fish Off, and some cracking catches were submitted throughout the competition dates. The winning snapper of 85cm caught by Mark Beauchamp was a particularly impressive fish – no doubt well over the magical 20lb mark in 'old fashioned' terms! Even the Average Snapper was a

decent-sized fish at 52cm in length.

Congratulations to **Bungalow Project Management**, who took out the illustrious company trophy for the winning company (we hope it has been filled with a few celebratory pints by now).

Finally, this year's Trade Leaderboard was topped by the **Builders**, who beat away some stiff

competition from the Other Guys, with the Electricians and Automotive behind, while the Plumbers 'won' the wooden spoon!

Thanks to those who entered the Great Tradie Fish Off 2023, and we look forward to seeing you at next year's Great Tradie Fish Off!



CATEGORY	ANGLER	PRIZE
1st Place Snapper	Mark Beauchamp	\$1,000 PlaceMakers voucher + Chums Jumper
2nd Place Snapper	Joel Davies	\$750 Catch Voucher + Chums T-shirt
3rd Place Snapper	Mark Beauchamp	\$500 Catch Voucher + Chums T-shirt
4th Place Snapper	Geoff Preston	\$250 Catch Voucher + Chums T-shirt
5th Place Snapper	Simon Hopkins	\$100 Catch Voucher + Chums T-shirt
Average Snapper	Chris Cawker	\$1,000 Catch Voucher + Chums Jumper
1st Place Kingfish	Kyle Hunt	\$1,000 PlaceMakers Voucher + Chums T-shirt
2nd Place Kingfish	Ben Cullen	\$500 Catch Voucher + Chums T-shirt
3rd Place Kingfish	Dave Dennison	\$250 Catch Voucher + Chums T-shirt
1st Place Kahawai	Bob Murphy	\$1,000 PlaceMakers Voucher + Chums T-shirt
2nd Place Kahawai	Shayne Mckenzie	\$500 Catch Voucher + Chums T-shirt
3rd Place Kahawai	Geoff Preston	\$250 Catch Voucher + Chums T-shirt
1st Place Blue Cod	Luke Slobbe	\$1,000 PlaceMakers Voucher + Chums T-shirt
2nd Place Blue Cod	Reynaldo Mamacos	\$500 Catch Voucher + Chums T-shirt
3rd Place Blue Cod	Ben Cullen	\$250 Catch Voucher + Chums T-shirt
Top Company Overall	Bungalow Project Management	Top Company Trophy
Top Trade Overall	Builders	Bragging Rights





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