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# THE FIGHTBAIT TIMES

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Karamea, West Coast — October 2015 — FREE

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## Masterbaiters descend on sleepy Northern Buller community.

“It was like a highway of whitebait”

-Dave Fleet 2012

### Oparara River:

The season on the Oparara this year began at tortoise speed, with the usual suspects turning up to stake their claim on the water. The lay of the land on the Oparara has been shifting at rates much quicker than the other rivers and this year is no different. The river mouth is again heading to the south making it a long haul out to the front for the hardy baiters out there. However it would appear this is not a guarantee of success as reports suggest that the season has been very slow, with high points hard to come by. On the contrary, the shoal seekers further back have reportedly had several 20 + lb days. Behaviour on the Oparara this year has been by all accounts good with pleasant fishing for all. Well done guys!

### Blackwater / Granite Creek.

Well, where the bloomin' heck to begin! This year, as it would seem with every other year, tensions have been running high on the Blackwater with broken windows and broken egos. Aside from usual destruction of property- slashed nets and your general bog standard punch ups- nobody actually has any idea how the fishing has been. Although, early stages of the season were reportedly also very slow. The shoal seekers on the Blackwater are not notoriously friendly and stoushing have been long running and plentiful. It is not unheard of for there to be death threats even before the season is in full swing (excuse the pun). Of course swiftly followed court appearances as the long arm of the law reluctantly steps in to maintain some semblance of civil order.



### Karamea River:

The fishing on the Karamea this year is plain to say the least with an old time local source (who we believe to be honest) has given us feedback that there have been a steady 1-3 pounds daily. The silver top shoal seekers are repping their NZ motorhome wings lining the banks of local walking routes and fishing spots, glaring at anybody who has the nerve to wander past. The clever fellas with dinghies heading to the exotic outer islands seem to have had more luck with their strategy it has been said they have been routinely pulling up large shoals. No notable incidents on the Karamea this year either, apart from the family of foghorns patrolling the river to harass and annoy anybody within earshot.. it wouldn't be the Karamea though if it was peaceful.

# “Wanker in a boat” repeatedly speeds up river.

## Fever breaks out, mild hysteria ensues!

### Little Wanganui River:

This year on the Little Wanganui river the usual politics and pot stirring have kept the local lips flapping. From stock being emancipated to boats relentlessly speeding past the humble shoal seekers disturbing the precious catch. Despite the repeated moaning of pathetic catches, there have been the odd mumbling of some good 20+ lb days for a lucky few. There was an official report of a 26 pound catch by a woman and let it be known she out fished her professional partner. The partner was less informative only saying he has caught between 0 and 1000 lbs this year. It seems The Wang is a boom - bust river with all the riches being netted by only a few pumped up scoopers, their inflated egos visible from the opposite side of the channel. I cannot wait to see the plumage on display at this years Best Dressed Wader section at the Little Wanganui Whitebaiters Ball on Labour weekend.



HAO INANAMA, "Catching Whitebait" and Tapanui (Orange hooker)

### Season Overview:

The end of the season is drawing near again, and this year has not failed to disappoint as per usual. It's not a whitebait season in Karamea till somebody has been punched over and there have been several threats of bodily harm. As far as the fishing goes, it's hard to tell whether anybody has made their riches this year with the bait tending to be heading up the middle of all the main rivers avoiding their patient would be captors. This silly season seems to bring out the worst in people exposing their selfish attitudes and inability to share and be happy for others that are doing well. It would be nice to think that there is enough whitebait for everyone, however this is no longer the case. We all need to be mindful of these little fish as they are the only losers in this whole situation.



### Overheard in the Pub:

Every shoal seeker has a story from their glory day on the river. Our personal favourite is that of Mr Alan Lowe, who as a boy of only 11 years managed to get to the river before school to dip his net and would you believe it pulled up 105Lb! And he still made it to school on time! The fever sets in early in these parts.

Other notable quotes:

"It's too high off the ground to eat grass, BUT it's still gotta be fed."

Dee Vos - On touching riverside love stories

Just for a giggle:

Q: What did one hillbilly say to another?

A: I got a new fly rod and reel for my wife.....best trade I ever made

Advice from Mum:

Cook a man a fish and you feed him for a day. But teach a man to whitebait and you get rid of him for the 2 whole months!

