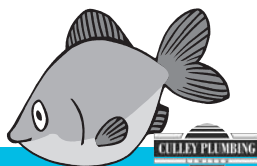


sPrat chat



No more rain please! We're starting to talk like ducks due to our extended rainy season and lingering cold epidemic. We've been trying to take Richard from North Harbour Corporate Travel, and George from Air Pacific, out fishing for the day and show them around the OBC as a thank you for their support with the Family Fishing competition, but to date it's been too windy and too wet. We will keep on trying!

It's good to see we are getting a few more entries into the kids' fishing competition. Remember, entries close in March, before the actual Family Fishing competition day, and there will be no late entries accepted. So don't forget to send in your photos for a chance to win the family holiday to Fiji.

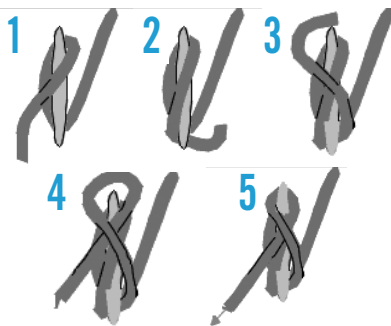
Also, here at Sprat Chat we would love to hear any of your stories, so send anything of interest in to Mark Culley, C/- OBC office, PO Box 42056, Orakei, Auckland or fax to 522 0774. Or you can email us: culley@xtra.co.nz. Remember to include your name and age.

How to knot...

Here is this month's knot. Remember to practice until you get it right, and by summer you'll be an expert. Maybe even better at tying knots than mum or dad!

cleat hitch...

... for attaching a line to a cleat on the dock or on the boat.



FISHING TIPS

Have you noticed when catching fish that they all tend to be the same size, with only one or two bigger or smaller fish showing up? The reason for this may be that fish swim in schools or year classes, meaning nearly all of the fish in each school are the same age.

When fishing, you'll find the larger fish will move in first as the tide is coming in, and will be followed by a group of smaller fish. This process is reversed when the tide is going out, with the smaller fish again being the last to move on. Hopefully this

will explain why fish caught in one spot will gradually decrease in size with the big ones being caught first – so remember to keep dad busy and get your line over before he does.

This next little bit of information may help to catch fish in the winter months: Fish bite very well before a change in the weather, often they bite heavily just before a cold front or a thunderstorm hits. Exactly why this happens is uncertain, but it may have something to do with a drop in atmospheric pressure, telling the fish to stock up on food before the storm hits. Just remember not to get caught in a storm yourself!