**Chairman’s Report to the AGM, Salmon and Riparian Support Trust. 26/3/2017.**

The first year of operation of the new Incorporated Society has seen a number of challenges. The realisation that the RDR has not been effective for a number of years, has called a halt to the planting of eyed ova at Mesopotamia Station in the Rangitata headwaters. This has been somewhat offset however by the successful incubation of fry in Rangitata South spawning race.

It has also coincided with the poorest return of adult salmon to the hatchery since then it began and plans have had to be revised a number of times to achieve the required outcomes for the hatchery.

On the bright side, the management of the Trust is working well, with committee members working well together to achieve the aims and objectives of the Trust. Successful meetings have been held with CSI Fish & Game and the relationship with that body is very strong. An application for them to purchase 1 ton of fish food for the hatchery was successful. We are working together on a joint submission to oppose excess farm water being drained into McKinnon’s creek by a local farmer. Also members will be fronting up to the hearing on the proposed application by RDR Ltd to abstract more water from the Rangitata river.

Finances are healthy and we have received support from a number of groups including both the North and South Rangitata hutholder groups, the Rangitata Good Bastards group, The Southern Trust and many individuals.

Alan has been active in the Riparian planting area of the group and we are indebted to Robert and Raeleen Clarke and Bill and Linda Whipp for their valuable contribution to the day to day running of the hatchery.

I wish to thank the committee for their work over the year and especially to the Secretary for his assistance getting the fledging group off the ground.

Phil deJoux.

Chairperson.