

TIGHT LINES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB
INC.

March 2020



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Cover: Photo by Braedan De Lange

Any articles published in this newsletter are the opinions of the author alone and do not necessarily represent the views of the club as a whole or other members of the club.

MARCH CLUB MEETING

Monday 2nd March, 7.30pm

Guest Speaker: **Paul Boscher**

Paul will present a slide show which illustrates the history of the eastern American forest, how it was dramatically changed by European settlement, the devastating impacts on fisheries, and how today we are working to restore those streams and recreate vibrant cold water fisheries.

Paul is a long time volunteer with Trout Unlimited in the US, having had involvement in every part of the organization from helping run youth education in his local chapter to serving on the national board of trustees. He led an effort to engage Trout Unlimited members in developing collaborations with land trusts to protect important cold water streams and their watersheds.

Last month Paul presented a slide show to the club on fishing in the world famous spring creeks of the Yellowstone valley north of Yellowstone National Park. which was very well received.

Don't miss this next presentation.

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Club Trip: 27-29th - **Mohaka** (Call Strato 386 3740 to book)

Fly Tying: Mon 19th (7.30pm)

On-Stream Day: Sat 21st - **Wainuiomata**
(Call Strato 386 3740 by Wednesday 18th)

Casting Tuition: Anyone wanting casting tuition please contact Strato 386 3740

New members

Rob and Austin Klivington
Samuel Williams
John Toft.



President's Page

Finally, some settled weather in Wellington. With that of course comes drier conditions and lower rivers. For the first two weeks of February the Wainuiomata River has been running at around 0.43 cumecs, its low flows as permitted by Wellington Water's resource consent. Similarly, flows in the Hutt River have been just over 3 cumecs at Taita Gorge. At these flows the river gets very warm on hot days. The Hutt River has been peaking at over 23 0 C for six days in the past seven. It is generally recognised that brown trout become stressed at temperatures over 21 0 C. Fortunately the water temperature has been dropping to more acceptable temperatures in the mid-teens in the early hours of the morning, and as such the trout are more likely to be feeding and active at day-break. (I cannot find evidence that water temperatures are even monitored in the Wainuiomata River.)

It is disappointing to note that while our fisheries suffer, the Wellington City Council admits that 'Approximately 20 per cent of treated water never makes it to taps - though in reality the council has no idea exactly how much water is lost, because there is no reliable data.' In a discussion on the problem: 'Rush said the amount of drinking water lost to leaks was starting to put a strain on the supply coming from the Hutt River.' Source: Dominion Post 24 January. I absolutely agree with Sean Rush.

With those thoughts in mind I am looking forward to hearing from Paul Doscher again. Paul gave us an excellent presentation in February on fishing the spring creeks flowing alongside the Yellowstone River in Montana. The incredible productivity of these streams is testament to the benefits of a stable flow and temperatures. The Selwyn River in Canterbury used to be a hugely productive river, fed by the aquifers that extend across the Canterbury Plains, but that is long gone. The

Tukituki River is also regularly reaching high temperatures. Trout in the lower reaches of the Tukituki survive by seeking out the cooler springs that enter the river at various points. Lose those springs and the picture could be quite different there.

Paul will speak to the next Club meeting in March on the land restoration work he has been involved in with the objective of restoring some important trout streams in the US. I encourage you to attend this meeting and gain an appreciation of just how complex the whole question of preserving river amenities can be.

Tight lines and enjoy summer while it lasts.

Paul

**COMMONWEALTH
FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS
Taupo 2020**

Controllers required for 17th to 22nd March 2020
Contact Doug Snell 027 2730480
See December magazine for full details.

NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS

Wellington Flyfishers has for many years been a member of the Federation which is made up of Freshwater fishing Clubs up and down the country. The role of its executive is to make public comment and submissions on any issue which effects freshwater angling and in particular the environment, and there are numerous examples each year where NZFFA have been an active participant in various considerations both local and national.

In August last year, the Federation in conjunction with Pub Charity purchased a water testing machine which can give instant readings on nitrate level of any water source and in recent weeks has been testing water bore samples in the Canterbury area.

Below is the preliminary report which highlights some serious issues with water quality in that area.

“This morning President Peter set up shop at the Ashburton Racecourse and with my assistance we tested 75 bore water samples that locals brought in. A local paper had advertised the service for us. From 9.30 am until about 12.15 pm we never got a break. We had copies of the attached article which I had put on our website over a year ago. On it I wrote peoples' readings for them to take away. On memory the highest was over 12 mgN/L i.e. over the legal maximum and enough to give the Regional Medical Officer concern.

We were, of course, using the portable nitrate tester that NZFFA acquired last August.

The service was free but we suggested a donation. **We got \$255** for the NZFFA. Only a handful did not contribute and they all apologised for having no cash on them. One man went home and printed off more copies of the article for later arrivals.

We have not had time to analyse the figures yet but on first glance the Ashburton area figures appear to be at least twice the Christchurch rural area ones. There were quite a few up in the "danger zone". It was a happy coincidence that the 9 am news on RNZ this morning announced that Prof Mike Davison of Otago University is to head a NZ study to follow up on the Nitrate to Colo-rectal cancer link found in the Danish study (see article). The news item, pointed out the six other overseas studies have confirmed the link.

Many of our "clients" had heard this news item. Appreciation of what we (NZFFA) were doing was very high. Not one of the people, mainly farmers and other rural dwellers, was negative about anglers or NZFFA's work.

Several questioned the role/performance of the regional council to monitoring and publicising the nitrate dilemma that New Zealand (Canterbury and Southland in particular), faces."

The final report will be prepared and sent to the relevant health authorities.

TIE ON A BLOWFLY

Only 55km from Hanmer Springs, the Sedgemere Lakes sit in glaciated hollows on a broad tussocky saddle between the Wairau and Severn Rivers, surrounded by rugged mountains. We discovered them on a previous trip through Molesworth, and were keen to make a return visit on the way back from a West Coast tramping trip. This time, we had our rods ready.

On Waitangi Day we stocked up on provisions in Hanmer and continued on into the high country. Bowscale Tarn is an hour's walk from the carpark, past Lake Sedgemere and over a low hill. When we arrived mid-afternoon a few fish were rising near the lake



edge, but none were impressed with Nick's woolly bugger or my tassie devil. Fortunately there was another fisherman working his way along the opposite shore, and when he'd finished fishing he rode over on his e-bike for a chat. With 47 years experience fishing these lakes, he'd whiled away his afternoon catching about 30 of them, and recommended that we



tie on a blowfly and move over to the stretch he'd just fished, where the fish were concentrated. Good advice – we had a few rises to our humpy blowflies but without a hookup, although I did manage to foulhook a nice fat brown of about 2 ½ lbs. All too soon it was evening, time to walk back and set up camp at the DOC Sedgemere Shelter.



Next morning started with a 2km walk to Fish Lake. There were good numbers of cruising eels, and some cruising trout as well. Eventually one of them chomped my blowfly, and I had a fish on, another nice brown of around 2 ½ lbs. But alas, no landing net with us, and no easy place to bring it ashore. I walked it 100m or so towards the shallow end of the lake planning to haul it up onto a grassy patch, but in the end it released itself unharmed by bending the cheap Chinese hook. Go fish! Strong winds allowed only short casts as we progressed around the lake edge. A few more rises to the blowfly in the now murky water, but no more hook-ups.



After lunch we continued our journey down the Wairau, stopping by the river at a good-looking stretch. Strong wind was still a problem, but after extracting his rig from the matagouri a couple of times, Nick got a good cast in. With the net ready this time, he landed a superb brown. Enthused, he disappeared upriver for over an hour to explore more lies, but on his return reported no takes.



The rest of the drive down the Wairau was spectacular, particularly through the rugged gorge of Hell's Gate. We passed plenty of brilliant looking water, but no time to get rods out and explore as we had to be out of the Rainbow Station gate before 6pm.

High on the agenda for next summer is another trip into the area. But allowing ourselves more time to spend hunting for fish in Lake Tennyson, Lake Guyon and the Clarence River as well as the wonderful Sedgemere Lakes.

Jan and Nick



CAPITAL TROUT CENTRE FUND RAISING RAFFLE

FLY BOX AND 168 FLIES

Richard Benefield has again donated another fly box with 168 flies to the Capital Trout Centre to raffle for fund raising.

The tickets cost \$5.00 each

We have a form with the numbers 1 to 150 which will be available at club meetings for you to write your name against a number.

The raffle will be drawn when all 150 tickets have been purchased.

If you cannot make it to a club meeting but would like a ticket (or tickets) please email carmen.cotsilinis@gmail.com with your name, phone number and number of tickets.

Make the payment direct to the club account 06-0582-0030903-00 and we will add you to the raffle form.



SPECIALS

RIVERWORKS Primax Waders

\$99.99

Save \$80 on RRP

Selected SIMMS waders 30% off

*Club discount 10% available on flyfishing Purchases
(excluding specials) with your Membership card*

***Between now and April 2020 we will be shifting to our new store
at 8 Te Puni Street Petone***

Our Camping and Clothing outlet is already there.

Fly fishing is still at 444 Cuba Street Alicetown

Hutt Valley Hunting & Fishing NZ
444 Cuba Street, Alicetown, Lower Hutt,
P O Box 33 206, Petone, Wellington, New Zealand
Telephone: 0064-4-589 9500 Fax: 0064-4-589 952

FLY OF THE MONTH

Venue: Tararua Tramping Club Library
Monday 19th March, 7.30pm

(Please note Fly tyers please use the downstairs side entrance only.)

Parachute Adams

A simple, easy to tie yet effective dry fly. Very useful as summer progresses. Many Trout at this time ignore high floating dries preferring insects trapped in the surface film. Snipping the hackle at the bottom of a standard dry can also achieve a lower-floating dry fly.



Hook	TMC 9300 size 12 – 18
Tail	Brown and grizzly hackle fibres
Wing	White calf body hair
Body	Dubbed grey muskrat or similar synthetic
Hackle	Brown or grizzly

If anyone has suggestions for fly patterns they would like to see tied at the flytying meetings please let us know. This will give us an opportunity to plan ahead and order materials well in advance.



MEETING VENUE (TARARUA TRAMPING CLUB ROOMS)

4 Moncrieff St., Mt. Victoria

From motorway:

Follow Vivian Street and turn left onto Cambridge Terrace, then first right into Elizabeth Street at the next set of traffic lights.

Travelling South on Kent Terrace:

Turn left into Elizabeth Street at the first set of traffic lights after the Embassy Theatre (by the Liquor Store) and then right into Moncrieff Street..

Additional parking is available at the Clyde Quay school in Elizabeth Street.– use the top gate.



CLUB TRIPS Contact Strato Cotsilinis for details.

Weekend Club Trips away from Wellington are organized each month. Accommodation is usually prearranged for the Friday and Saturday nights (dates given are days fishing). Transport is arranged as necessary, with costs shared. Contact each organizer at the club meeting. Novice fishers are encouraged to participate. Although assistance will be available, basic casting and fishing skills are required and will make your trip more enjoyable.

Upcoming trips:

Dates	Destination	Organiser
27-29 th March	Mohaka	Strato

ON-STREAM DAY

Next onstream day – Saturday Sat 21st March

The On-Stream Day will be on the **Wainuiomata** River, weather permitting. Onstream days are opportunities for members who are new to flyfishing to learn from an experienced angler. It is your responsibility to have a current NZ sports fishing licence. These can be purchased from Hunting & Fishing, 444 Cuba St Alicetown, or online from Fish & Game. Contact Strato (386-3740) before 9pm on the Wednesday prior to get details of where to meet. Limited numbers can be accommodated and acceptance will be on a first come first served basis.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Deadline for the April Issue is 21st March 2020.

As a guide for article length – anything from 250-450 words. Early submission preferred – items not received by the deadline may not be included. Format text for A5 page size. Please copy and paste text into an email and ensure images do not exceed 1Mb. Mail hard copy to PO Box 9236, Te Aro, Wellington; or email the editor (levineha@gmail.com). (Attached files often result in incoming emails being treated as spam and being deleted by the server).

The newsletter depends on contributions from club members and all articles are eligible for the annual Literary Prize awarded at the AGM in May each year.

Advertising: The club has a policy of only accepting advertising relating to fishing. Commercial rates \$25 per half page, members no charge. Centrefold (Promotional material only) \$75. Contact the club secretary. **Please support our advertisers –** tell them you saw their ad in *Tight Lines*.

HELPFUL LINKS FOR WELLINGTON FLY FISHERS



www.creeltackle.com



<http://wellington.fishandgame.org.nz>



www.sportinglife-turangi.co.nz



www.huntingandfishing.co.nz/wellington



www.stevesfishingshop.co.nz



www.fishscene.co.nz

COMMITTEE MEETING – 6 pm, second Monday every month.

Any club member who has matters which they believe should be considered by the committee may discuss them with a committee member by phone, or at the club meeting, or write to the secretary.

THE HELPDESK

Helpdesk is an opportunity for those attending club meetings to have their questions answered. This is a chance for newer members to have fly fishing mysteries unravelled. Tying

techniques and problems, rigs, knots, fly selection, issues, casting, how to and where to go. Bring your problems and try the Helpdesk out. It will be manned by a different senior club member each month.

WEBSITE

The club website and facebook pages provide online information, contact details and useful inks.

<http://wellingtonflyfishers.org.nz>

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

To join the club: collect a form at a club meeting; download a copy from the club website; or phone a committee member to have a form mailed to you. Mail the completed form to PO Box 9236, Te Aro, Wellington, or hand it in at the next meeting with your subscription and joining fee.

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the first Monday of every month except January at the Tararua Tramping Club rooms, 4 Moncreiff Street, Mt. Victoria, Wellington.

Tight Lines, the club newsletter is published monthly, except January, and is also available to club members via email as a pdf –contact the editor to be added to the distribution list.

FEES 1 APRIL 2019 - 31 MARCH 2020

Full member or family membership \$35,

Junior membership no fee.

Joining fee \$10

Overseas Newsletter including postage \$45

Enquiries wellingtonflyfishersclub@gmail.com

RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

As a club member you should receive a copy of the club newsletter via email if you are not receiving club emails please check your email settings first in case the newsletter is being deleted as 'spam' or 'junk' and then contact the club secretary.

WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB MISSION

To establish, maintain and conduct a club for the encouragement and promotion of flyfishing and all activities pertaining thereto

2020 COMMITTEE

President	Paul Baker	970-2595
Past President	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
Secretary	Heather Millar	386-3049
Treasurer	Carmen Cotsilinis	386-3740
Newsletter Editor	Hal Levine	0274200482
Librarian	Warren Horne	386-3049
Website	Peter Nagle	479-4944
Club Trips	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
Catering	*** to be filled – any takers? ***	
Print Manager	Peter Nagle	479-4944
Fly Tying & Casting	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
Club Competitions	Paul Baker	970-2595
Committee	Peter Buxton	472-3456
	Scott Garelli	021-325032
	John Gamble	0275175825
	Linda Brown	0272304770
	John Fahey	021636033