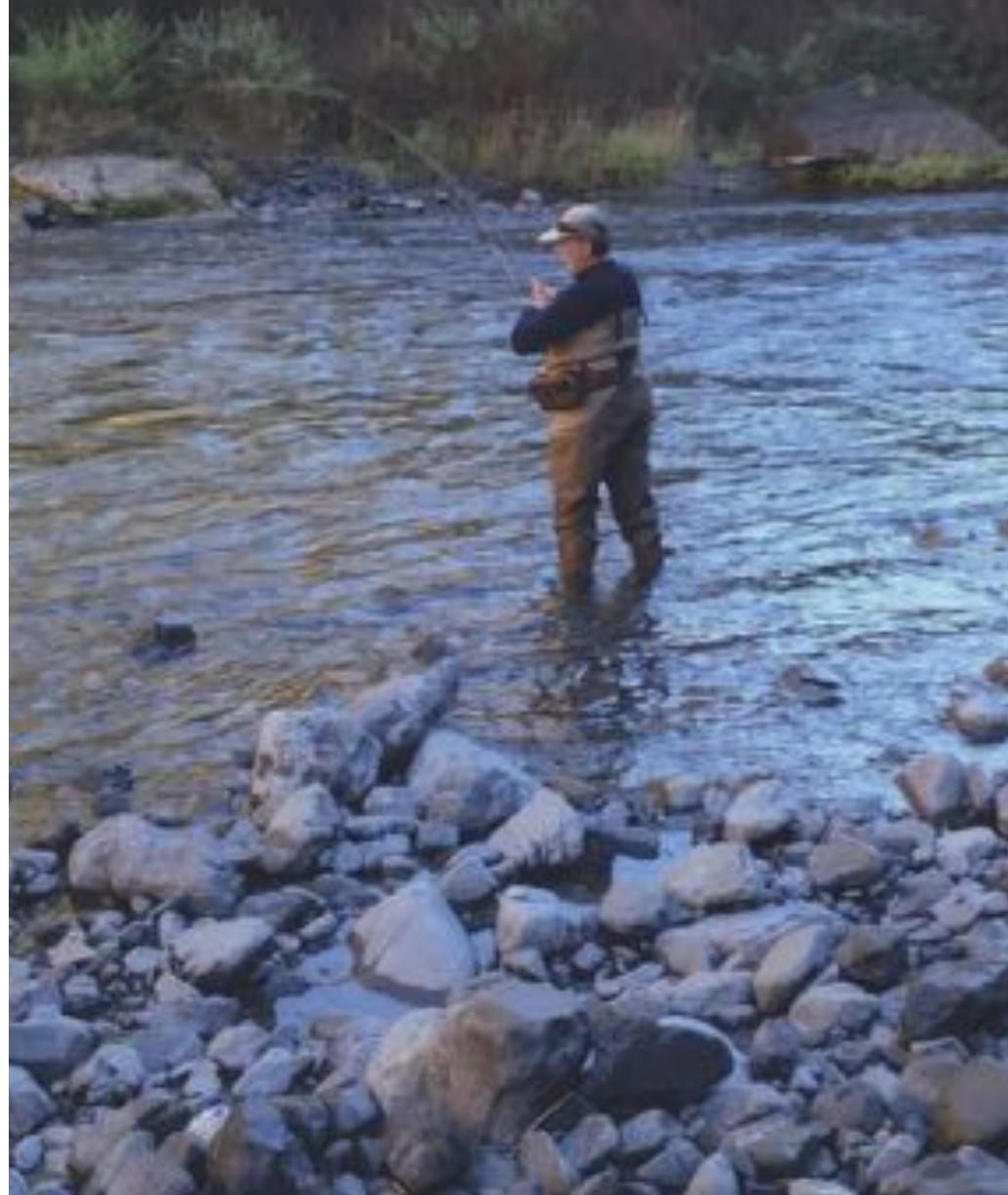


Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.



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MAY 2017

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Cover: Fish on - Whakarekau river –Rangitikei (Robyn Gray)

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.



CLUB MEETING

Monday 1st May

7.30pm, Tararua Tramping Club Rooms, 4 Moncrieff St., Mt. Victoria

AGM

+

**Mike Nansett: Winter Fishing the Hutt River,
and Iceland**

A club meeting is usually held on the first Monday of every month
(except January) even if the Monday is a Public Holiday
(Waitangi Day, Easter Monday, Queen's Birthday or Opening Day)

Events This Month

Club Trip:	27-28 th
Fly Tying:	15 th
On-Stream Day:	21 st
Casting practice:	Sundays
Capital trout Centre:	Closed

Future Club Meetings:



President's Report

With the Easter break now over I hope you had the opportunity to do some fishing although the weather was not particularly kind.

Just a further reminder that the season for local fishing finishes in many rivers on the 30th April.

The first weekend in May is also the start of the duck shooting season so be careful out there and stay well clear of any Mai mais.

Early season reports for the Taupo fishery are encouraging with some well-conditioned fish being caught. Hopefully this is a sign of a good season to come.

Now that we are back in Tararua Tramping Club rooms for our meetings, we look forward to some enjoyable evenings. We are still looking for a bar manager to help Richard so anybody able to help in this regard please contact me.

We are also looking for new members to help the committee.

See you at the next meeting.

Strato



NEW SIMMS
64 Backpacks, Bum bags &
Sling Bags

Simms Rod Tubes

Simms 100L Travel Case

Most Popular Simms Product
G3 GORE-TEX Breathable
Waders

The Flyfishing Experts

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 Facsimile: 0064-4-589 9520

Helpful Links for Wellington Fly Fishers



189 Taupahi Rd **Turangi**
Tackle Shop open most mornings by 7.30am, Cafe 8am
Email info@creeltackle.com
www.creeltackle.com or www.turangifyfish.com
PH 07 3867929



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



www.sportinglife-turangi.co.nz



www.huntingandfishing.co.nz/wellington



www.stevesfishingshop.co.nz



www.fishscene.co.nz

How we spent 2 weeks in the South Island caught (almost) nothing!

Two retired professors, members of the WFC, spent just over two weeks in late February and early March in the South Island. This trip was billed to family and friends as a CP trip- ie Casting practice. This was done so as not to raise expectations about catching fish.

We started with a ferry crossing from Wellington to Picton on a gorgeous, still clear morning. In fact the entire trip was blessed with unbelievably gorgeous weather throughout. As we lined up to drive on to the ferry, we were struck by the number of camper vans joining the trip – about 110 as best we could count. More later.

First stop was the Motueka. We stayed at a B&B called Doone Cottage about 26km south of Motueka, or some 15 km north of Tapawera. The B&B can be strongly recommended as can the pub meals at Tapawera. Sadly three January floods had scoured at the river and it was still recovering. So no fish!

However a lesson was learnt (experience is what you get after you need it). One of us decided that fishing the evening rise would be a good idea and waded out into a likely spot just below the confluence with the Pearse River. Standing in knee-deep water our intrepid fisher sent his line crashing on to the water vaguely in the direction of suspected rises (his casting is normally described as the equivalent of throwing a 2kg rock into the pool). As dusk fell, our fisher sensibly decided to head back before it got much darker. When he turned to start the trek back, the light had faded to the point that the river looked black – absolutely no view of the bottom. After several attempts to pick his way back along the route he had taken, it became apparent this was not working. This was reinforced by the time he was up to his neck in water and the bottom disappearing from under him. So it was swim time – with heavy wading boots, a large pack and carrying a rod, a 30 metre swim partly against the current was a challenge. The good news - an exhausted fisher eventually crawled on to the bank, the \$124 he had spent on a waterproof/shockproof case for his expensive cell phone performed admirably and BMW makes waterproof car keys.

Then it was on to the West Coast – Murchison, Greymouth, Franz Joseph and Haast. It became quickly apparent that most of the rivers are big and boisterous and one needed much more detailed information about access points than could be gleaned from the library of fishing guides to the South Is that we carried.

A slight digression: at the AGM of the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers' Association in January, the Rotorua mayor, Steve Chadwick spoke of the issue of freedom camping and cited a figure of 66,000 campervans on the road in New Zealand



at any one time in the peak months. We treated this number with some scepticism – it seemed incredibly large. But after travelling in the South Island our impression was it could be an underestimate.

Every time we found a reasonably accessible spot on a river, there would be 20 or 30 vans parked there- and swimmers, dogs and kayaks gambolling in the very water we had hoped to fish. Campervans were everywhere – in their hundreds – even in the remotest places.

So we pushed on to Gore and based ourselves there for 3 days. Surely the Mataura would yield an odd fish or three. Vain hope. (We did wonder if the District Council might be sued for false advertising).



We visited spots covering 60km of the river – and the place was crawling with fishers. A guide told us that he

was fully booked now for 2 years out – foreign visitors flood the area in the peak months. He advised us of many places not to bother with as the water was being flogged by the hordes. But there are stunning areas – Cattle Flat in particular.

So off to Dunedin and the Taieri River – lots of good water especially above Middlemarch. The water was crystal clear and 20cm deep typically. The young browns were evident but despite our stealth, the sight of a line sent them scampering like the demented teenagers they were. A trip to Loganburn Reservoir was abandoned after the wind whipped up 1m high waves.

A stop on Lake Lyndon was next where the temperature dropped to less than 3 deg C with a 20 knot wind. Frozen inoperative fingers ended our fruitless casting after an hour. And on to St Arnaud. With the Kaikoura road closed all traffic from Picton south is headed to Blenheim, St Arnaud, Murchison and on. The excess burden of heavy traffic is creating havoc with traffic and with the road. There are maintenance crews working on the road every 10kms, creating unavoidable delays. And literally hundreds of road workers have all the camp grounds and many motels booked out for months. Accommodation in Murchison was almost impossible to find.



Finally, at this point decided that if we were to catch an elusive South Island brown we needed grown up help. For this we hired a guide and it was with some relief that we found he had a cottage on his property in St Arnaud and could include accommodation. So off back to the Motueka with guide John Gendall—to the very areas in fact we had

combed at the start of the expedition. And our trip ended with 6 good browns on #18 Passion vine hoppers microscopic nymphs (barely visible to ageing eye). Another two decided to leave as they approached the net and were classified as LDRs – long distance releases.

What did we learn:

- Detailed local knowledge is invaluable – going to new areas without it, is not a



and the

prescription for success.

- Rivers go black in the dusk light.
- There is enormous fishing pressure in the February-April period throughout the South Island.
- Tourism numbers are massive – they are everywhere!
- Every square metre of flat land is in irrigated dairying with untold volumes of water being pumped from rivers, with implications for fishing.

Murray Hill and Grant Scobie

CLUB MEETING

Lower Hut Club member, Mike Nansett will join us give us his thoughts on fishing the Hutt River during the winter time and other club members will also add their comments.

Mike will then give us a presentation on fishing in Iceland following his recent trip there.

DAVID AUSTIN MEMORIAL TROPHY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The club's annual photographic competition will be held at the AGM on the 1st May.

Photographs must have been taken in the twelve months ended 31st March 2017 and be a maximum size of A4. Members can submit up to three photographs.

Note: This is not the photographic competition for the magazine cover.

PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT

This year's AGM is due on the 1st May 2017 where we will officially report on the year's activities.

Club membership has remained stable at 160 and all our regular activities of fly tying, casting, club trips and onstream days have continued. Many thanks to Gordon for the regular casting tuition and the fly tying nights.

We have had some excellent guest speakers this year and attendances at club meetings have been excellent. Thanks to all our committee members who keep the club operating without too many dramas.

The Capital Trout Centre has been a challenge this year with two major flood events and thanks must go to Ron and Neville for all their work. A special shipment of three year olds, this year, has provided many fish over the 1.5 kilo range, which have been a real challenge for the youngsters and the club members.

Thanks to all those club members who help out on the annual clean-up and the Open Days and group events.

Lastly and by no means least, thanks must go to all club members for their support and we look forward to the new year with confidence.

Strato



The Circadas are here!
Attractors - the first choice of professional guides

We have over 10,000 summer flies in stock - attractors - pheasant tails - stoneflies

www.fishingflies.co.nz

Free flies with reward points - Free post within NZ - cheapest flies available - quality guaranteed

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).

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



Best Fish Awards Current records: 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018.

Stirling Sports heaviest fish (junior)

Hunting & Fishing heaviest fish (senior)

(NOTE: entries for heaviest fish of the year must be received within 30 days of capture. Entries received in March for fish caught outside the 30 day period will not qualify. Entries close 3rd week of March on printing deadline for newsletter)

Wallace Condition factor: best-conditioned fish

This month's best fish (month to date of newsletter deadline)

No entries

If you think your fish qualifies phone Peter Nagle (479-4944) or email peter.nagle@xtra.co.nz

* Calculate your condition factor on the Wellington Flyfishers website.

Trophies for the year ended 31 March 2017

Heaviest Fish Trophy: Graeme McIntyre, 4.79kg, brown

Heaviest Trout Landed by Junior Member: Louis Stevens, 8lb, brown

Best Condition Factor: Peter Irwin, 78.77

Competition Cup: Paul Baker

CLUB EVENTS THIS MONTH

CASTING PRACTICE

Casting Practice Hataitai Park 9.30am Sundays

Casting tuition is available throughout winter until daylight saving begins, except on on-stream days when casting practice is held on-stream. Being able to handle windy conditions will do much for your confidence and success on-stream. Any member who needs help with casting but is unable to attend the scheduled sessions should phone Gordon Baker (027 494 6487) to arrange an alternative time. Gordon is a Federation of Fly Fishers certified casting instructor.

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
26-27 th	Turangi	Strato

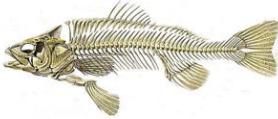
ON-STREAM DAY

Next onstream day – Sunday 21st

The On-Stream Day will be on the Hutt River, weather permitting. On-stream days are opportunities for members who are new to flyfishing to learn from an experienced angler. Attendance at one or two on-stream days will help in gaining an understanding of fishing rivers. Develop rudimentary casting skills at our Hataitai Park sessions before coming to an on-stream day. 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.

FISH'N TIPS



New Zealand trout live in an environment with no large mammalian or avian predators. Hence, unlike in Europe or America where bears, eagles and other predators will take unwary fish in the shallows, NZ trout can be found in the shallowest water during the day rather than hiding in deep pools. When approaching a stream begin searching for fish at casting distance away from the bank rather than walking up to the water's edge. Fish the waters edge before moving closer to fish the far bank.

ECHO RODS

A new range of both single-handed and two-handed rods are now available in New Zealand.

Designed and built in the USA they are the work of Jim Rajeff, an experienced and successful competition fly caster.

Jeff Wood has access to some of these rods and will be holding a rod demonstration on Belmont Domain at 10 am on Sunday 30th April.

If you would like to attend the demonstration, please contact Jeff on 021-204-8978 beforehand.

You will need your fishing licence as part of the demonstration will take place on the water.



Feather Merchants Fly of the Month



Venue: Tararua Tramping Club Library
 Monday 15th , 7.30pm
 (Access through side door on north side of building)

Taupo “Bombs”

Having an effective heavy nymph can be the difference between getting your presentation into the "hot zone" where fish are - or casting practice.

Casting heavy nymphs is another thing so working on your casting skills will definitely pay off.



- Hook TMC 5262 size 10 or larger
- Thread Black 3/0 or 6/0
- Weight Tungsten beads and lead wire
- Tail Hackle fibres or yarn (optional)
- Body Dubbed fur or wire

If anyone has suggestions for fly patterns they would like to see tied at the flytying meetings please let Gordon know 027 494 6487. This will give an opportunity to plan ahead and order materials well in advance.

The screenshot shows the Feather Merchants website interface. On the left is a close-up of a fish's mouth. The main content area includes the FM logo, a navigation menu with 'Home' and 'All Products', a welcome message, and a section for '2013 - 2014 Fly Catalogue.pdf' featuring a fly image. On the right is the 'FUTURE RIVERS' logo with the text 'SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES' and a message about supporting the Future River Initiative.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Deadline for the next issue is **10pm Monday 22nd May**

As a guide for article length – anything from 250-450 words per page. 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. (Attached files often result in incoming emails being treated as spam and being deleted by the server).

The newsletter is dependant 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*.**

Receive the Newsletter as a pdf via email

Contact the club secretary to be added to the mail list (Please check your email settings so that the newsletter is not deleted as 'spam' or 'junk')

COMMITTEE MEETING – 5.45 pm, second Tuesday 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. Committee Members – the meeting will be at Petherick Towers, 38 Waring Taylor St.

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 links.
<http://wellingtonflyfishers.org.nz>

WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB MISSION

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

2016-17 COMMITTEE

President	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
Past President	Paul Baker	970-2595
Vice President		
Secretary	Heather Millar	386-3049
Treasurer	Carmen Cotsilinis	386-3740
Newsletter Editor	Chris Paulin	027 874 7326
Librarian	Warren Horne	386-3049
Website	Peter Nagle	479-4944
Club Trips	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
Catering	Robyn Gray	475-9572
Print Manager	Peter Nagle	479-4944
Fly Tying & Casting	Gordon Baker	384-6513 027 494-6487
Club Competitions	Paul Baker	970-2595
Committee	Peter Buxton	472-3456
	John Fahey	021 636 033
	Linda Brown	027 2304770
	John Gamble	027 5175825

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 2017 - 31 March 2018

Full member or family membership \$35, Junior membership no fee.
Joining fee \$10 Overseas Newsletter postage \$45

Enquiries: kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com



WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB (INC.)
PO Box 8238, Market Square, Wellington 6141, New Zealand

SPORTING LIFE - TURANGI

South Island - New Zealand
Outfitters to the Famous Tongariro River



SPORTING LIFE : The Mall, Turangi
Tel:(07) 386-8996 Fax:(07) 386-6559
sport.life@xtra.co.nz www.sportinglife-turangi.co.nz

SIMMS.