

# Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.



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The official newsletter  
of the Wellington Flyfishers Club inc.  
November 2021



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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.*

# CLUB MEETING

**Monday 1st November , 7.30pm**

Tararua Tramping Club rooms - 4 Moncrieff St, Mount  
Victoria, Wellington

Note the Auction has been postponed but the Club Night  
will still go ahead

## NEW SEASON STORIES AND PROSPECTS

Please sign in when you arrive and wear a mask if you feel  
comfortable.

## EVENTS THIS MONTH

**Club Trip:** 26-27 November - **Whanganui**

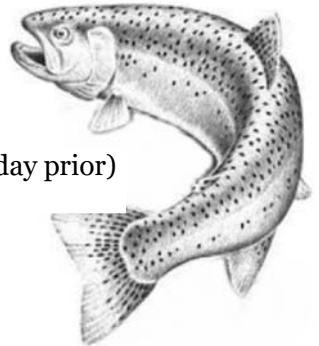
**Fly Tying:** Monday 15 November

**On-Stream Day:**

Sun 21 November , **Wainuiomata**

(Please call Strato 04 386 3740 by the Wednesday prior)

**Casting Tuition:** Anyone wanting casting  
tuition please contact Strato 04 386 3740



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## NEW MEMBERS

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I hope the early season fishing has been good to you. With the frustrations of covid-19 impacting on daily life, I found that getting out on familiar water and catching a few trout provides a great distraction. Most fish in the Wainuiomata River appear to be in excellent condition and there are at least a few sea-run trout in the system. There has also been a reliable report of a rainbow trout being caught, which is an interesting development for what has always been a brown trout catchment.

This month we will go ahead with the Club meeting under level 2 conditions, with face masks and maintaining appropriate distances. There is plenty of room in the hall, so spacing will not be an issue. We will not be holding the annual auction, however. This has been deferred until March next year. It is just too difficult to organise and run under level 2. If you do have material for the auction, feel free to bring it along in any case and it will go into the auction in March.

The meeting will be low key and largely a chance to catch up recent fishing experiences, the tail end of the Taupo spawning runs, and early season fishing on other rivers. I understand the Hinemaiaia River was full of fish in September! It will also provide an opportunity to plan trips for the season ahead. Sharing experiences and getting advice on locations to fish can make the difference between a mediocre trip and a great one. I am heading to Lake Rotoroa in early December to get a few days fishing the Buller River and its tributaries. I have fished the area before, but not extensively and (too many) years ago. Hopefully the rivers will have a mite less fishing pressure in the absence of guided anglers, so I am looking forward to the trip.

As I write this I look at my fly tying desk and wonder where winter went to. All those plans to fill my fly boxes for the season ahead seem to have slipped by. Flies that I have tied have mostly been to keep up with flies lost on the Tongariro River. Never mind, I've actually got too many flies, but it seems never enough of my preferred patterns, or I have the right fly but in the wrong size or weight. Before I got into competition fishing it all seemed so much more simple. C'est la vie.

Don't let the wind and rain stop you (within reason), get out there and see if you can catch a fish in challenging conditions. See you at the meeting.

Paul

# SPRINGTIME FISHING ON THE MOHAKA

Club trips to back country waters in springtime is always a lottery.

Winter flows traditionally mean it is virtually impossible to cross rivers, which significantly restricts the areas that are available. However the lure of the great fighting qualities of the Mohaka rainbows is always worth the risk in the hope that Mother Nature plays her part.

This month's club trip to the Mohaka almost didn't happen as regular wet weather fronts had put the trip in doubt.

However the weather gods were on our side and three or four days of clear weather between two bands of rain found us arriving at Titiokura on Friday lunchtime.

The management of Titiokura had made a great effort to accommodate us as their lodge has been booked for some time by workers involved in the Titiokura wind farm project. One of the cabins however was free on the weekend as the occupant was returning to his hometown for the weekend and that suited us just fine.

A quick unpack and after a discussion with the local rafting personnel we were on our way up McVicars Road. The first river access point is very popular with anglers and we decided therefore to carry on up river to the gravel quarry and found the river in excellent condition.

While we had anticipated doing battle with feisty rainbows, one of the first fish caught was a lovely brown which was Lindsay's first trout on a weekend club trip and we all enjoyed seeing the pleasure he got from his success.

A few well conditioned rainbows came our way during the afternoon on either hare and copper nymphs or orange rabbits fished downstream, so the trip had started off well.

Saturday saw us up very early and once we had made our way through the fog we tried one of our favourite spots on Jack Sutton Road. However the river was too high to cross and few fish accepted our flies

so we continued to the end of Waitara Road. Here again the high water and rapid current flows meant crossing was impossible. Trudging our way upstream, a few fish were receptive especially in the pocket water up on the top bend.

Fishing this section of the river however is very strenuous so Sunday morning we picked a much gentler section immediately downstream from the McVicars bridge, an area I have not fished before. Again we had the river to ourselves (other than a few canoeists setting off on a journey downstream) and this produced some lovely rainbows and ensured that all members on the trip tasted success.

There is no doubt that the Mohaka rainbows, pound for pound, give you a really good fight and while this also resulted in a few fish lost, the fish landed made the whole trip worthwhile and produced some photographs to remember by.

Orange Rabbit

## **CAPITAL TROUT CENTRE**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Tickets will be available from Capital Fishing, Ghuznee Street  
& Hutt Valley Hunting & Fishing, Te Puni Street, Petone  
from 25th October 2021

Volunteers will be wanted for this day so please ring Carmen  
if you can help on

(04) 386 3740

# TROUT SEASON OPENING DAY

The opening day of the trout fishing season on the 1st October, is eagerly awaited by anglers, not necessarily because it was a great time to go fishing but tradition made it a day not to be missed. Having not fished the Wainuiomata River on opening day for three or four years, the fact that a fine day was forecast simply added to the anticipation.

I decided to fish the public water at the end of the Coast Road as I was sure many anglers would have their favourite posies on some of the upstream sections. Talking to one of the farmers later in the day, he indicated that he had 6 anglers ring him to get permission to go through his property so I suspect the river was pretty well fished for this opening day.

Having started fishing I then noted a truck driving down just inside the fence line dropping off large bundles of small trees which were followed shortly thereafter by 20 volunteers all dressed in various attire from bright red coats and white hats etc who then began planting these trees along the river bank from the bridge down the main straight.

The group leader was completely unaware that it was opening day and while she was apologetic that she was upsetting our fishing, she was quite convinced that they should complete the planting as covid-19 had upset their programme.

The anglers who arrived to fish that stretch during the morning therefore had very little option but to avoid this area purely from a Health & Safety perspective as it would have been quite easy to attach a hook into one of the workers on a back cast.

We have since discovered that the regulations regarding work on the Wainuiomata River specifically indicate that work should be avoided on the opening day of the trout fishing season (1st October each year) and it was therefore disappointing that these regulations had been ignored by the group in question.

Despite this annoying distraction, opening day produced some of the best fishing I've had on the Wainuiomata in terms of numbers that I have experienced for a number of years. Unlike recent years where fish caught were generally older fish, the fish caught covered the whole spectrum from ½ pounders to 4 pounders, which was a very good sign for the future. In addition, it appears that for the first time for quite a while, the river mouth

was open and there was not only good current but there was also whitebait present along the edges of some of the slower water.

The day also produced a first for me on the Wainuiomata in that one of the fish was a 11/2 pound rainbow and talking to one of the anglers later in the afternoon, he also confirmed he had caught a similar sized rainbow earlier that day.

It appears that the significant flood event which happened on the Ruamahunga earlier in the winter, had swept rainbows out into Cook Strait resulting in rainbows being caught not only in the Wainuiomata River but also in the Hutt River in recent days.

Hopefully the success of the opening day will continue on through the season and reinforced how lucky we are in Wellington to have such an excellent trout stream so close to town.

However remember to renew your licences for the coming season.

Strato

## **FLYBOX & FLIES RAFFLE #1**

Richard Benefield used his lockdown time to tie lots of flies.

He has very generously donated four fly boxes with approximately 200 flies per box to be raffled over the coming months to raise funds for the Capital Trout Centre.

We will follow the same procedure as in previous raffles, with the winning ticket drawn when all tickets sold. Each raffle of a fly box and flies will consist of 150 tickets at \$5 each.

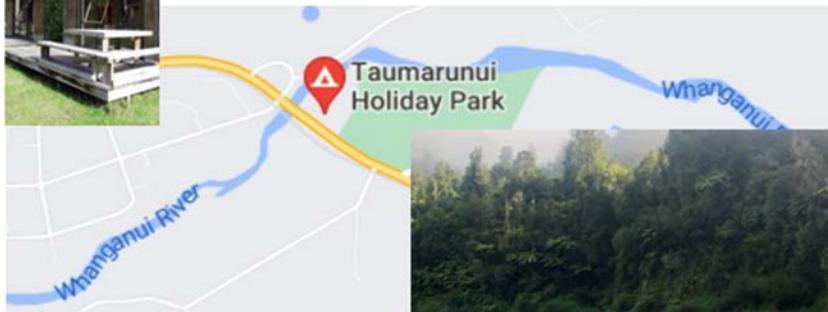
Raffle ticket numbers will be available at meetings, you can also call Carmen on (04) 386 370 or email your order to [wellingtonflyfishersclub@gmail.com](mailto:wellingtonflyfishersclub@gmail.com)

Funds to be deposited to Capital Trout Centre account 06-0582-0030903-26

# WEEKEND CLUB TRIPS



**26-27 November - Whanganui**



To book a place please contact  
Strato (04) 386 3740

Month	Dates	Venue
November	26th/28th <i>please note the change of date</i>	Whanganui <i>(limited numbers)</i>
December	10th/12th	Rangitikei

# FLY OF THE MONTH

**Monday 15 November, 7.30pm** - Tararua Tramping Club Locker Room (Access through side door on north side of building)

## Adams Irresistible Dry Fly

One of the most universal dry flies used throughout the world to imitate a series of insects. The high floatancy of the deer hair keeps them afloat for long periods but the use of other floatant products is also often used. Particularly good on fish taking flies off the surface rather than emergers, as the fly sits high on the water.

<b>Hook</b>	Standard dry fly hook #14, #12
<b>Tail</b>	Moose body fibres
<b>Body</b>	Deer hair
<b>Wings</b>	Hen cape tippets
<b>Hackle</b>	Brown and grizzly feathers



If anyone has suggestions for fly patterns they would like to see tied at the fly-tying meetings please let Strato know (386 3740)

## IT JUST HAPPENED!



**So what is this all about, eh? Well, “it just happened” we HAD to go out fishing for a few days!**

It was the second Sunday after the new season opening day 2021, when three of us travelled north to Taihape, then east towards the Springvale Bridge, close by to our accommodation for the next four nights. Our wives, partners, spouses, or those not coming, from each home, wished us a pleasant and enjoyable few days fishing. They had made other plans while their men were away?? For two of us anglers this was new water, the other

angler had been here only a few times so fishing this part of the Rangitikei River was to be a new experience or a renewable experience.

A quick lunch at Taihape, then a drive, “follow the leader”, with Maurice in the front vehicle, hopefully taking a direct route to our accommodation.



Yes, we arrived Ok and unpacked our gear. Grant had unpacked his food bag, gear bag and was pondering what gear arrangement to prepare for some afternoon fishing. And now Grant was on a shelf in the kitchen – no, not the fishing Grant, but the whisky Grant. Clean and comfortable accommodation, with bedding and towels included.

One vehicle was enough to take the two of us, all the one kilometre drive down to the river and back over the bridge. Soon we were into a few flicks from the corner and continuing back towards the bridge. This was the area we had all watched on a You-Tube video dated last season. (Here is a helpful hint – Google the area you are going to fish for any You-Tube videos, for some appreciation of the area you are fishing). These two anglers successfully hooked several rock fish, and soon with wading out (no wading stick needed says an “experienced angler”) these were rock fish were released for another day.



Our next day took us driving some dirt roads over to the Mangaohane Bridge, and fished upstream. Again the weather was somewhat cold; as we drove over the summit snow fell, and on our return we had hail and sleet. Yet as we were fishing the sun finally came out and the wind dropped away, but the total absence of trout attracted to our flies

persisted. Heading back after lunch, the weather turned again nasty, so off home to warm up.

The next day was a choice between going up-stream, down-stream or another location. We choose another location, as going upstream meant crossing the river, where we would all





need to link together with wading sticks to get across. At a level of about 3200, there was still much water to cross, even linked together. This was just north of the accommodation and access appeared promising from the road. We had to nearly abseil down this near vertical hillside, as would be goats. The temperature had now risen to a blistering 4C, pretty much the warmest of the entire trip. The casting opportunities were not as promising, as roll casts were needed and the trout still proved elusive. So a scramble back up the cliff face and then back over the Springvale Bridge to join Greg. Alas, the wind and rain came again, so Greg left after lunch, to prepare our accommodation with a warm fire. Here we relaxed and freshened up while NOW, recognising the trip was ending, the sun finally emerged for a fine afternoon.

Returning to our accommodation that last evening we were tempted to book this same accommodation again for next year, to compare with the events of this trip. As always, over a well-deserved meal and refreshments we re-visited many events of our three days fishing – with emphasis on the humorous times, the major happenings and we seemed to place in abeyance, the many hours spent casting, walking and casting and walking and casting and casting. Overall, what did we learn?

Here is another chance for improvement - we will be back and another trip is planned for early February 2022 – Monday 7 February to Friday 11 February 2022 – again for four nights accommodation and three days fishing. Contact Maurice for this newly organised trip. [maurice-fishing@xtra.co.nz](mailto:maurice-fishing@xtra.co.nz) (Close off and payment prior to 28 December 2021).

Here we have Maurice's first attempt at recording on a 2 minute video (MP4) of some events of the trip. (There may or may not be sound). This gives some idea of the accommodation and those brave souls who went fishing in temperatures between 2C and 4C at Springvale on this trip.

As to the hook ups and self-releases – “It just happened!”

By Maurice, Greg and Grant.

# MID-WEEK FLY FISHING TRIPS

These are usually a higher standard accommodation, with bedding and towels supplied on occasions. Maurice tries to give each angler a separate bedroom, in the accommodation booked.

Month	Trip details
Late January 2022	<p><b>Manganui o te Ao</b> Sun 30 January 2022 to Friday 4 Feb 2022: = 5 nights 4 days fishing. Availability for 2-3 more persons \$50 each per night x 5 nights – five bedrooms Close off /payment date 28 December.</p>
Late February 2022	<p><b>Manawatu River</b> Sunday 27 February to Friday 4 March 2022 - 5 nights 4 days fishing. Availability for 2-3 more persons \$45 each per night x 5 nights (accommodation 5km from Woodville). HOST required guests to be fully vaccinated. Close off/payment date 25 January 2022.</p>
March 2022	<p><b>Upper Whanganui River</b> Sunday 13 March to Friday 18 March 2022 5 nights, 4 days fishing. Availability for 1 or 2 more persons Maranui \$35 each night x5 nights includes Bkfst Maranui. Close off/payment date 11 February 2022.</p>
Mid April 2022	<p><b>Maurice is planning some nights at Time Out, Mohaka</b> for 5 nights accommodation, 4 days fishing; \$25 per person per night; with one day a raft fishing trip for about an extra \$250.00 each angler, for 3-4 anglers giving an eight hour day rafting and fishing. Please contact Maurice direct quickly if you are interested in this special package. Close off/payment date mid March 2022.</p>

Email maurice-fishing@xtra.co.nz tel Paraparaumu 04 298 9663 (not after 8pm, please).



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## **ON-STREAM DAY**

**Next onstream day** – Sun 21 November

The November On-Stream Day will be on the Wainuiomata . 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

## **USEFUL LINKS**

For a list of useful links including licences, river flow levels, weather sites and organisations please visit the club website.

<https://wellingtonflyfishers.org/links>

## **CLUB MEETING VENUE**

Tararua Tramping Club rooms - 4 Moncrieff St, Mount Victoria, Wellington. For a detailed map and instructions on getting there please visit the club website <https://wellingtonflyfishers.org/club-meetings/>

## **NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please visit the Website for details relating to newsletter submissions

<https://wellingtonflyfishers.org/newsletter/>

## **COMMITTEE MEETING**

6 pm, second Monday every month. For additional details please see the club website

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

## 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.

## 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. 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 2021 - 31 MARCH 2022

Full member or family membership	Junior membership	Joining fee	Overseas Newsletter (Email only)
\$35	no fee.	\$10	\$35

**Enquiries** [wellingtonflyfishersclub@gmail.com](mailto: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 see the website for details. <https://wellingtonflyfishers.org/newsletter/>

## CLUB MISSION

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

## COMMITTEE

<b>President</b>	Paul Baker	970 2595
Past President	Strato Cotsilinis	386 3740
Vice President	John Gamble	027 517 5825
Secretary	Heather Millar	386 3049
Treasurer	Carmen Cotsilinis	386 3740
Newsletter Editor	Linda Brown	027 230 4770
Librarian	Warren Horne	386 3049
Website	Scott Garelli	021 325 032
Club Trips	Strato Cotsilinis	386 3740
Helpdesk	Hal Levine	027 4200 482
Fly Tying & Casting	Strato Cotsilinis	386 3740
Club Competitions	Paul Baker	970 2595
Committee	Peter Buxton	472 3456



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PO Box 9236, Marlon Square, Wellington 6141, New Zealand

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