

# Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.



# TIGHT LINES

The official newsletter  
of the Wellington Flyfishers Club inc.  
December 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 6 December , 7.30pm**  
Tararua Tramping Club rooms - 4 Moncrieff St, Mount  
Victoria, Wellington

## 2021 Christmas Social

**Partners welcome. Supper provided.**

John Ashby from the Rescue Co-ordination Centre will give a presentation on how the Centre works especially in the case of emergencies. A must for those of us that regularly spend time in the great outdoors. Others that have heard this presentation give it excellent reviews. There is a requirement that those attending must be fully vaccinated.

### EVENTS THIS MONTH

**Club Trip:** 11-12 December - **Rangitikei**

**Fly Tying:** Monday 20 December

**On-Stream Day:**

Saturday 18 December , **Hutt River**  
(Please call Strato 04 386 3740 by the Wednesday prior)

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



### NEW MEMBERS

Debbie Gee  
Ricky Baird  
Cristian Teixeira  
Adam Finlayson

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I fished in the Manic Tackle Pairs competition on Lake Rotoaira a couple of weeks ago. This is a long running competition organised by Sport Fly Fishing NZ as a Pro-Am competition where anglers who have represented New Zealand must pair up with an angler who hasn't to qualify for the handsome trophy and prizes. There is a great write up and detailed results on the SFFNZ website, go to [SFFNZ:Manic Tackle National Pairs Competition 2021 Lake Rotoaira](#). Even without the Auckland and Hamilton competitors, there were 26 entries and 744 fish caught over the three 3-hour sessions. The individual winner, Craig Anderson from Palmerston North averaged 19 fish per session. That was despite very wet and mostly calm conditions on Saturday, and considerable wind on Sunday morning.

The interesting thing I noticed, having not fished it for a couple of years, is how much the overall skill levels have increased, and the expanding knowledge of the locations and techniques that are most likely to provide success.

This knowledge comes from the experience of fishing alongside other anglers in the boats and picking up the tactics that work for them and are worth trying for yourself. If you come away learning a little extra from other anglers each time you go on a trip you will find your own skills will increase.

Next week I'm off to the Murchison area for a few days fishing. Here's hoping for reasonable conditions. I understand the rivers have been quite high to date.

Next meeting will be the annual Christmas Function. Partners and family are welcome to come along, and supper will available. Do come along and mix before December gets too frantic.

If I don't see you at the meeting, please have a safe and enjoyable Christmas break with many fish landed.

Cheers

Paul



# FISHING HERE IN THE STATES

**By Paul A Doscher**

I'm continuing to enjoy reading the Wellington Flyfishers newsletter and find myself jealous of the good fishing I read about in the Fish & Game emails. Fishing here in the US has been disappointing this year for me.

Back in May when we were all optimistic that the pandemic was on the wane, I took a trip to Montana to both fish the spring creeks and visit Yellowstone National park. The fishing was mediocre compared to past trips, perhaps because we arrived after the late winter hatches ended and before the late spring hatches started. The visit to Yellowstone didn't disappoint at all, with lots of sightings of bison, bears and a few wolves along with hundreds of elk.

Early summer in New England the fishing was impacted by a record drought. We had no measurable rain in June along with very high temperatures that resulted in some of our best wild trout streams drying up. Then, in July my part of the region had record rainfall (right here at our farm it was 420mm!). My biologist friends have been to some of these subsequently and found dramatically reduced trout numbers and in some places, none at all.

My early summer trip to northwest Maine was disappointing due to drought. Water levels were extremely low. I went again in September and found that while around home we had floods in July, almost no rain fell in the north. So again the fishing was slow except when we found a deep run where it appeared all the large fish (brook trout and landlocked salmon) were holding, waiting for increased flows in order to move into the spawning areas.

Of course, in the west the fishing was also poor throughout the summer under ongoing drought and then the fires made being outdoors in much of the western states unpleasant because of hazardous air quality. It seems that the predictions of climate

scientists are proving to be correct and arriving even earlier than anticipated.

I hope your fishing has been good and you are enjoying the freedom to move around without as much fear of the virus. I hold out hope that at some point in 2022 I will be able to come back for to visit family.

## **BASIC DO'S AND DON'TS FOR NYMPHING**

Watching fishing videos on Google could be a 24-hour pastime. Some are good and some are bad but one of my favourites is called **Mid Current Fly Fishing**, which each month have a selection of educational videos and videos of trips to exotic places, including a number which are based in New Zealand.

The latest newsletter included an article by Rick Hafele, which had been extracted from another publication called Hook Now.

The article is called Nymphing No Nos and while it outlines a number of aspects in detail and is quite long, the following are the main issues which Rick believes are fundamental to successful nymphing together with some comments of mine.

### **1. Don't be afraid to use small nymph patterns**

While a nicely tied nymph on size 10 or 12 looks nice in the nymph box, the truth is that most of the nymphs that trout feed on are much smaller and can only be imitated by size 14 to size 20 nymph patterns.

### **2. Don't suffer from Rootitis**

This is where you find a good current seam and are convinced that it holds trout but six to eight good drifts produces nothing. The more

lies you can cover in your time on the river the greater your success rate.

### **3. Change patterns that aren't working**

Like Rootitis you continue to fish the same water with the same fly pattern. While it is important to use patterns which, as a result of your past experience have been successful and you fish them confidently, don't let it become a rut as sometimes the fish are very specific as to what they are feeding on at that time of the day or that time of the year.

### **4. Get your nymphs to the bottom**

Nymphs live on the bottom and unless there is evidence that the fish are feeding on emergers, it's important that your nymphs are heavy enough or that you are using a line system which gets your nymphs to the bottom of the water you are fishing. This can be done either through the weight incorporated in the nymph or simply adding split shot to your leader to get the flies down.

### **5. Fish nymphs with as little line as possible**

One of the main challenges of nymph fishing is detecting the take and then striking before the fish spits out your fly. It is important therefore to not have too much distance between your fly and your strike indicator or have too much line on the water so that there is a delay in hooking the fish. One of the main factors which have made Czech Nymphing so successful and therefore popular, is the fact that there is as little line as possible on the water and the detection of the trout taking the fly and your subsequent strike, is as quickly as possible.

However, one requirement that was not mentioned in Rick's article was the fact that the more times you are out there on the river practising your nymphing techniques, the more confident you will be in your flyfishing and the more second nature the techniques will become.

# FLYBOX & FLIES RAFFLE #1

## Reminder

As advised in last month's Tight Lines Richard Benefield 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 have started selling tickets for Fly Box #1.

Tickets are \$5 each.

## Get your ticket at the December meeting!

## OLD STYLE KIWI BACH IN GOLDEN BAY FOR HOLIDAY RENTAL



Fabulous location in Wainui Bay  
(Google 'Iconic images Wainui Bay')

- Bush-clad section on the road to Totaranui / Abel Tasman track (20km from Takaka)
- 20 meters from the sea
- Comfortable basic accommodation, sleeps four
- Fully furnished (need to provide own bed linen and towels)
- \$125 / night peak school holiday season (otherwise \$100 / night)

Needs practical users, able to cope with locking / unlocking, turning on power and pumps, restocking and removing rubbish etc.

Email: James  
bach.wainui@gmail.com

# WEEKEND CLUB TRIPS

## Rangitikei 10th/12th December

Staying at River Valley Lodge



River Valley Lodge is tucked away at the base of the Ruahine Ranges and Mt. Aorangi, right on the banks of the Rangitikei River.



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

## CAPITAL TROUT CENTRE

Don't forget the **Open Day** is...

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Please phone Strato 386 3740 to advise

if you can come and help

(04) 386 3740

# FLY OF THE MONTH

**Monday 20 December, 7.30pm** - Tararua Tramping Club Locker Room (Access through side door on north side of building)

## Royal Wulff

The Royal Wulff is a must have in any fly box, especially deadly on Rainbows who find it hard to resist. Originated by master angler Lee Wulff around 1930 to imitate a beetle, it has stood the test of time virtually unchanged ever since. It can be used almost anywhere.



<b>Hook</b>	TMC 9300 size 10-16
<b>Tail</b>	Moose mane or similar
<b>Body</b>	Peacock herl separated by red floss or thread
<b>Wing</b>	White calf body hair
<b>Hackle</b>	Brown
<b>Thread</b>	6/0 black or red

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

## 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	<b>Manganui o te Ao</b> - Five bedrooms Sun 30 January 2022 to Friday 4 Feb 2022: = 5 nights 4

Month	Trip details
2022	days fishing. Availability for 3-4 more persons \$50 each per night x 5 nights = \$250.00 Close off /payment date 28 December 2021.
Early February 2022	<b>Rangitikei River</b> - staying at Springvale FULLY BOOKED
Late February 2022	<b>Manawatu River</b> - staying 5km from Woodville. FULLY BOOKED
Early April 2022	<b>Mohaka</b> – four bedrooms/separate facilities Accommodation yet to be finalised: Probably Mohaka Farm, up McVicars Road; \$60 x 5 nights = \$300. Availability for 2 persons.  Extra: 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 10 March 2022.
May 2022	<b>Likely to be fishing Upper Whanganui River.</b> Monday 9 May to Saturday 14 May 5 nights 4 days fishing
June 2022	Sunday 12 June to Friday 17 June - 5 nights 4 days fishing  <b>Maybe staying at Tokannu Motel to fish river mouths Turangi.</b>  Each chalet has two bedrooms. One chalet already

Month	Trip details
	booked. Two more chalets can be available. Gold Card members 50% disc for 5 night stay = \$35 x5 = \$175 each. Availability for 2 or 4 more persons
July 2022	Monday 25 July to Friday 29 July; 4 nights 3 days fishing <b>Tukituki River</b> - bunk accommodation – bring own sleeping bags and towels.
August	Monday 22 August to Friday 26 August; 4 nights 3 days fishing
September	Sunday 18 September to Friday 23 September; 5 nights, 4 days fishing.
October	Sunday to Thursday; 4 nights 3 days fishing. <b>Rangitikei</b> - 3 bedrooms (VERY EARLY BOOKING NEEDED) \$200 each staying at Springvale

Information sheets on accommodation, likely fishing spots can be supplied, on request, for each trip.

**Email [maurice-fishing@xtra.co.nz](mailto:maurice-fishing@xtra.co.nz)**

**Tel Paraparaumu 04 298 9663 (not after 8pm, please).**

Are you retired OR able/prefer to go fishing mid-week? Email Maurice to be on the mid week fishing trip mailing list. This keeps you up to date with any changes, which often happen these days!



# Hunting & Fishing

N E W Z E A L A N D

## XMAS SPECIALS

Airflo Raptor Flyfishing Set  
Rod, Reel, Line  
\$149.00

Apex Flyfishing Set  
Was \$509.99  
Now \$249.99

Sierra Stretch Breathable Waders  
30% discount  
Now \$280.00

Note: Club discount is not available on these specials

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The Flyfishing Experts

**Hutt Valley Hunting & Fishing NZ**  
**8 Te Puni Street, Petone.**

P O Box 33 206, Petone, Wellington, New Zealand  
Telephone: 0064-4-589 9500

## **ON-STREAM DAY**

**Next onstream day** – Saturday 18 December

The December On-Stream Day will be on the Hutt River. 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



WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB( IN C).  
PO Box 9236, Marlon Square, Wellington 6141, New Zealand

## SPORTING LIFE - TURANGI

North Island - New Zealand

*Outfitters to the Famous Tongariro River*

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

**SIMMS.**