

Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.



TIGHT LINES

The official newsletter
of the Wellington Flyfishers Club inc.
February 2023



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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 6th February, 7.30pm

Summer Fishing Reports

Even though this is the observance of Waitangi Day,
a meeting will be held.

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Club Trip: February 24th/26th - Tukituki

Fly Tying: Monday 20th February
7.30pm - Twilight Beauty

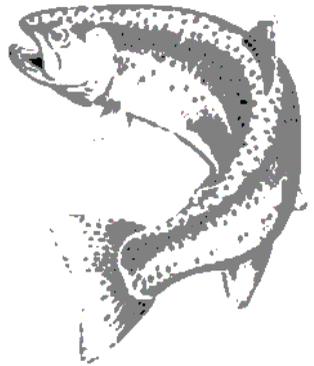
On-Stream Day:

Saturday 18th February - Ruamahanga
River Day trip. Phone Strato 386 3740 by
the Wednesday prior.

Capital Trout Centre

The Capital Trout Centre will be having an
Open Day on **Sunday 19th February**. Please advise Strato (386
3740) if you can assist and he will make a roster, according to numbers
booked.

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



NEW MEMBERS

Michael Cuncannon
Greg Smith
Mike and Kim Kingham

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Wow, what a summer we have had here in Wellington. I hope that you been able to get out and enjoy some excellent summer fishing. Last weekend it was blowing a light south-easterly and I spent a couple of hours on the lower Wainuiomata River. Euro-nymphing in both the pools and runs I picked up 8 trout and dropped a couple, up to 2 1/2 lb in weight, which was very pleasing. As I write this report, there is evidence of Cicada's in the bush, and no doubt the trout in the local rivers will soon be targeting them, if not already. Sporting Life report a "sensational cicada hatch" at Turangi.

Just a reminder that Lake Otamangakau is closed for February. If you get the chance to fish Lakes Kuratau or Rotoaira from a boat, focus on the cooler water entering the lake, or going deep (5 meters or more).

Our meeting in February is on Waitangi Day, so we have not organised a formal speaker given attendance may be down on the usual numbers. Strato will chair and facilitate a discussion on where members have fished over the summer break, and hopefully members share some thoughts on areas that are fishing well and methods and flies that are working.

With the relatively settled conditions we have been experiencing on the west-coast, the Otaki and Waikanae River mouths have provided opportunities to catch Kahawai on a fly rod. I haven't been out there personally, but I understand that so long as the sea conditions are not rough, the last two hours of the low tide provide the best opportunity to reach the fish. If the water is clear then it is possible to spot the schools of fish.

Tight lines

Paul

CLUB AUCTION

We will be holding the club auction at the **April** meeting.

This is the major fund raiser for club funds, so PLEASE look through your fly fishing equipment and anything that you no longer need but think it could be good to auction, put it aside. Items can either be donated to the club for auction or sold on your behalf with a 10% commission kept by the club. There will be a form included in the March magazine.

Fill out the form and email it to Strato
{ email:strato.cotsilinis@gmail.com } so that a catalogue can be prepared of items. This form needs to be received by 14th March.

HEAVIEST FISH

December 2022 – Jim McLean 9 lb Brown hen, caught on Hares Ear Nymph at Ngongotaha Stream.

January 2023 – Strato Cotsilinis 7.9lb Brown jack, on lumo fly at the mouth of Waitetoko.

Entries for the Heaviest Fish, Best Condition Factor etc should be advised to Paul Baker.

BEST FISH AWARDS

Current records 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

Hunting & Fishing heaviest fish (senior)

Jim McLean 9lb Ngongotaha - December 2022

Wallace Condition Factor: best conditioned fish

Michael Phelan CF 43.238 Hinemaiaia - July 2022

UPCOMING CLUB TRIPS

March 17 - 19 Manawatu

To book your place on a club trip please contact Strato (04) 386 3740

SUMMER FISHING IN LOCAL RIVERS

One of the joys of trout fishing is floating a small dry fly down a current line and watching a large brown trout rise from the depths and see the fly disappear.

Sometimes the trout are extremely picky in their selection of food on the surface and it is important that before tying on your imitation, to observe carefully what insects are around,

Some of our local rivers are very much based on Mayfly food supply, while others can be predominantly caddis. Fly size is also important.

To fish the hatch successfully you need some knowledge of when this is likely to occur on any particular river.

Most rivers will have a hatch late in the afternoon, which on some nights can continue well in to the dark hours.

Other rivers, such as the Wainuiomata, will on very warm days also have a hatch at around lunch time so keep an eye out for insects rising from the surface or landing on the water.

It is also important when spotting rising fish to distinguish whether they are feeding on emergers struggling to escape the surface film or a fully emerged dry fly either about to leave the water or egg laying.

To achieve the best results it is important to use as long a tapered leader as you can handle and the lightest tippet you think is appropriate for the size of fish you are likely to encounter.

However the most important aspect of dry fly fishing is ensuring that you get a drag free drift down a feed line, especially when fishing for browns. Any divergence from the speed of the current line is a sure sign to the trout that what was meant to look like a tempting food item is not the real thing.

Our weather forecasters tell us that this summer is going to be long and hot which should produce ideal conditions to try out your dry fly fishing skills.

TAUPŌ FISHERY FOCUS, LAKE OTAMANGAKAU SPECIAL



25 January 2023

Lake Otamangakau will close to fishing in 7 days.

The Lake Otamangakau fishery will close to fishing for one month from Wednesday 1 February. It will reopen to anglers on 1 March. The closure is part of a package of four regulation changes introduced this season to protect the long-term future of this popular trout fishing destination.

Two years of focussed scientific investigation combined with nearly 30 years of research and monitoring at Lake Otamangakau provide us with a good understanding of trout populations and the impacts of angling pressure, catch-and-release and water temperature.

The February closure is designed to protect trout from exposure to excessive surface water temperature during the hottest time of the year. We know the hottest water temperatures are recorded in

February, regularly exceeding 20 degrees C. This temperature can be lethal to trout.

Our catch-and-release studies at Lake Otamangakau reveal a 100% survival rate during the cool water phase. This dropped to around 60% during the warm water phase, suggesting approximately one in three trout will not survive capture in February, even when successfully released.

We know February is the hottest month of the year, but weather can be changeable, so we can expect cooler days even at this time of year. Opening and closing the fishery on a daily basis centred around temperature was considered impractical. Feedback from the angling community confirmed this would create challenges, particularly for visitors planning trips. A February closure satisfies the need to protect trout during this vulnerable time while offering anglers and stakeholders' clarity to plan.

We will continue to carry out monitoring at Lake Otamangakau including gathering data from the spawning trap over winter. This will enable us to detect changes and adapt the new regulations if needed.

LAKE OTAMANGAKAU FISHERY CHANGES.

Here is a reminder of all four regulation changes introduced this season:

- The fishing season started a month earlier - 1 September.
- The fishery will close to trout fishing during February – the hottest month of the year.
- A maximum takeable size of 55 cm for trout - no minimum takeable size.
- The bag limit is reduced to two trout.

FLY OF THE MONTH

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

Twilight Beauty dry fly

Twilight Beauty is a favourite for anglers who like to fish their flies on or near the surface.

Representing an emerging mayfly nymph, the fly can be tied either as a wet fly (to imitate an emerger) or a dry fly.

Easy to tie, this fly has proved to be highly successful and is a must for your fly box.



Tail	Brown Hackle
Wing	Duck wing
Body	Black tying thread
Hackle	Brown Hackle

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

WFF FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/WellingtonFlyfishersClub>

Don't forget to visit the club facebook page to keep up to date with whats going on and check out the latest photos



HOT DEALS

MANIC TACKLE Dry Creek Z Sling Pack
Was \$349.99 – Now \$249.99

AIRFLO Outlander Pack Vest
Now \$99.99

AIRFLOW Outlander Fly Vest
Now \$79.99

DESOLVE Flow Waders (neoprene)
Was \$199.99 – Now \$169.99

50% off selected Simms clothing

Club discount 10% available on flyfishing purchases (excluding specials) with your membership card

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 18th February - Ruamahanga

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 2022 - 31 MARCH 2023

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

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 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

President	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
Facebook Editor	Susi Lang	027 564 6008
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