

TIGHT LINES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.

APRIL 2015

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Cover: Early morning at the Reed Pool ,
Tongariro River by Piero Bertocchi

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.



APRIL CLUB MEETING

Monday 6th April

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

“Tips and Tricks”

Have you ever spent a frustrating day seeing plenty of fish feeding but none will take the bait? Come and question some of the experienced club members for their suggestions and tips and tricks.

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: 11 – 12th
Fly Tying: 20th
On-Stream Day: 19th
Winter casting practice: 9.30am
Sundays – beginning 12th April



Future Club Meetings:

May 4th



New Members

Helen Bennett
Simon Oates
Raylene Liufalani

President's Report

A few cooler days and some very welcome showers indicate that summer is over and autumn is well on its way. The browns are moving upstream and the Tongariro has already produced some wonderful trophy trout.

Rainbows recently caught in Lake Taupo tend to suggest that the run this year will produce some very good conditioned fish and while the runs have been later in recent years the early season fishing can still be spectacular.

However let's not forget our local fishing which despite the drought are well worth trying. Good conditioned fish in both the Wainuiomata and the Hutt are a thrill to catch and the Ruamahunga is great for that one day outing.

Speaking of the Ruamahunga, anyone fishing the river in the next few weeks could assist Fish & Game by keeping mature brown trout (limit 4) and while this may not be your usual practise, it could help significantly in scientific studies that are currently being undertaken. All you need to do is freeze the fish whole and record the date, length and weight and where it was captured and I will then collect it from you. It must be caught in the Ruamahunga.

The next club meeting will try and answer some of the questions from novice and experienced anglers alike when they struggle to be successful consistently or when they have problems in a particular waterway. Hope to see you there.

The May meeting will be our normal AGM but Robyn and Marion will also present a slide show on their rafting travels down the Rangitikei. Not to be missed.

The May meeting is also the meeting where we chose the photograph for the club magazine for the next year and we look forward to seeing some excellent photos on display. Don't forget, these must be A5 size.

Strato



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So what did Santa bring YOU?

Christmas has come and gone for 2014, but not yet here for 2015. For all those fishing purchases during the year, there comes some important dates - Mother's day for our female anglers; Father's Day for our male anglers as well as each person's birthday and Christmas.

How do I say this without causing ripples of laughter - "I was unable to go fishing during late 2014, as I had a leaky bladder". Well, state the facts I'm told and mature readers will understand what I am talking about.

Yes, I have an inflatable pontoon, which had a leaky bladder!

Purchases over the internet to the overseas supplier soon remedied this situation; but alas, a misfit bladder. Wrong shape, but never mind a correct shaped bladder was soon on its way. Soon, this was inserted into the pontoon skin and away I was happy; but hang on, Santa arrived with Christmas and delivered an electric motor and a battery. With a life jacket, from another family member.

Here I was up on the Big O in February watching the lake rise beneath me in about 7-8 metres of water. Whoops, it was not the lake rising, it was the pontoon sinking. The battery and motor have a combined weight of about 26 kilos, so after some quick, serious thinking it was found better to place the frame of the pontoon towards the front, thus bring the weight of the motor more to the middle of the pontoon.

Here we are on the Big O we discovered there was a friendly competition between guests of the Tongariro River Motor (TRM) Lodge to see who could catch the most.

Fishing was lousy..16 vehicles in the car park

and more anglers than fish caught. Here was Louie, the Fish, having met up with Ralph (from Hawaii), a few weeks earlier when it rained at the Big O.



Lake Kuratau was being tested by another member so off to here we



went for the next few days. The lake was high with most vehicles arriving at the boat ramp as we were preparing our inflatables. To launch their boats most vehicles exhaust pipes were under the water level.

Have you tried a float tube yet? Our club have many for hire; and life can be so pleasurable fishing from a float tube. Or acquire a pontoon, or even a kayak.

So now you have thought and thought and thought and thought! Why not borrow a float tube from the Wellington Club and seriously consider neoprene waders as lake water can be very cold. Remember your legs will be mostly in the water.

You can carry on with this water craft for a season or two or decide to progress to a kayak or a pontoon. Be prepared to have Santa fork out up to \$1500 or more for all the gear, and please remember a life jacket.



Other choices can also be a Waterstrider from a Taihape source; or even a dingy- but a trailer or roof rack may be needed for these. So here we are on the Big O all set to battle for these big trout so what to use. Most anglers have their own views, but DOC has a

video of using a floating line with woolly bugger and fast retrieve. (You

should be able to find this on the internet) <http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/central-north-island/turangi-taupo/taupo-trout-fishery/where-to-fish/lake-fishing/lake-otamangakau/>

Other flies can include damselfly and slightly weighted blood worms, but be prepared to use long leaders- as long as you can cast and up to say two rod lengths. If using an indicator I prefer a smallish one that can travel through the rod guides so I can use my normal net to bring the fish in.

Whoops, I nearly forgot a float tube also needs flippers attached to the neoprene boots so you can travel around; these flippers can also be used on Waterstriders and most pontoons. It takes about 15 mins to inflate a flat tube and about the same time for a pontoon. However a pontoon has a frame that needs joining together by clips; tying the frame onto the pontoon; adding a rod holder, net; drogue; anchor; motor battery morning tea with coffee and don't forget the whipped cream-for the coffee. ..takes about 1 ½ hours.

AND very important some permanent colour marker pens. Three times I have been out fishing had the wrong colour fly and then used black or red or green to get the colour fly the fish are taking.. and they have worked in all occasions.

On my pontoon I wear breathable waders, folded at the waist, with diver's boots on my feet to keep me dry and warm as the weather may change.

So at last a bit of advice of how to catch the good fish on Lake O.

Make some freshly brewed coffee in the morning and store in a flask. Also bring out a spray can of whipped cream with a shaker of grated chocolate. Cast out and retrieve a fraction of the line. Rest the rod on your lap (preferably securely resting); bring out the coffee, spray in some cream and finally add the grated chocolate. If you have not hooked a trout on the hanging line then enjoy the coffee- it will taste delicious and be one of the best you have ever had. If you do get hooked up – YOUR decision coffee or trout??

Want some company give me a call maurice.fishing@yahoo.co.nz
Enjoy yourself!!!!

YOLO (From Obama- You Only Live Once)

Maurice

New Rivers

Looking back, it seems such an odd place to have a conversation about rivers, but I suppose as a fisherman you would understand. I was talking to a couple of guys in the middle of last year about a couple of streams that I just crossed, about what the fishing would be like, ease of access and the possibility of fish. That these guys were experienced outdoorsmen cannot be denied, nor could their knowledge of the area but the mere fact they were aid station marshalls on an off-road marathon that I was doing probably makes it a bit more bizarre that it first seems.

They were members of the Taumaranui 4 wheel drive club and we were in the middle of the Total Sports T42 Marathon, held on the famed mountain bike track 42nd Traverse near National Park. They were really interesting to talk to, as they also mentioned a couple of other areas in the same area that could be worth a look, as this was a tributary of a tributary of the Whakapapa – which we crossed a bit later and I marvelled at the size of it.

So, now, in the cool autumn evenings I have started to re-read Greg Kellys book where he is based near the same area. Sure the rivers have changed, due to flooding and man, but the essence of the area is still the same and is one I would like to investigate further.

But the fascination with new rivers never seems go away, as I have again found out. Having been up in Rotorua doing the Tarawera Ultramarathon, I was enthralled to run along the Tarawera River from the outlet at the lake down towards Kawerau. It was a beautiful clear day and the water looked so inviting but I was lost in looking into the pools for fish, really when I should have been concentrating on getting to the finish line. Apparently the fish per kilometre here is extraordinary and relatively low fished. Then the name Fishermans Bridge (an aid station for the 85 and 100km runners) kept getting mentioned and with a name like that means that I should go and have a look. Only problem is I will have to do the longer runs to get there.

But this fascination with rivers is just getting out of hand. Having spent the last weekend down in Wanaka for the Motatapu Off Road Marathon, the tourist part of the holiday was spent driving to wineries (not tasting alas!) which happened to be by rivers and lakes, but ever notice how fishermen always slow down to go over bridges, no matter who is in the car? If you were following a silver Toyota Yaris you would have got used to it I suppose or at least overtaken. But running through the Motatapu Valley was like a disease to me, as there were numerous tussock lined stream crossings, as well as the Arrow River. Of course they got more than a casual look, even though some of them were flooded and discoloured, but the concentration was lacking as I constantly thought about fishing them.

Since getting back I have watched a number of videos clips from Paul Macandrew of Aspiring Flyfishing who seems to specialise in these streams. That has only had the effect of getting the blood racing, as I now want to get back down there for some of the fishing, ok a lot of it, and some of the mountain runs that the area is famous for.

Anyone want to work for me?

Jeff Wood

CLUB CHAMPS

These will be held on Saturday 18th April.

This is a great opportunity for novice anglers to team up with an experienced angler and spend the day together in a friendly competition. Those interested or wanting more details contact Strato on 386 3740.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

This is an advance reminder to take that special photograph that you think should be the next cover of our magazine. Photos will be judged at the AGM in May and trophy awarded.

Photos must be A5 size and portrait orientation (i.e. same size and orientation as the magazine cover). No other sizes will be accepted.

Letter from Tassie

Gday Wellington FF. Hope this finds you all well and that you have had some memorable outings lately.

Recently had a great trip to Tassie. the central highlands area it did totally change my perception of the Tassie area. We had all weather probably pretty typical we arrived on the Friday after snows on the Thursday to a cool temp and heavy cloud.

We landed in Launceston and grabbed our car and headed off up to the High lands to a small place with fishing holiday huts a few houses and petrol station and a bit more called Miena oh yeh and a couple of pubs. We settled into our room un-packed and off.

After a 30-minute drive we fished the first afternoon at Penstock after arriving, strong SW we fished into the wind along the East bank. It's called sapling bank, heavily treed of big red gums and with in 30 minutes Bill took a nice brown of 5lb on a large orange head woolly bugger. I had walked on further around the corner into the long bay fishing dry and nymph. A few duns were popping up but not enough to get the fish rising. I fished wets for a period but to no luck. The evening was coming in. the

winds still pretty strong we stayed till dark.

Second day went down to Bronte Lagoon. Weather slightly on the mend with patches of blue coming through. With some cool winds and showers. Again we fished the Southern end. And I took small brown on my first cast nice little fish in good nick. Took it on a small black woolly bugger. I



punched into the wind for half day some great looking waters fished around to the west side with the wind turning to North west.

Bill stayed in the Southern end in sheltered waters grassy banks and short weed beds and submerged stumps and fished around to the trees but to no luck we met back at car for late lunch. As we were eating watch a guy who was camped there take a fish in very sheltered waters. Took it on a small

Hammils. After lunch we headed for small water called Pine Tier Lagoon. Water was dead after a couple of hours seeing very few moves. Then went to the renowned Little Pine and fished into the evening. Very quiet.

Next day off to Little Pine for the early morning water was very quiet, so decided to head to another larger lake. Woods Lake and onto the Northern banks. Fished straight into a strong Southerly again fished till 230pm. no takes. Nothing spotted fishing some wind lanes Bill searching with wets and me with tandem dries and nymphs never rose a fish with the strong winds and waves polaroiding difficult even in the clear waters. Back to Penstock for the afternoon. Bill was having a snooze. so I set up and walked the wall and polaroided a nice brown. Two rod lengths from me a squatted down behind a tussock and didn't strip any line off just flicked out the size 16 march brown dry and size 18 brown nymph the fish turned and cruised away on his beat. I lifted the fly and put out another meter of line. The fish was out of my sight from the bush I was crouched behind. I could just see my dry the fish had turned back towards it. He sat under the fly for some seconds barley 4 meters from me. He just sat under the dry. I gave the slightest of movement on the line and twitched the fly. He just ever so slowly opened his mouth and took the fly and turned and went to go down ever so slowly. Not a care in the world and not knowing what he had in his mouth I lifted and set the fly.



After a good few minutes and manouvering around some large weed pockets he was in my net.

A good brown 5.5lb released to play again another day.

Fished for another few hours. The wind dying off sun starting to set headed over to the South Western corner a lot of duns hatching and took a couple of smaller splashy fish on the dries. Pumped up with the anticipated mudeye hatch fished into the late night. Being second night after full moon, late moon should have been exciting with calm pleasant conditions. Fished a muddler pattern for quite some time. Though no real surface action switched to a favourite Hammil's killer. Stayed out till about 1030

pm with no more fish between us.

Next morning up early and at Little Pine before sunrise. Dead calm still no winds walking the bank and fishing into the deep gutters. Saw some good bow waves but no consistent fish moving. fished till 830 am.

A good day breaking with weather moving conditions improving dramatically and the low nearly passed through we headed up to the Western lakes and fished Botsford. With the sun high in the East and wind gusts from the South West it was not fantastic polaroiding conditions though spotted a few fish. Bill stayed fishing for a nice brown but could not entice a take. I walked the full lake with only 2 fish spotted from the bank. We moved to Lake Augusta after a late lunch. Cloud building and the winds building to strong we persevered. I fished some good deep sheltered water and wind lane points with an attractor dry and large green nymph but no takes.

Four pm headed back down to Penstock and walked the banks fishing. Bill flogging with wets and I fishing dry and nymph dropper. Sun setting again headed back over to South Western corner and waded out onto the stump that I set up on the night before. Again took some splashy small fish on the dry. The 3rd night after full moon, tonight should have been a cracker. Calm with a light ripple. Late moon rose over the redgum bush to lighten up the water. Not a fish to hear or see for the whole night.



Last morning up at 4 am and out to the Lake Penstock to haunt it once again before we had to leave Tassie and catch the plane home that afternoon. A great mornings walk with a number of tailing fish spotted along the Eastern banks feeding in hard on the bank. But to catch them. Oh my god. Teasers that's what they are. But just great to sit well back in the tree line and watch them was great.

It was a memorable trip and one that had changed my perception and earlier experiences with Tassie some 30 years ago.

Perhaps my luck had changed with the Wellington FF badge I have on my vest lapel.

Stay well and tight lines.

Dizzy

CLUB EVENTS THIS MONTH

ON-STREAM DAY

Next onstream day - Sunday 19th

The On-Stream Day will be on the **Wainuiomata River**. 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.

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.

Capital Trout Centre

The open day held Sunday 22nd February was a major success. We had allocated extra tickets as this was the last open day for this season. Thank you to all the club members who helped out. A special thank you to the staff at Hunting & Fishing, Steve's Fish Shop and to Jeff at Fishscene for once again holding the ticket bookings for us.

The Centre is now only available to small groups by appointment as the fish stocks are not sufficient to cater for a large group.

We have been kept busy during the month of March with many cubs/scouts groups having an evening event at the pond. We also have some bookings for April, so the word-of-mouth publicity has proven to be sufficient.

We look forward to the pond clean up in late July and then the season will begin again with an open day in September.

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Boxes of 100	\$19-95	\$15-95



Includes Barbless	\$6-95	\$5-95
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In-Store Only and While Stock lasts

Shop Online: www.FishScene.co.nz

Shop: 1c Taurima Street, Hataitai Village, Wellington

Just through the tunnel

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9am – 5.30pm
Thursday: 10am – 7pm, Saturday: 9am – 1pm

The Annual General Meeting
of the
Wellington Flyfishers Club will be held on
Monday 4th May 2015
at the Tararua Tramping Club Rooms,
4 Moncrieff St., Mt Victoria, Wellington at 7.30pm

Any club members with matters to discuss should contact a committee member or the club secretary to add them to the Agenda.



John Gamble, 4kg brown, Whareroa

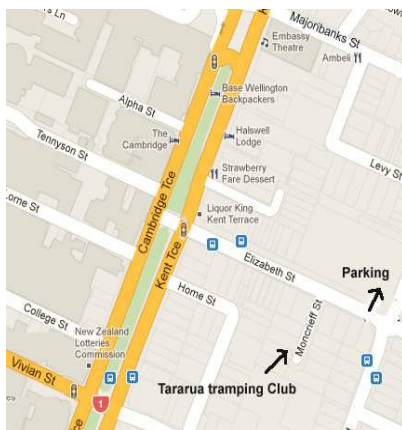
MEETING VENUE (TARARUA TRAMPING CLUB ROOMS) 4 Moncrieff St., Mt. Victoria

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.



PLANNED 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.

April

Dates: 11 & 12th

Destination: Manawatu

Organizer: Strato 386 3740

Upcoming trips:

May Rangitikei

June Rotorua

July Turangi

16th & 17th May

20th & 21st June

18th & 19th July

Feather Merchants Fly of the Month



Venue: Tararua Tramping Club Library
Monday 20th April, 7.30pm

(Access through
side door on north
side of building)

Flashback Nymph



A very useful generic mayfly pattern.
Most standard nymph designs can be improved with the addition of a flashy wingcase. Even curved hook patterns like caddis nymphs can benefit from the added attractiveness.

Hook	TMC 3761 or 5262 size 8-18
Thread	Danville black 6/0 or 3/0
Underbody	Lead wire to suit hook size
Tail	Hackle fibres
Rib	Copper or gold wire
Body	Dubbed natural or synthetic fur
Wingcase	Silver, gold or holographic tinsel
Thorax	Dubbed natural or synthetic fur, or peacock herl
Legs	Picked out fur or hackle fibres

www.feathermerchants.co.nz



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.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Deadline for the next issue is **10pm Monday 20th April**

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. Fly patterns requiring NZ falcon feathers will not be accepted. 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 chrispa@hotmail.com.

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

COMMITTEE MEETING – 5.45 pm, Monday 13th April

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 unraveled. 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.

FISH'N TIPS

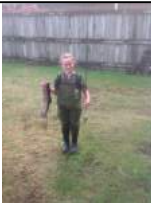
Early autumn rain cools the rivers rapidly and the fish are feeding vigorously, building up condition for the breeding season. Dry fly fishing is at its best. Fish will be wary after the pressure of summer anglers on most waterways. Small dry flies (size #16-18) fished on very fine leaders along the edges of currents and under overhanging vegetation will be productive. Remember to release large breeding fish to ensure good future stocks.



CLUB WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE

The club website and facebook page provide online information about the club, contact details and activities, as well as links to river level data, weather and fishing information.

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



BEST FISH AWARDS

Current records:

1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015.

Stirling Sports heaviest fish (junior)

Christie Moncrieff, 1.55 kg, rainbow, Tongariro

Hunting & Fishing heaviest fish (senior)

Paul Whitburn, 9lb 2oz, Rainbow Jack, Rotoaira

(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

Chris Anastasiadis, 3.67kg, 53cm, rainbow Jack, Tongariro, CF 88

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

Bob Wear, 3.63kg (8lb) brown, 55 cm, CF 78.8, Lake Taupo

Runners up:

Rolf Brednich 3.2 kg (7lb) brown, 66 cm, CF 40.2, Lake Taupo

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

WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB MISSION

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

2014-15 COMMITTEE

President	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
Past President	Paul Baker	970-2595
Vice President		
Secretary	Heather Millar	387-3405
Treasurer	Carmen Cotsilinis	386-3740
Newsletter Editor	Chris Paulin	027 874 7326
Librarian	Warren Horne	387-3405
Website	Peter Nagle	479-4944
Club Trips	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
	Piero Bertocchi	025 540 960
Catering	Marion Hall	477-0061
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

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 2014 - 31 March 2015

Full member or family membership \$35, Junior membership no fee.

Joining fee \$10 Overseas Newsletter postage \$45