

TIGHT LINES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.

MAY 2015

CONTENTS

Current Meeting	2
New Members	2
Future Club Meetings.....	2
President's Page	3
Hunting & Fishing	4
Articles	5-13
Club Information & Updates	14-16
On-Stream Day	14
Casting Practice	14
Capital Trout Centre.....	14
Club Notices.....	15
Meeting Room venue & map.....	16
Club Trips.....	16
Umpqua fly of the Month	17
Newsletter Contributions	18
Committee Meeting	18
Helpdesk	18
Fish'n Tips	19
Club Website.....	19
Best Fish	19
Club Committee Information	20



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.



CLUB MEETING

Monday 4th May

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

RAFTING RANGITIKEI

Robyn Gray and Marion Hall

+

AGM

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: 23/24th
Fly Tying: 18th
On-Stream Day: 30th
Casting practice: 9.30am Sundays



Future Club Meetings:

June 1st



New Members

Oliver Martin, Ikiharry Pahetogia,
D B Walsh, David Rolfe,
Areti Paulson

President's Report

The next club meeting is our annual AGM where we report on the club activities for the year and elect our committee and president for the coming year.

We are looking for new committee members to help take the club forward in the coming years and if you feel you would like to become more involved in the club activities, please contact one of the committee members.

The level of your involvement is entirely up to you but any assistance in running the club affairs would be appreciated.

Don't be put off by the formalities of the AGM as these are generally over and done with very quickly and we will then be enlightened by Robyn and Marion following their rafting trips on the Rangitikei. This is not to be missed and I am sure that following their presentation, a number of you will be following suit.

The AGM night is also a time for displaying your best photograph of the last twelve months, not only to win the photographic prize for the year but also to have your photo on the cover of our monthly magazine for the twelve month beginning November 2015. Don't forget, the photo needs to be portrait format and A5 size.

The April club trip was washed out due to the weather conditions and the state of the Manawatu River on that weekend so I am now looking forward to the club trips in May and June, which will be on the Rangitikei and the Rotorua lakes respectively. Both of these venues require us to book accommodation early so please contact me if you wish to come on either of these two trips at the earliest possible date.

Many thanks for the committee's support and efforts over the last twelve months.

Strato



Hunting & Fishing

N E W Z E A L A N D

EXTRA SPECIALS

Freestone "Z" Waders Now Only

\$649.99

Heaps of NEW FLIES

NOW Is The Time to Trade Up to a

NEW TAUPO ROD

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Wellington, New Zealand

Telephone: 0064-4-589 9500 Facsimile: 0064-4-589 9520

The following article, prepared by DOC, is to help club members to know of the vulnerability and threatened status of the NZ falcon.

The **New Zealand falcon** or **kārearea** (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) is New Zealand's only endemic falcon and the only remaining bird of prey endemic to New Zealand. Other common names for the bird are bush hawk and sparrow hawk. It is frequently mistaken for the larger and more common Australasian harrier (or kāhu). The NZ falcon is about the size of a magpie and in flight has a constant very rapid wing beat whereas the harrier tends to flap its wings and then glide. The harrier hawk will eat animals killed on the road but the falcon prefers to catch live prey and seldom eats carrion. The falcon call is rapid and piercing and the harrier is generally silent or has a plaintive call.

The falcon is mainly found in heavy bush and the steep high country in the South Island and is rarely seen north of a line through the central area of the North Island. A small population also breeds on the Auckland Islands; the species is known from the Chatham Islands from fossil remains. Although protected since 1970, it is considered to be a threatened species. Eastern and bush sub species are listed as Nationally Vulnerable and number no more than 1000-5000 mature individuals, while the southern sub species is Nationally Endangered with no more than 250-1000 mature individuals. Although still widespread where suitable habitat exists, numbers are declining.

The falcon is a fierce hunter capable of flying at speeds of over 100 km/h and catching prey larger than itself. It hunts live prey, mainly by watching from a vantage point and making a fast direct attack and either striking or grasping the prey with sharp talons. Its diet consists mainly of other birds but also includes insects, mice, rats, rabbits and lizards.

It nests in a scrape in grassy soil or humus in various locations: under a rock on a steep slope or on a rock ledge, among epiphytic plants on a tree branch, or under a log or branch on the ground, making the two or three eggs that it lays vulnerable to predators such as cats, stoats, weasels, possum, and wild dogs.

Threats are not well understood. Predation by cats and hedgehogs is a problem for ground nesting falcons and it is likely that stoats and other mustelids prey on eggs and nestlings in ground and tree nests, and rats may do the same. A recent study suggests that adult falcons are less able to defend their nest from predators than previously thought. Loss of habitat contributes to their decline, and like many birds of prey overseas, they are also threatened by electrocution on power poles containing transformers. For further information see:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/birds/land-birds/nz-falcon-karearea/> and www.wingspan.co.nz

RAFTING the RANGITIKEI



Don't miss the presentation by Marion & Robyn at the May meeting!



Rafting the Rangitikei (and a few fish)

Awakino River Lodge



The Awakino River has been described as one of the great rivers in the North Island providing top-quality backcountry fishing. It holds excellent stocks of rainbow and brown trout in a beautiful setting. When you stay at the Awakino, you'll experience the freedom, isolation and adventure of the West Coast of New Zealand in the tiny coastal settlement of Awakino. The Lodge is unhosted and self catering, all you need is your food.

Check the web site for all other details.

<http://www.awakinoriverlodge.co.nz>

or contact Garry at awakinolodge@gmail.com or 021 775 397

CLUB CHAMPS

The Wellington Flyfishers Club Fly fishing Championships were held on the Ruamahunga River on Saturday the 18th April 2015 in what could only be described as excellent fishing conditions. Overcast skies with little wind and the river, while up somewhat on the low summer levels, had a hint of colour and just looked ideal.

Unfortunately somebody forgot to tell the fish and the six anglers made up of three experienced competition fishermen and three novice anglers really struggled all day with only a total of eight fish caught for six hours of fishing.

Mike Hall however had something to cheer about, catching his first trout on a fly.

Graham Evans repeated his success from last year with Paul Baker second and Strato Cotsilinis third.

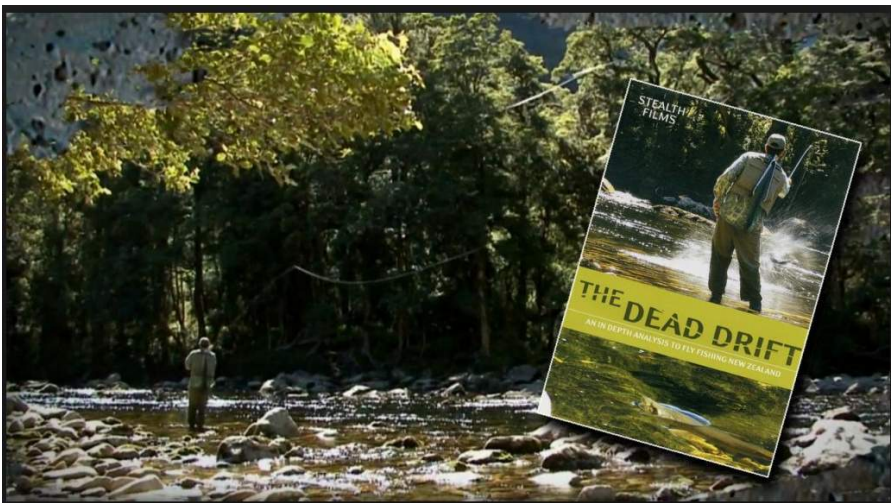
Well done Graham.



NEW DVDs

Here are two DVDs on tactics to catch fish when things are going the fish's way: **THE DEAD DRIFT & STEALTH WITH A FLY** by South Island fish guide Dean Bell.

THE DEAD DRIFT: This is Dean's first DVD on how to catch fish - to give you a better chance of catching fish. In this DVD Dean shows him catching the fish then shows the angler how he caught the fish. A good DVD on the methods used to approach the fish to get that hook up.



STEALTH WITH A FLY: This is Dean's Second DVD. Dean gets the angler to fish like he would for a day out on the river, i.e. that gear he would use, tactics and lets him in on a fish Dean's found. Then Dean steps in after fish is spooked and shows the angler on how to do things to catch a fish and not spook it.

As the day goes on you see a change in the average angler normal 0 to 1 fish a day fishing trip to a double/ triple catch rate day.

These DVDs will make you think about the little things on how we fish, such as casting, where we stand in the river, and the approach to catch fish.

THE LIBRARIAN

An Old Friendly River

It had been a few years since I had been into this small stream, but once there it was like meeting up with an old friend. There was the long drive, the parking of the car and then the long walk into the starting point of my fishing day. But for some reason it all seemed to go so fast in the face of the anticipation. Would the meeting be like the last time I was here? Would the river be as kind and welcoming? Along the track taking all the views in, I was amazed at how serene the weather was, perfectly matching my mood, but strange in the face of the forecast. I reached the track that went down to the river, and wondered if this was the one I should take, knowing that my usual track was further upstream and that there were other tracks that I could take if my old friend wanted me to continue the conversation.

Looking at the perfectly flat pool carefully in case I disturbed anything, I quickly rigged up but then spent some time with the age old question – what fly to use, one, two or a mix? Eventually I decided on a Foam Humpy with a Pheasant Tail a good distance behind, as this had worked for me here last time, and negated the use of an indicator. Carefully I walked up the edge of the pool, trying not to make waves in the still water, and spent a lot of time staring into the water trying to see the trout before they saw me, and in doing so I relied on the old Dick Fraser saying “if in doubt whip it out”. So I made a lot of casts in those lower pools, getting a lot of refusals. But then I have yet to see a rock lying on the bottom take anything I have offered it.

After a couple of eventful, but fishless hours (not counting the big eel I saw - a first for this place), I came to a deep pool by a cliff that now seemed impassable but in my memory I could remember wading up one side and only getting slightly wet. This time I got more than slightly wet, in fact the clear water that looked thigh deep was nearly up to my armpits, and as it only got deeper from then on I decided to back track. For once I had thought to hold pack and camera up higher than the top of the water. Funny how things that are supposed to be water resistant are found not to be....

Because the day was warm and still, the heat of the rocks in the river bed soon dried me out, well most of me as I made my way back to the main track and then onto my normal drop in. Looking at the hills and trees around the river I figured that I had only missed out on about 100 yards of fishing, but now the question remained - what was in those yards. Ah save it for another day as I can hear the river calling.

Down to my favourite pool and a careful, and long stop, to survey the pool meant that I saw my first fish, exactly where I had seen him in the previous trips in this river. Time to watch where he was feeding and a nice gently cast ahead of him saw him slowly go over to where the nymph would be, and then a gentle cock of his fins and he headed off for his lair under the big rock, this time without my fly. Knowing that I wouldn't see him again I wound in and walked on upstream to another pool around the corner. But as it had been a while since I had been there the river had changed and pools had become shallow runs, and some of the normal shallow runs were now deeper so it was getting on in time as I just had to cast in these spots, seeing one fish exactly 2 seconds after it had seen me and decided to do laps of the pool and possibly scare anything else there.

I bashed my way up to the main track and then ran along it to get to another part of the river that I had never fished before, and as it was further along than I thought I knew my fishing time was going to be cut short, especially as the black clouds were starting to roll in from the hill tops. Getting nice long drifts through a number of pools didn't see any excitement so after a while I cut my losses and waded back down stream to the exit point, then started the long trip back to the car and home.

On the drive back to Wellington I reflected on the visit, and thought that it was great to meet up with my old friend, and I shouldn't be so slack in future and make more of an effort to reach out to these places that have meant so much to me.

Jeff Wood

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

This is a 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.

Rules

- The photo must be one you have taken yourself
- The photo size must be A5 (15cm x 21 cm)
- The photo must be portrait orientation (i.e. same size and orientation as the magazine cover)

Hand your photo to the front desk and a committee member will pin it up on the board and allocate a number.

Photos will be judged by club members at the AGM.

CLUB EVENTS THIS MONTH

ON-STREAM DAY

Next onstream day - Saturday 30th

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 – closed for winter

The open day held Sunday 22nd February 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 had 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.

FishScene Ltd

FlyFishing and FlyTying Specialists

Riverworks Drymax Neoprene Waders

Made from durable Neoprene, the Drymax wader is a good quality, comfortable wader which represents excellent value for money. They provide good insulation from the cold and are stitched, glued and taped for a dependable water tight seal. These are perfect for the experienced and entry level angler.



- 4mm Neoprene
- Stitched, glued and taped seams
- Waterproof internal cell phone pocket
- PVC boots lined with neoprene
- Armourtek knee pads

Jeff Wood

Ph: 021 204 8978

E: fishscene@live.com

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.



Chris Paulin
5lb rainbow
Otaki

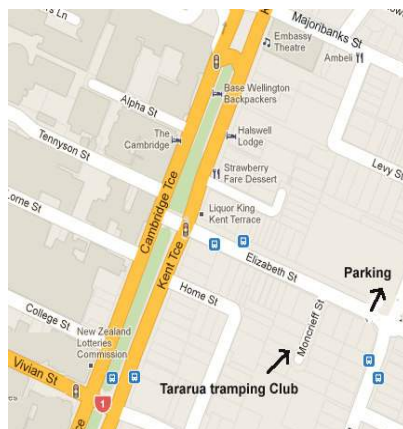
MEETING VENUE (TARARUA TRAMPING CLUB ROOMS) 4 Moncrieff St., Mt. Victoria

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.

May

Dates: 23-24th

Destination: Rangitikei

Organizer: Strato 386 3740

Upcoming trips:

June
July

Rotorua
Turangi

20th & 21st
18th & 19th

Feather Merchants Fly of the Month



Venue: Tararua Tramping Club Library
Monday 18th May, 7.30pm
(Access through side door on north side of building)

Olive Woolly Bugger

Another essential pattern for Taupo rivers and lakes. The Olive WB seems particularly attractive in and around the Great Lake. The seductive pulsating action created with the right retrieve will attract both Rainbows and Browns.



Hook TMC 5262 size 4-10
Thread 3/0 Danville black
Weight Lead wire (optional)
Tail WB marabou feather
Rib Wire or oval tinsel
Hackle Roster or hen feather
Body Chenille

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 18th 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 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 11th May

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

FISH'N TIPS

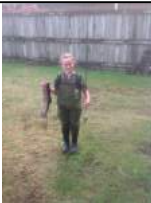
Autumn brings cooler temperatures and fish turn their minds to breeding rather than feeding. Heavy nymphs fished through deeper drop-offs may produce results. Don't forget to release large breeding fish will ensure good stocks of juvenile fish for the future. Many smaller local streams and rivers are closed for winter to protect the breeding grounds – a good time to turn your attention to Taupo.



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 2015 - 31 March 2016.

Stirling Sports heaviest fish (junior)

Christie Moncrieff, 1.55 kg, rainbow, Tongariro

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)

Rob McIntyre, 6 ¼ lb (2.83kg), Rainbow, Tongariro

Runners up:

Chris Paulin, 5lb rainbow, Otaki

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 2015 - 31 March 2016

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

Joining fee \$10 Overseas Newsletter postage \$45