

Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.



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APRIL 2016

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Cover: Taruarau River, Hawkes Bay by Keith Mackenzie

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 April

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

DIDYMO DAVE

A well -known personality from Turangi with a passion for looking after the environment and up to date knowledge on current happenings in the Taupo area.

**A great speaker
Not to be missed**

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:	8 and 10 th
Fly Tying:	18 th
On-Stream Day:	24 th
Casting practice:	Sundays
Capital trout Centre:	3 rd

Future Club Meetings:

May 2nd: AGM +



New Members

Alex Cunningham

President's Report

By the time you read this magazine Easter will have come and gone and hopefully you have been able to challenge a few fish in between eating Easter eggs and chocolate bunnies.

A couple of recent visits to the Wainui has confirmed that the trout are still actively chasing cicadas and the condition of the fish has been excellent. The next cold snap will see the end of the cicada season so make the best of it while it is still here.

The public and club protestations over the proposed carp farm appears to be bearing fruit as the supplier of the land and geothermal energy (Genesis) has had second thoughts due to the public backlash.

May will be our annual general meeting and once again we are looking for members to join the club committee. This is not an onerous job with one, one hour meeting a month after work. The existing committee needs your support as many of the current committee members have been there for more than ten years and we need to spread the load.

We are getting very mixed reports from Taupo with some suggesting that the fish are in excellent condition and size and are looking forward to the winter run while others are experiencing skinny fish, especially when harling. I suspect that many of the skinny fish are fish which have returned from last year's spawning run and are a prime target for shore fisherman and harlers while the better fish are deeper down, feeding on the smelt, which will be trying to escape the summer heat. Browns are starting to appear in the Tongariro so get your winter fishing gear ready.

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Sage 2250 reel

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444 Cuba Street, Alicetown, Lower Hutt, P O Box 33 206, Petone,
Wellington, New Zealand
Telephone: 0064-4-589 9500 Facsimile: 0064-4-589 9520

NYMPHING TAUPO

Originally, virtually all fishing of the main spawning rivers running into Lake Taupo during the winter was using a sinking line downstream and across with feathered lures.

However from the 1970's, more and more anglers found that nymphing, especially with glo bugs and muppets could be deadly (if you can call that nymphing). Surprisingly, fishing with natural nymphs (e.g. hare & coppers, pheasant tails, prince nymphs etc) can also be very productive. I say surprisingly because the spawning rainbows are not meant to be feeding.

The examination of stomach contents does bear this out although the early runners will often be found to have caddis in their stomachs and jacks in particular will often be found to have roe present in their digestive system.

As with wet lining, the main factor influencing success is the angler's ability to get the nymphs (including glo bugs etc) down to where the fish are i.e. on the bottom.

Many anglers achieve this objective by loading up their flies with as much weight as they can possibly cast but the presentation of the flies is equally as important.

The development of glo bugs and its variations certainly became very popular but experience has shown that these flies were best first thing in the morning and in low light conditions or discoloured water. Many anglers use a two fly rig whereby they fish a much heavier nymph in conjunction with the glo bug (or natural). Some will put the heavy nymph on the point with the glo bug on a dropper above whereas others will fish the glo bug on the point attached to the bomb either by way of micro rings or swivels, or simply off the bend of the hook. Others will use split shot above a micro ring in preference to a heavy bomb but the objective is the same, you have to get the fly down to the fish.

The use of natural nymphs fished without a bomb can be very effective in the shallower pools where there is no great current flow.

Unless you are using the Czech nymphing technique, most anglers will use some sort of strike indicator which often resemble dead budgies but these oversized indicators do provide their own problems. Casting becomes more difficult and the presentation of the nymphs can be less effective. The presentation of the nymphs in

conjunction with the strike indicator can have a significant effect on your success rate. I keep repeating that you must get the flies to the required depth and anglers often do not understand that the way they present the flies has a major bearing on whether this objective is achieved.

Casting the flies directly upstream with a beautiful straight line between rod and strike indicator and strike indicator to the flies, while looking very proficient does not achieve the objective. If there is no slack between the strike indicator and the flies, the current will grab the strike indicator and rush it downstream pulling the flies behind them. There is absolutely no chance of the flies sinking to the required depth especially over a short distance.

It is therefore very important to have as much slack between your strike indicator and the flies as possible which can be achieved by using a lob cast or after casting upstream, completing an upstream mend so that the strike indicator ends up above the flies. By the time the strike indicator has travelled downstream and the leader is tight, the flies have had a chance to sink to the strike zone.

It is important to try and visualise where your quarry may be sitting and to then cast well above that position to give the flies time to reach their destination. The position that you should be aiming for should be only a few metres long rather than trying to achieve the ultimate drift through a twenty metre stretch of the river. Once you are confident that the flies have passed through the strike zone you then move upstream a metre or two and try again visualising the next possible lie.

The Tongariro because of its long pools, gives anglers plenty of scope to drift their flies into the correct position but the smaller rivers which have far more pocket water and very short pools often require the use of much heavier nymphs and muppets rather than glo bugs to get the flies to the bottom as soon as possible. It is also important to remember that the fish are trying to stay out of the current as much as possible and will often therefore be hidden behind debris in the rivers or under banks etc. You should therefore be prepared to lose a number of flies during a morning's fishing especially if you are fishing the likes of the Waitahanui, Hinemaiaia, Tauranga Taupo and Waiotaka. A good excuse to learn to tie your own.

Strato



189 Taupahi Rd **Turangi**

HANAK Czech Nymph Rods (Champion and Alpen Nymph) 9ft 6 – extendable to 10ft 6 and 11ft

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or www.turangifyfish.com

PH 07 3867929

MOHAKA TRIP

The Mohaka club trip again proved to be one of the most popular of the year with eight anglers plus a supporter enjoying the relaxed nature of the Time Out Lodge (we had it to ourselves). More importantly everyone caught fish although many of the bigger ones escaped with broken leaders and lost flies.

Saturday morning saw us go straight to our favourite spot only to find anglers already there so we took the long drive to Te Hoe. A few fish were caught below the bridge but in the afternoon we took the climb upstream. The river was somewhat higher than we had anticipated given the drought conditions but the Napier area had had some rain so river crossings were carried out carefully. These were still a challenge for some of the newer anglers so hopefully they gained some confidence from group crossings. The further we ventured upstream, the better the fishing became and overall we ended up with approximately 40 fish for the day ranging from 1/4lb to 4lb.

Sunday saw us again at our favourite spot only to be beaten again but we persevered downstream and two nice 5lb'ers from a backwater confirmed the excellent condition that the fish were this year.

We then ventured up above the main highway bridge only to find three other groups already there and although we plucked a few small fish from one stretch it was time to make the long trip home. There is no doubt that the Mohaka seems to be our most popular and productive trip each year so we will be looking forward to next year's trip.

Rangitikei this month will be another challenge and hopefully a successful one for those that join us.

Strato

NOTICE OF AGM

The 2016 Wellington Flyfishers Club AGM
will be held at
the Tararua Tramping Club meeting rooms on May 2nd.
Any club members wishing to raise any matters should contact a
committee member prior.

ANNUAL FLY FISHING COMPETITION

This season Club Fly Fishing Competition is to held on the Ruamahanga River on Saturday 24 April. Once again we will pair any anglers new to competition fishing alongside the more experienced anglers. It's a fun event and always a chance to learn new skills from others. The competition is 'catch and release', but other than that, normal F&G rules apply.

Competitors who have not previously qualified to fish at the Sports Fly fishing NZ Nationals, will also get bonus points for every fish caught, which means there is still a chance of winning the handicap competition, even if you don't win the Club Trophy.

Please register your interest with Paul Baker at
wellingtonflyfishers@paradise.net.nz or call 970-2595 after-hours.

It will be an all-day event, starting at 7:00 meeting at the river reserve beside the Gladstone Bridge. Entries will need to close by Sunday evening 17 April.

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Shop Online: www.FishScene.co.nz

Jeff Wood

Ph: 021 204 8978

E: fishscene@live.com

SHOP: 1c Taurima Street, Hataitai Village, Wellington
Just through the tunnel

Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 9am – 5.30pm

Saturday: 9am – 1pm

CLUB EVENTS THIS MONTH

ON-STREAM DAY

Next onstream day - Sunday 24th

The On-Stream Day will be on the Wainuiomata River, weather permitting. 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 (from 10th Apr.)

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 – Sunday 3rd April

As this is the end of daylight saving, you can sleep in a bit before coming to lend a hand.

This is the last Open day for the season until we begin again in September.

Registrations/licences will be available from the usual outlets:-
Steves Fishing Shop, Ghuznee Street
FishScene, Hataitai Village, Hunting & Fishing, Alicetown

Anyone who can help out on the day please phone Strato (386-3740, hm; 387-7878 wk). We need members to assist with fishing, marshalling, issuing tickets and certificates, gutting fish, selling sausages etc, so please mark your calendars.

This is a departure from our usual dates, as many people are looking for a holiday activity for their children. Please mark this date on your calendar and contact Strato if you can assist.

**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.



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.

Upcoming trips:

Dates	Destination	Organiser
April 9-10 th	Rangitikei	Strato
May		Strato

Feather Merchants Fly of the Month



Venue: Tararua Tramping Club Library
Monday 17th , 7.30pm

(Access through side door on north side of building)

Prince Nymph

This is another essential nymph pattern. Relatively easy to tie and simple to fish with. Great for fishing singly in larger rivers throughout the open season. Fish a size 12 under a small indicator on a 10 ft level leader or a leader made up of half 8 pound and half 5-6 pound.



Hook	TMC 5262 or 3761 size 10-16
Thread	Black 6/0
Weight	Gold or black tungsten bead and lead wire
Rib	Gold oval tinsel or wire
Tail	Brown goose biots
Body	Peacock herl
Wing	White goose biots
Legs	Brown or ginger hackle fibres

If anyone has suggestions for fly patterns they would like to see tied at the flytiding meetings please let Gordon know 027 494 6487. This will give an opportunity to plan ahead and order materials well in advance.

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2013 - 2014 Fly Catalogue pdf

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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Deadline for the next issue is **10pm Monday 17th**

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. (Attached files often result in incoming emails being treated as spam and being deleted by the server).

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' or 'junk')

COMMITTEE MEETING – 5.45 pm, second Tuesday every month.

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.

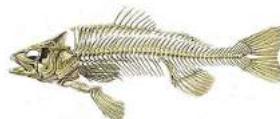
THE HELPDESK

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

Trout spawn during the cooler months and become much more agitated and aggressive in autumn as they build up condition. This is the reason why autumn is a great time to fish with streamers.

Aggressive, territorial trout are more likely to chase and noperuilly take streamers and other flies that may represent a threat or disturbance to a trout preparing to spawn. Think about fly size, profile and color with the aim of irritating an already cranky fish.



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)

George Robinson, 1.57kg.

Hunting & Fishing heaviest fish (senior)

Paul Baker, 3.6kg, rainbow, Lake O

(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

Nigel Robinson, 1.98kg, 51cm, CF 53.9

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

Runners up:

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

* Calculate your condition factor on the Wellington Flyfishers website.

WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB MISSION

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

2015-16 COMMITTEE

President	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
Past President	Paul Baker	970-2595
Vice President		
Secretary	Heather Millar	386-3049
Treasurer	Carmen Cotsilinis	386-3740
Newsletter Editor	Chris Paulin	027 874 7326
Librarian	Warren Horne	386-3049
Website	Peter Nagle	479-4944
Club Trips	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
	Piero Bertocchi	027 554 0960
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
	Linda Brown	027 2304770

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

Enquiries: kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com



WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB(INC).
PO Box 9236, Marion Square, Wellington 6141, New Zealand

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