

TIGHT LINES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.

DECEMBER 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.



CLUB MEETING

Monday 7th December

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

MEGA SALMON ON FLY

A presentation by Strato and Peter on their Alaskan trip
Including a video by Greg du Bern's "Wetter Productions"

+

Christmas social evening **Partners welcome**

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: 19-20th
Fly Tying: 21st
On-Stream Day: 13th
Casting practice: 6pm Wednesdays
Capital trout Centre: 17th January



Future Club Meetings:

January: no meeting



New Members

James Whistler
Nick Tramoundanas

President's Report

The new season is into its second month and the brown trout in the Hutt and Wainui will be actively feeding on mayfly and caddis nymphs and starting to look to the surface for terrestrials.

I was recently on the Hutt River (not fishing) and turned over a few stones in an area which had recently been graded. I was pleasantly surprised to see good numbers of horn cased caddis and large mayfly nymphs together with the odd creeper.

Hopefully the weather over the next few weeks improves and we all get a chance to get out onto the water.

The Hutt Anglers Club recently celebrated its 40th anniversary and I was privileged to attend their celebrations. The club certainly seems to be in good heart and this is a reflection on what I see as an excellent committee. The Hutt Club fly tiers are also to be commended on winning the inter-club fly tying competition in one of the closest competitions we've had since it started some years ago. The standard of tying has certainly improved all round and it was great to see a good turn out from the Wellington Club supporting the tiers. Each club had to provide a judge and thanks go to John Bell for taking this on, also thanks to my fellow tiers Jim McLean and Gordon Baker. Kapiti are to be commended on an excellent venue and a great supper.

I thought I heard a cicada today but perhaps it was just my old knees creaking. I am looking forward to fishing Otamangakau in the float tubes in December so hopefully some of you will join us on the club trip.

Safe holidays.

Strato



**Huge range of new flytying gear
from Feather Merchants**

**Great value vacuum packers
New extendable vehicle rod tubes**

**New Simms "Waypoint"
interchangeable back, waist and
chest packs**

The Flyfishing Experts

Hutt Valley Hunting & Fishing NZ
444 Cuba Street, Alicetown, Lower Hutt, P O Box 33 206, Petone,
Wellington, New Zealand

Polluted Inheritance

New Zealand's Freshwater Crisis

[Mike Joy](#)



The parlous state of our freshwater ecosystems is just one signal that we face a more widespread, and unprecedented, environmental crisis.

New Zealand's dairy industry is big business. But what are the hidden – and not so hidden – costs of intensive farming? Evidence presented here by ecologist Mike Joy demonstrates that intensive dairy farming has degraded our freshwater rivers, streams and lakes to an alarming degree. This situation, he argues, has arisen primarily through governmental policy that prioritises short-term economic growth over long-term environmental sustainability. This BWB Text is a call to arms, urging New Zealand to change course or risk the wellbeing of future generations.

Available in paperback and ebook formats from booksellers. In addition to major retailers, the ebook is available direct (Bridget Williams Books <http://bwb.co.nz>) in formats to suit all reading devices.

OCEANIA FLYFISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Oceania Flyfishing Championships which is a bi-Annual competition between teams from Australia , New Zealand and Canada was held recently in Ballarat Australia. Fishing conditions were tough and although the top individual honours went to Chris Young of New Zealand the winning team was a team from Australia with New Zealand teams second and third.

Wellington Flyfishers Club members Paul Baker and Tony Houpt performed very well with third and fifth individual placings, Well done guys.

How clean are our rivers?

As New Zealand tries to squeeze maximum value out of its natural resources, conflicts over water are coming to a boil. We're fast approaching water resource limits in some parts of the country, and pollution issues are threatening our clean, green brand.

Despite a comprehensive clean-up of dirty 'point-source' discharges in the 1990s, water quality in many of our lakes and rivers is still declining. The cause this time is 'diffuse-source' pollution associated with intensive land use, particularly pastoral farming.

Accusations of dirty dairying, conflicts over irrigation proposals, and the swimmable status of our waters continue to grab headlines.

Status and trends in water quality

Sustained national-scale monitoring is fundamental to determining the state of our freshwaters, the impacts of land use changes, and the success of clean-up efforts. The country's only national-scale monitoring programme, the National Rivers Water Quality Network (NRWQN), is operated by NIWA. Currently, this provides the best source of national-scale water quality data in New Zealand. The network regularly samples 77 sites, including 35 major rivers that drain 50 percent of our land area. NRWQN data are freely available online.

Regional councils also monitor water quality for state of the environment (SoE) reporting at about 500 sites.

The overall picture emerging is that our water quality, while generally good by international standards, is declining. Many rivers show excessive nutrients, reduced visual clarity due to suspended sediments, and pollution by faecal bacteria. Water quality is appreciably worse at several hundred sites in lowland rivers monitored by regional councils.

Trends in NRWQN data between 1989 and 2007 (published on the MfE website) show an overall degradation in water quality in our major rivers. Over that period, nitrogen and phosphorus – key plant nutrients added in fertilisers – increased strongly at many sites. Nitrogen increased by about 1.4 percent per annum over most of the country, but remained steady at pristine sites like the Haast River; no sites recorded a drop in nitrogen concentrations. Trends for phosphorus were mostly upwards. Another cause for concern is

that upward trends for temperature, nitrogen, and phosphorus have strengthened in recent years compared with the period 1989–2003.

There were no statistically significant or meaningful decreases. A 'meaningful' trend is one which is statistically significant, with a rate of change greater than 1% per annum, and which is likely to be environmentally meaningful (being perceptible in less than a human lifetime). A 'significant' trend is one which is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level, but with a rate of change less than 1% per annum (which is unlikely to be environmentally meaningful). The majority of data points showed 'statistically meaningful increase'. Water quality information for lakes, groundwater, and estuaries is much patchier, as there is currently no national-scale monitoring for these water bodies. (The NRWQN monitored 35 lakes from 1989 until 1996, when funding for lake monitoring was cut.) Regional council monitoring published by MfE in 2006 tells us that many of our lakes are in bad shape: of 134 lakes monitored, 56 percent are 'eutrophic' or worse. This means they suffer from nutrient enrichment that promotes frequent algal blooms, including major blooms of toxic cyanobacteria, a type of algae that has plagued central North Island and some South Island lakes over the past decade.

These changes all have consequences for how we use our freshwater resources – whether it's for drinking, stock watering, food harvesting, or recreational activities – and for their aesthetic qualities, ecological functioning, and spiritual integrity or 'mauri'.

Contaminants from the land

The monitoring shows that diffuse pollution from land use is overwhelmingly the main cause of water quality degradation in New Zealand today. Research and monitoring have identified nitrogen (particularly its dissolved form, nitrate), phosphorus, faecal microbes, and sediments as the key contaminants from diffuse sources.

Pastoral farming – which accounts for 40 percent of New Zealand's land area – is undoubtedly the main source of diffuse pollution. Evidence from the NRWQN and catchment studies generally show a gradient in water quality from excellent in native forest, to good in

plantation forest, to poor in pastoral and urban streams. Streams in dairy land are among the most polluted.

There is no doubt that our declining river water quality over the last 20 years is associated with intensification of pastoral farming and the conversion of drystock farmland to dairy farming, particularly in Waikato, Southland, and Canterbury. For example, between 1992 and 2002, the number of cows in Waikato increased by 37 percent; during the same period nitrogen levels in the region's streams increased by 40 percent and phosphorus levels went up by 25 percent.

We know that New Zealand's aquatic systems are particularly sensitive to nitrogen and phosphorus, so even small increases can have marked effects.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) reported in 2008 that the average nitrogen lost from the soil on dairy farms was 39 kilograms per hectare per year, compared with 12 kilograms for deer farms and 8 kilograms for sheep and beef farms. Substantial quantities of nutrients, sediments, and faecal bacteria can wash into pastoral streams, particularly on steep country, during rainstorms. Cattle also cause significant damage to 'riparian' habitats along the edges of streams, wetlands, and lakes. This can radically alter stream ecology by increasing sediment loads (reducing water clarity) and removing riparian plants, which are an important natural feature of streams. These plants provide cover for fish and invertebrates, and shade the water. Without this shade, the higher water temperatures and light levels become stressful for some stream species. When coupled with nutrient enrichment, they promote the growth of periphyton (nuisance riverbed algae) and undesirable water weeds in summer when water flow is low. There is now considerable evidence that the combined effect of light exposure, bank damage by livestock, and poor water quality has substantially degraded the ecological health of pastoral streams. Nutrient enrichment, when combined with sediments and other



stressors, can cause irreversible shifts in aquatic ecosystems, particularly in downstream lakes and estuaries.

Once they reach coastal waters, the combined effects of sediments, nutrients, and urban contaminants (such as heavy metals washed off roads and roofs) degrade water quality, ecosystems, and fisheries. In addition, faecal microbes render shellfish unfit for human consumption, which reduces opportunities for kaimoana harvest, and threatens New Zealand's burgeoning aquaculture industry.

The picture is further complicated by time lags in groundwater systems, with water sometimes taking decades after falling as rain before emerging as springs into surface water. Because of these time lags in some catchments, we're only now seeing the effects of farming practices in the '60s and '70s, and it's going to be another 30–40 years before we see the effects of current practices.

Fixing the problems: lessons from research

Restoring water quality to its original state, or even rehabilitating lakes and rivers to a swimmable condition, can be an expensive business. Efforts to stem pollution and repair the damage must be targeted and cost-effective. Science can help guide mitigation measures where they'll give the 'biggest bang for buck' by identifying the key contaminants, pollution hotspots, and pathways in different catchments. Sophisticated computer models that can model nutrient and sediment transport and the dynamics of water flow are playing an increasingly important role in this.

Riparian and wetland areas often occupy less than 10 percent of the catchment, but can partially buffer waters from the worst effects of intensive pastoral agriculture. They do this by filtering contaminants, shading streams, and excluding livestock from water bodies.

But riparian buffers can do little with nutrients that are fast-tracked into streams by under-field tile drains, particularly in high rainfall areas. Tile drains are used under pastures in poor-draining areas, particularly on flat land with heavy clay soils. Annual nitrogen losses from tile drains in intensively grazed dairy pastures in New Zealand commonly range from 20–60 kilograms of nitrogen per hectare, which can pose a significant threat to sensitive receiving waters, including estuaries.

Artificial or 'constructed' wetlands offer a cost-effective, practical option for intercepting tile drainage flows and treating contaminants. Denitrifying bacteria in the wetlands remove nitrogen (including nitrate) by converting it to nitrogen gas. Collaborations between the dairy industry, scientists, and local government are identifying mitigation measures that will work in different parts of New Zealand through the Best Practice Catchments for Sustainable Dairying programme. This industry-initiated programme, jointly funded by MAF and DairyNZ, is identifying and testing a host of best management practices (BMPs) farmers can apply to minimise impacts on streams. These include: better handling of dairy shed effluents; nutrient budgeting to balance nutrient inputs with soil needs; providing herd homes to minimise soil damage in wet weather; and excluding stock from the streams by installing bridges, culverts, and riparian fencing.

Dr Fiona Proffitt, NIWA science writer

<https://www.niwa.co.nz/publications/wa/water-atmosphere-1-july-2010/how-clean-are-our-rivers>

Entries are open for the Sports Fly Fishing NZ Wellington Regional Fly Fishing Competition

To be held on the Ruamahanga River on Sunday 13 December 2015. Entry forms are available on the SFFNZ Website:
<http://www.sffnz.org.nz/index.cfm/pageid/5/ViewPage/Calendar-Entry-Forms>

Controllers are also required for this event. This is an ideal opportunity to pick up on techniques and skills from some top anglers.

For more details, contact Paul Baker at
paulbaker@paradise.net.nz or 970 2595

CLUB EVENTS THIS MONTH

ON-STREAM DAY

Next onstream day - Sunday 13th

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 6 pm Wednesdays

No casting practice over Christmas/New Year – last practice 23rd

December, resumes **13th January**. Casting tuition is available throughout summer until daylight saving ends, 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 – 17th January 2016

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
19-20 th	Otamangakau Float Tubing	Strato

Manganui-a-teo Trip report

Despite a not too promising weather forecast Strato, John and Iki braved the elements and set up camp at the Ruatiti Domain.

The river was high when we arrived and was even worse the following morning after overnight rain.

Wading was difficult and there was no possibility of crossing the river to our favourite pools so we had to be content with fishing any small run we could find. However you cant beat the scenery of this place and the dawn chorus of tuis and a multitude of other birds has us up early each morning despite the persistent drizzle.

The highlight of the trip was John's first rainbows on the fly and everyone at least hooked into a fish with twelve landed.

I think we may try again later in the season.

Feather Merchants Fly of the Month



Venue: Tararua Tramping Club Library
Monday 21st December, 7.30pm
(Access through side door on north side of building)

Emergers

Having a few emergers in your flybox in summer can solve a few onstream problems. Emergers and insects trapped in the surface film make up an proportion of trout diet during summer and can be fished day and night.

Emerging caddis, mayflies and midges can range in size from 14 to very small. Even the smallest flies can attract large fish. Fished on fine tippetts with maybe a low floating dry fly as an indicator – this can be an effective and fun way to fish.



Hook	TMC 9300 or 2487 size 14-20
Thread	8/0 or similar fine thread – colour to suit body
Body	Dubbed fur
Wing	Fine poly wing or similar
Thorax	Dubbed fur
Legs	Variegated rubber or guard hairs

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.

A screenshot of the Feather Merchants website. The page features a large image of a trout on the left and a circular logo for 'FUTURE RIVERS SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES' on the right. The main content area includes a welcome message, a statement of support for the Future River Initiative, and a link to a 2013-2014 Fly Catalogue.pdf. The logo includes the text 'EST. 1971' and 'www.futureivers.co.nz SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES'. Below the logo, it says 'Introducing Future Rivers Future Rivers is a new initiative and is about environmentally conscious businesses working together'.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Deadline for the next issue is **10pm Monday 18th January**

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, Monday 14th December

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 are as sensitive to sound and vibration as they are to visual warnings. Stealth is an essential part of sight-fishing. Walk lightly on the bank and wade slowly without splashing.

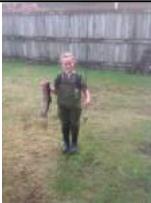
When approaching a stream, fish the water closest to you first. A long cast may be the satisfying result of last week's practice session, but it will spook all the fish between you and where the fly lands.



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)

Darren Lyle, 3.175kg, brown, Grey River

(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)

Darren Lyle, 3.175kg, brown, Grey River

Runners up:

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

* Calculate your condition factor online at the Wellington Flyfishers

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	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	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