

# Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC



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## FEBRUARY 2016

### CONTENTS

Current Meeting .....	3
New Members .....	3
Future Club Meetings.....	3
President's Page.....	4
Hunting & Fishing .....	5
Articles .....	6-15
Club Information & Updates.....	16-17
On-Stream Day .....	16
Casting Practice.....	16
Capital Trout Centre.....	16
Meeting Room venue & map .....	17
Club Trips.....	17
Umpqua fly of the Month.....	18
Newsletter Contributions.....	19
Committee Meeting.....	19
Helpdesk .....	19
Fish'n Tips.....	20
Club Website.....	20
Best Fish .....	20
Club Committee Information .....	21



**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 1<sup>st</sup> February**

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

### **FISHING in PATAGONIA**

#### **Warren Home**

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: 6<sup>th</sup>  
Fly Tying: 15<sup>th</sup>  
On-Stream Day: 21<sup>st</sup>  
Casting practice: 6pm Wednesdays  
Capital trout Centre: 28<sup>th</sup>

#### **Future Club Meetings:**

March:



#### **New Members**

David Molnar  
Braedon de Lange

## **President's Report**

Christmas has come and gone and we have a new year ahead. I hope you all had a relaxing break and an opportunity to wet a line.

As you are aware we had a few problems at the pond over Christmas but due to the great help of many of our club members, the ponds have been completely cleaned and are ready for the new year. Our new shipment of trout will arrive on the 13<sup>th</sup> February and we are looking at an Open Day on the 21<sup>st</sup> February.

The issue of the Grass Carp farm north of Taupo has reached the stage now where the submissions that have been forwarded by various parties, including this club, will be sent to Government for consideration.

Like ourselves, the Taupo Fishery Advisory Council have some concerns over the application but with support from the Department of Conservation and Auckland Fish & Game, I suspect the application will ultimately get the green light.

Elsewhere in this magazine is a copy of the responses we received from the Department of Conservation Permissions Advisor Liane Gilbert.

Hot and dry summery conditions throughout the country have left many rivers with toxic blooms and poor water conditions.

Dogs are particularly susceptible and although most of the toxic blooms are said to be harmless for humans, check with the local Fish & Game Council before setting out on any trips.

It is important that your trips do not turn out to be a disaster and while some of us are tempted to often fish alone, the recent death of a Hastings club member on a club trip, shows that accidents can happen and fishing alone only heightens the risk.

Be safe and enjoy your fishing.

**Strato**



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## **FISH THE LITTLE STREAMS**

How often when driving the main highways do we pass over a bridge and look at the little stream below, wondering whether it holds trout and if so, how to get there. Generally, these thoughts are but temporary ones and we find our next fishing adventure is again to a river we know well and we are often faced with other anglers and the whole experience is not quite what we were hoping for.

Next time you see one of those small streams, contact Fish & Game to see if the river has trout stocks and if so find out what the access requirements are and make sure you contact the landowners. These excursions can be very rewarding.

Prior to Christmas I had the opportunity to fish one of these streams that we often see from the main highway and a friend contacted the various landowners to get the necessary permission.

The day turned out slightly overcast and after a half hour drive down bumpy tracks, we arrived at the willow lined stream.

We had hoped that the fish would be feeding on the surface and after scrambling down a bank and making our way through the undergrowth full of blackberry, the willow lined stream looked a picture. Within minutes we had seen a couple of rises under the willows and for the next few hours, bow and arrow casts and side arm casts became the order of the day.

It is unlikely that these fish would have seen many anglers although footprints did indicate that we were not the only ones to have fished it recently.

The river only held brown trout, many of which were in the 2lb – 3lb range but with the occasional bigger one. Between the three of us we must have hooked ten on the dry fly but bringing them to the net was a different story with tree roots and overhanging branches being definitely on the fish's side. A few however did come to the net especially later on in the evening just on dusk, where we found a few fish out in the open feeding on the surface despite light drizzle falling. We only just managed to get back to the car before the rain set in.

All in all it was quite a satisfying day even though it was a 6am start and arriving home at 2am the following morning. Try it, but wear an old pair of waders for those blackberries.

*Strato*

**Subject: Submission on the application to transfer and release of restricted fish, grass and silver carp, into artificial tanks at a proposed new fish farm to be located in an industrial zone, at 887 Rakaunui Road in Taupo.**

Thank you for your submission on the application to release grass and silver carp into artificial tanks at a proposed new fish farm to be located in an industrial zone, at 887 Rakaunui Road in Taupo.

The Department conducted a site visit in November 2015. A proper assessment of the suitability to release grass carp and silver carp at the property was undertaken. After assessing the level of risk, the Department deems that sufficient steps will be in place to minimise the risk of an accidental release into the Waikato River and there will be robust procedures in place to prevent the public from removing live fish from the site.



Grass carp

The applicant has demonstrated via multiple meetings, presentations and consultation to interested parties that the possible affects of an unintended release has been given careful consideration.

The likelihood of fish escapes is low as robust measures have been put in place to prevent fish leaving the farm.

There are at least five measures in place to prevent escapement and colonisation of the Waikato River as a result of increased water levels (e.g. flood, pipe left on).

These measures are as follows:

- There is spare capacity (freeboard) in each of the ponds.
- Filters of 5mm mesh which will contain even the smallest fish (25mm).
- Emergency pond with an additional 1500m<sup>3</sup> water storage capacity.
- Geothermal pond below the emergency pond, where fish should die from heat shock if they manage to make it to this pond.
- There is approximately 2.3 kilometres of farmland including areas where water would pond before any water would drain into the Waikato River.

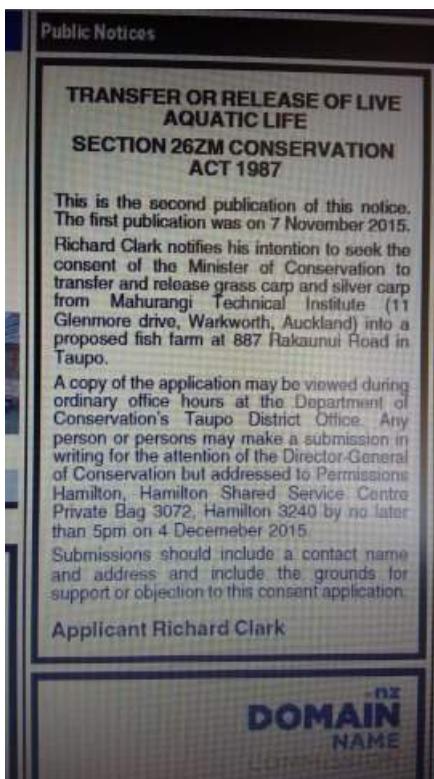


Silver carp

In addition to the measures above, the site is situated on pumice soil which the engineers from Cheal Consultants advised can drain at a rate of 500-1500m<sup>3</sup>/hr. On the projections that have provided, the likelihood of a large volume of water leaving the site is highly unlikely. The chance of water from the fish farm entering the Waikato River is highly unlikely and the chance of large numbers of small fish reaching the Waikato River is also considered highly unlikely.

The Department has assessed the specifications of the containers that live fish will be transported in to the Auckland Market and feel that adequate precautions will be in place to avoid any escapement of fish in normal circumstances.

**The Department imposes very strict management conditions relating to the inspection at the time of release to ensure all risks have been mitigated and that the proposed fish farm is build to the specifications of the application.**



The Department has included concerns from all submissions received into the report to the Minister for consideration as part of the decision making process.

I will advise you the outcome of the proposal in due course.

If you have any questions about the information contained in this letter or the process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Liane Gilbert** Permissions  
Advisor - *Kaitūtohu*

## Clean, green New Zealand? Yeah Right.

Summer heat reveals the toxic legacy of the current government's attitude to farming and pollution of our waterways. The government tells us that being able to wade, but not swim in our lowland waterways is an acceptable state of the environment. Toxic algae have killed dogs in local rivers that we all fish in – avoid wet wading, do not drink the water, or rub your eyes with wet hands!

New Zealand's clean green image is rapidly fading.

If you are not angry, then you have not been paying attention.

[Current toxic algae warnings are available on the Greater Wellington website](#)



### What are toxic algae?

Freshwater toxic algae, known scientifically as cyanobacteria, are an ancient group of photosynthetic bacteria. Cyanobacteria are widespread in rivers and lakes in New Zealand including waterways with good water quality. Under certain environmental conditions cyanobacteria can form extensive blooms that can be toxic to humans, dogs, livestock and wildlife.

Exposure to high levels of toxins can result in serious illness or death.

Dogs are particularly susceptible to poisoning from cyanobacteria as they love to scavenge and play near water. Toxic algal blooms have been recorded in a number of rivers and lakes around the region and across New Zealand.

In rivers, cyanobacteria generally form brown or black mats that grow on rocks in the river bed. Mats that come loose from the river bed can wash up on the river bank or form floating 'rafts' in shallow areas. When exposed, the mats may dry out and turn a light brown or white colour and may also produce a strong musty odour. Cyanobacteria differ from harmless bright green algae, which often form long filaments.

In lakes and slow flowing waters, cyanobacteria grow in a free floating (also called planktonic) form that can cause the water to become murky or cloudy. Free floating cyanobacterial blooms are generally green in colour and can give lakes a 'pea soup' appearance. Free floating cyanobacteria can also form films or scums on the water's surface, especially at the water's edge.



Like other types of algae, cyanobacteria growth increases during times of warm temperatures, sunlight and low or stable river flows. For this reason blooms generally occur in summer months. Nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus can also contribute to cyanobacteria blooms.

Not all species produce toxins and even those that do don't produce toxins all of the time. The presence of

toxins can only be identified by laboratory testing. If you are unsure whether cyanobacteria are toxic or not, it is safest to assume they are.

### **Keeping safe from toxic algae**

Avoid contact with cyanobacteria in both lakes and rivers. If cyanobacteria are widespread you should presume that the water is unsafe for swimming or drinking – this includes taking water for livestock consumption. Keep your dog out of the water and most importantly, ensure it does not eat any algal material in the water or at the water's edge.



In humans, skin contact with the cyanobacteria can cause irritation of the skin, eyes, nose and mouth, and if swallowed, can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, cramps and nausea. If you think you are experiencing a reaction due to contact with toxic algae, seek urgent medical attention. Advise your doctor of your potential exposure to cyanobacteria and ask them to notify Regional Public Health

If you suspect that your dog has eaten toxic algae, you should treat it like an emergency and contact your vet immediately. In extreme cases death can occur within 30 minutes after the first signs of illness appear. Signs that a dog has been poisoned by toxic algae

include lethargy, muscle tremors, fast breathing, twitching, paralysis and convulsions.

Toxins are not removed by boiling, normal filter systems, or by adding household disinfectant.

If cyanobacteria are widespread in a river or lake you should assume it is unsafe for swimming. You should avoid any skin contact with the water and avoid swallowing the water. The higher the concentration of cyanobacteria and the longer the time spent in the water, the more severe the symptoms are likely to be. Wearing a wetsuit will not protect you and may cause severe irritation around the collar and cuffs.

Eating mussels and other shellfish from affected areas should be avoided as they can concentrate the toxins produced by cyanobacteria. Fish from waters containing toxic cyanobacteria may be eaten in moderation. Avoid eating the liver and kidney of the fish, as this is where the accumulation of toxins may be greatest. Fish may taste earthy. Avoid contact with the water while fishing and wash all fish in clean water.

How safe boating and canoeing are depends on the amount of direct contact with the water and the concentration of cyanobacteria. If you swallow the water or your skin is in contact with the water while boating or canoeing, you are at risk from a reaction to any toxins that may be present. The higher the concentrations of cyanobacteria and the longer that people are in contact with the water, the more likely a reaction is to occur. Wash boats or canoes and life-jackets down with clean water after use.

### **More information**

- Contact Regional Public Health with queries relating to human health, Regional Public Health, Ph (04) 570 9002

### **How is toxic algae monitored?**

#### **Rivers**

Greater Wellington Regional Council monitors toxic algae growth at 20 popular river swimming spots around the region. [The Greater Wellington Regional Council website has links to show which sites are monitored.](#) Monitoring is undertaken weekly during the official summer swimming season (mid-November to the end of March).

The risk to people and animals from toxic algae is determined by measuring the proportion of the river bed covered by cyanobacteria as well as the amount of cyanobacteria mats washed up on the river's edge. Results are compared to national guidelines which provide trigger values for three levels of risk from toxic algae – surveillance, alert and action.

## Surveillance, alert and action trigger levels for cyanobacteria in rivers as specified by national guidelines

Alert level	Trigger level	Management response
Surveillance	≤20% coverage of potentially toxic cyanobacteria attached to substrate.	Undertake routine monitoring.
Alert	20–50% coverage of potentially toxic cyanobacteria attached to substrate.	Notify public health, erect signs with information on appearance of mats and potential risks and consider toxin testing.
Action	>50% cyanobacteria coverage or cyanobacteria are visibly detaching from substrate and accumulating on the river's edge or becoming exposed on river's edge and the river level drops.	Notify public health unit, notify the public of potential risk to health, and consider toxin testing.

In the Wellington region, the response to toxic algal blooms in rivers is managed by a working party of Regional Public Health, Greater Wellington Regional Council, city and district council staff.

[The GWRC website shows where toxic algae warnings are in place.](#)

### Lakes

Henley Lake in Masterton is monitored for cyanobacteria blooms by [Masterton District Council](#) who also provide information online.

No other lakes in the region are routinely monitored for cyanobacteria blooms. However, warning signs may be put in place when an issue is detected.

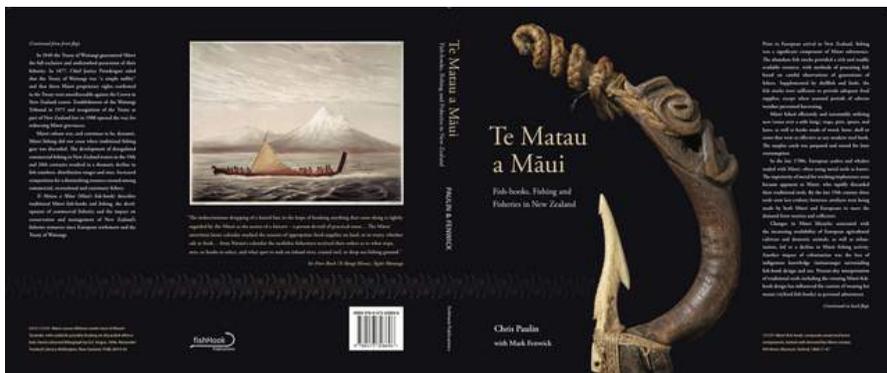
Source:

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/toxic-algae-faqs/>

New Publication: January 2016

## ***Te Matau a Maui: Fishhooks, Fishing and Fisheries in New Zealand***

By Chris Paulin with Mark Fenwick



Prior to European arrival in New Zealand fishing was a significant component of Māori subsistence. Fish were taken with nets, traps, pots, spears, lures and hooks that were as effective as any modern hook. The superiority of European metals quickly became apparent and traditional tools were rapidly discarded. However, in the late 1800s numerous artefacts were produced by both Māori and Europeans in order to meet the demand from tourists and collectors.

This publication summarises research into traditional Māori fish-hooks and fishing, the development of commercial fisheries and the subsequent impact on conservation and management of New Zealand's fisheries resources since European settlement and the Treaty of Waitangi.



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## **CLUB EVENTS THIS MONTH**

### **ON-STREAM DAY**

#### **Next onstream day - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>**

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**

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 – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>**

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
March 12-13 <sup>th</sup>	Mohaka	Strato
April 9-10 <sup>th</sup>	Rangitikei	Strato

## Feather Merchants Fly of the Month



Venue: Tararua Tramping Club Library

Monday xx, 7.30pm

(Access through side door on north side of building)

### Clark's Cicada



Anyone who has observed cicada over a period will notice that numbers vary considerably from one year to the next. Weather conditions play a large part in determining how many hatch and how long the season is. Hopefully the weather will settle down enough to provide some stable, warm conditions for cicada to thrive. Cicadas are a large food item and trout love them. This is the most popular cicada pattern worldwide and was created by Clark Reid, the first president of Wellington Flyfishers Club.

Hook	TMC 200R size 8-12
Thread	Olive or black 3/0
Body	Olive deer hair
Underwing	Krystal flash pearl
Wing	Shimazaki fly wing
Thorax/head	Olive deer hair <a href="http://www.feathermerchants.co.nz">www.feathermerchants.co.nz</a>

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.

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## **NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Deadline for the next issue is **10pm Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

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](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup> February

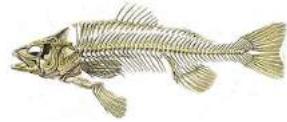
Any club member who has matters which they believe should be considered by the committee may discuss them with a committee member by phone, or at the club meeting, or write to the secretary. Committee Members – the meeting will be at Petherick Towers, 38 Waring Taylor St.

### **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

Didymo is a non-toxic invasive freshwater algae which is present in some South Island rivers and is most likely to be spread by people moving items between waterways.



To ensure you don't spread didymo, wherever possible restrict equipment, boats, clothing and other items for exclusive use in one waterway, or clean thoroughly after use. Complacency is not an option. Think about it, if you wish to continue fly fishing in waterways not clogged by didymo or toxic cyanobacterial mats, contact your local MP and council representatives and demand action.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)

Paul Baker, 3.6kg, rainbow, Lake O

### **Runners up:**

Rob McNlyre, 6.5lb Brown, Lake Taupo stream mouth

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

<b>President</b>	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
<b>Past President</b>	Paul Baker	970-2595
<b>Vice President</b>		
<b>Secretary</b>	Heather Millar	387-3405
<b>Treasurer</b>	Carmen Cotsilinis	386-3740
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Chris Paulin	027 874 7326
<b>Librarian</b>	Warren Horne	387-3405
<b>Website</b>	Peter Nagle	479-4944
<b>Club Trips</b>	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
	Piero Bertocchi	027 554 0960
<b>Catering</b>	Marion Hall	477-0061
<b>Catering</b>	Robyn Gray	475-9572
<b>Print Manager</b>	Peter Nagle	479-4944
<b>Fly Tying &amp; Casting</b>	Gordon Baker	384-6513
		027 494-6487
<b>Club Competitions</b>	Paul Baker	970-2595
<b>Committee</b>	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.

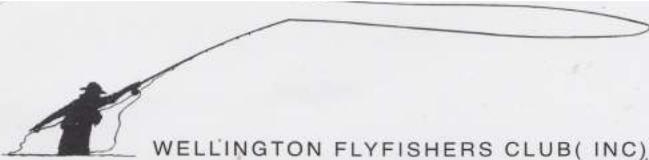
**Meetings** are held at 7.30 pm on the first Monday of every month except January at the Tararua Tramping Club rooms, 4 Moncreiff Street, Mt. Victoria, Wellington.

**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](mailto:kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com)**



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