

# Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.



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## March 2018

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**Cover:** Graeme McIntyre on the Hinemaiaia river (Robyn Gray)

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 5<sup>th</sup> march**

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

### **FISHING ARGENTINA: TRIPLE HEADER**

Heather and Warren chasing Dorado at Pira Lodge in north Argentina.

Heather, Warren and Strato having a ball at Patagonia's Estonia Laguna Verde (Jurassic Lake) fishing for huge rainbows.

Heather and Warren travelling further south chasing large Brook Trout.

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:	17-18 <sup>th</sup>
Fly Tying:	19 <sup>th</sup> (7.30pm)
On-Stream Day:	10 <sup>th</sup> (morning)
Casting practice:	Wednesdays (6pm)
Capital trout Centre:	4 <sup>th</sup> (9am-3.30pm)

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

April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
May 7<sup>th</sup> (AGM)

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

With all the drought conditions it is hard to imagine having to put off a fishing trip because of too much water in the rivers. However it is essential to check the river flows for the catchment of your intended river destination as these can vary greatly over short distances.

Taupo has had a significant amount of wet weather since Christmas making a lot of their rivers unfishable at different times since then, while other rivers which have their headwaters in the Taupo area are also suffering.

Rivers like the Mohaka are a prime example where this weekend although all the other rivers in Hawkes Bay were low and clear, the Mohaka was high and virtually unfishable.

Your best guide as to what each river is doing is to look up the Regional Council River Flow Data or the NIWA sites. The Mohaka has one prime river gauge which is based on the McVicars Road Bridge and low summer flows are generally between 2.3 and 2.5 metres. Our club trip over the weekend showed river levels were marginal at 2.75 (having come down from 3.4) and finding places to fish was difficult.

Safety is the most important thing and while it is sometimes tempting to battle the currents to have a go at some nice looking water, there have been too many instances in recent times of people misjudging the strength of the currents and paying dearly.

Enjoy your fishing safely.

*Strato*



# Hunting & Fishing

N E W Z E A L A N D

**Clearing out last season's waders and boots**

<b>Sims G3 Waders</b>	<b>were</b>	<b>\$949.99</b>
	<b>now</b>	<b>\$699.99</b>
<b>Sims G3 Boots</b>	<b>were</b>	<b>\$449.99</b>
	<b>now</b>	<b>\$299.99</b>
<b>Sims Headwater Waders</b>	<b>were</b>	<b>\$649.99</b>
	<b>now</b>	<b>\$449.99</b>

**Lots more specials in the store**

**Limited stocks available**

*The Flyfishing Experts*

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Hutt Valley Hunting & Fishing NZ  
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

## Helpful Links for Wellington Fly Fishers



189 Taupahi Rd **Turangi**  
Tackle Shop open most mornings by 7.30am, Cafe 8am  
Email [info@creeltackle.com](mailto:info@creeltackle.com)  
[www.creeltackle.com](http://www.creeltackle.com) or [www.turangiflyfish.com](http://www.turangiflyfish.com)  
PH 07 3867929



<http://wellington.fishandgame.org.nz>



[www.sportinglife-turangi.co.nz](http://www.sportinglife-turangi.co.nz)



[www.huntingandfishing.co.nz/wellington](http://www.huntingandfishing.co.nz/wellington)



[www.stevesfishingshop.co.nz](http://www.stevesfishingshop.co.nz)



[www.fishscene.co.nz](http://www.fishscene.co.nz)

## Flies

It was a shadow deep in the water close to the head of the pool. I did not see it at first. Finally I focused on it. The shadow of a fish? The broken edge of a rock? The waterlogged stump of a tree branch? It was an indefinable discolouring in the grey-green of the stream bed. I watched it for uncounted minutes, it did not change shape save for the refraction of light from the ever changing surface of the water. It was still. A stick.

Dismissing it my eyes drifted over each section of stream bed following an imaginary grid. Water-rippled shadows mocked me. Time passed. I could feel the sun's burn on my neck, the prick of a sand-fly bite on my hand. Only my eyes moved. I was standing close to a raised bank on the edge of the stream, invisible, my light brown shirt merging with the bush behind me, water rushing around my bare legs.

Nothing. The water clattered by, chortling at my impotence. Cicadas high in the trees behind me intent on procreation rasped their legs in a frenzy of ardour, somewhere close by in the periphery of my hearing a pheasant croaked, a dulcet tui called. Nothing moved in the depths.

This pool was designed by nature as a lure to attract a fisherman. Water, milk-tinged from recent rain, a good flow to carry food to hungry mouths; perfection. Somewhere close to me there had to be an unseen fish, its colours blending to its environment. Just as white smoke in the mist is betrayed by smell, a trout is betrayed by its shadow on a sunlit riverbed. My eye roved again quartering the river, trying fruitlessly to peer into the shaded stream edges. Somewhere... Start again, back to the top of the pool, the muted shadow was still there, too deep to define. My eye moved on... and then back again; the quivering shadow had moved betraying the fish. Just a small movement, but enough. Time ceased. Something small and black spun in an eddy above the fish. The shadow faded as the fish took form as it drifted upward; just dimpling the surface, feeding and then descending down to the underworld. A jack, only its upper lip broached the surface but I had seen the sub-surface blush on the gill, the cruel hook of the jaw. A good fish, broad shouldered and strong.

I looked at my fly, a fat brown-black cicada made from deer hair spun and clipped with meticulous care to replicate nature. I let it fall from my fingers into the water to wash down stream and then with a twitch of the rod I cast just upstream of the fish. The fly plopped on the water just as a dying cicada might, and then, carried on the current it drifted perfectly, sliding over the stones above the shadow. No reaction.

Again, another good cast, I mended the line so it left no tell-tale drag on the stream's surface, a perfect drift. I admired my cast but the shadow lay still.

Gently I retrieved the failed fly. Looking into my fly-box I selected a tiny Parachute Adams, black tail, the body a whisper of black fur, black wing made with a tight circle of black feather wound around a black post. Ready again, a third perfect cast, my lure landing as soft as a sigh over the stones and drifting free. The shadow moved, without effort it came to the surface showing its beautiful body, golden yellow, mottled brown and green; half a metre of raw power. With the lightest flick of its tail it moved to the fly, almost nudging it before gliding back down to its station deep in the stream bed. Rejection.

A fourth perfect cast. The fly, so small I could more sense it than see it, eventually came to rest, lying unmolested where the water quietened in the pool.

Time drifted as I continually changed my fly, a Royal Wulf failed to trouble the fish, a Dad's Favourite was treated with equal disdain. Every few casts the fly was changed. A Mayfly Emerger? A Caddis? In desperation, a Spent Spinner. While changing my fly I twice saw the fish rise sipping insects from the surface before gliding back to station. With each change of fly and each cast my hopes and pulse rose and then ebbed with the realisation of yet another rejection.

The clock ticked; I delayed leaving as long as I could but finally, knowing duty called, I had to go. Vanquished I began my long climb to the car that baked in the fierce sun on the gravel road above.

In my dread I pulled up outside the rest home, reluctant as

Shakespeare's school-boy;

“ ... the whining schoolboy with his satchel  
And shining morning face, creeping like snail  
unwillingly to school...”

Love, duty, frustration, horror, sadness, anger; crushing emotions rolled over me.

Why my father? That wise, kind, genial and charming man; why him?

Why me? Where God, is your mercy? Why me? Self-contempt scoured my weakness.

At reception the woman smiled. “Good afternoon. Your father is waiting for you in his room.” A kind little calumny, my father was not waiting for me any more than a potato waits for a gardener’s fork. He was sitting in his room, sitting; endlessly sitting. His hair combed, his teeth washed, his bottom wiped. His eyes were focused somewhere ahead, somewhere intangible, suspended between the unforeseeable future and the unremembered past. For almost two years now time had been measured by the dull shadows cast upon the pale wall by the soft light from his bedroom window.

In greeting my lips touched the parchment-dry skin of his forehead, ashamed that it repulsed me. Reluctantly I put my arm around his thin shoulders and gave him the dutiful hug of love past. I remembered the man who taught me to read a book, ride a bike, catch a ball, catch a trout. “Hi Dad. How are you today?” The inane question got what it deserved, not so much as a vacant look in my direction. One bony hand rested on an even bonier knee, the hand’s skin white around the mottled purple blotches. His other arm hidden but lifeless dangling beside his chair. His pyjamas draped his legs; thin cotton on a wire hanger. Those strong brown legs that had churned water to foam as he waded through rivers grasping my six year old arm so I would not fall.

Silence.

I sat beside him. I told him every tiny detail of my morning. I described the smell of heat on rock, the clarity of the light, the coolness of the water, the sounds of nature that had washed around me, the impasto gold and green of the hills rouged by flowering rata, the timeless river; the shadow in the stream.

Silence except for the lazy drone of a blowfly. I watched that fat fly as it passed by me. Damn it! Why had I not used a Blowfly Humpy? Such an obvious choice of fly! A perennial insect in the New Zealand bush; trout eat blow-flies like children eat ice-cream. Trout ambrosia. Almost with disdain that arrogant fly waddled by me, its short wings humming. I watched its slow circuit of the room as it flew towards my father. As it neared him his hidden hand suddenly rose to reveal a fly swat. His aim was true. With an audible click the fly was batted against the wall and fell to the floor, one brief buzz and it was still. For the first time I noticed the carcass of another fly lying closer to the wall.

In the silent void my father smiled.



*The Circadas are here!*  
*Attractors - the first choice of professional guides*

We have over 10,000 summer flies in stock - attractors - pheasant tails - stoneflies

[www.fishingflies.co.nz](http://www.fishingflies.co.nz)

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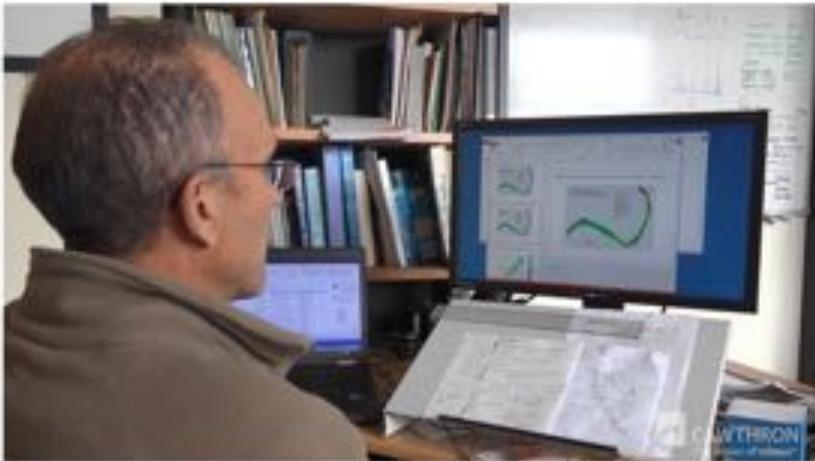
## **Cawthron Institute research shows greater river flow needed for fish growth and abundance**

Computer modelling by Cawthron Institute freshwater scientists has shown that more river flow is needed for fish growth and abundance than previously realised.

Senior Scientist: Freshwater Fisheries, Dr John Hayes says that it is vitally important to maintain the capacity of a river to transport the invertebrate food that drift-feeding fish such as trout consume.

As the flow declines fewer invertebrates drift in the water column so drift-feeding fish have less to eat. That means fewer fish may be supported or they may grow more slowly.

Trout potentially benefit from higher flows than previously thought. This work has become even more critically important as the flow and quality of streams and rivers has become an issue of national significance. Local authorities have the difficult task of managing competing river uses and the values that are important to people who use rivers, while maintaining instream life in all its variety and abundance – a reduced river flow can change a river's ecology.



*Computer models help scientists understand and visualise river flow and its impact on river ecology.*

The new modelling method has been applied on the Mataura and Oreti rivers to assist Environment Southland in making minimum flow and water allocation decisions for the Southland Water and Land Plan. Versions of Dr Hayes's trout energetics models have also been used in the USA; on the Colorado River for determining the effect of flow alteration below a large storage dam on trout growth, and in the Columbia River catchment for assessing habitat restoration options for the recovery of endangered sea-run rainbow trout and salmon populations.

## 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.

**Best Fish Awards** Current records: 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018.

***Stirling Sports heaviest fish (junior)***

### ***Hunting & Fishing heaviest fish (senior)***

Gordon Baker 3.75kg brown trout Tongariro.

(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***

Neil Hollebhone, Rainbow Hen 2 lb 7 oz, 15.5 inches, C/F 65.12.

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



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.

## Getting ready for those winter trips?

Bed & Breakfast • Guiding • Other Meals if Required



**57 Rota Street  
Turangi**

Contact Chris Anastasiadis  
027 479 3357



## CLUB EVENTS THIS MONTH

### CASTING PRACTICE

#### **Casting Practice** Hataitai Park **6.00pm Wednesdays**

Casting tuition is available throughout summer until daylight saving ends. 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 Strato Cotsilinis (386-3740) to arrange an alternative time.

### 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:**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Organiser</b>
17-18 <sup>th</sup> March	Maunganuioteao (Camping)	Strato
21-22 <sup>nd</sup> April		

### ON-STREAM DAY

#### **Next onstream day – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

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.

## **CAPITAL TROUT CENTRE**

### **Open Day – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

Please phone Strato and let him know if you will be able to assist for the morning, the afternoon or all day.

We need anglers, marshalls, fish gutters, registration desk helpers and general all-rounders to assist and give everyone a break to have a cuppa or a cooked sausage.

## **CLUB TROPHY COMPETITION**

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Members are invited to fish for the Club's annual Fishing Trophy competition. This is not just an event for experienced anglers. Less experienced anglers will be paired with a different experienced angler for the morning and afternoon sessions. It's a great way to see how other people approach the water and the techniques they choose to use.

While the Club Trophy is based on the raw scores, less experienced anglers will also receive a scoring bonus for every fish caught to give everyone something to aim for.

Anglers pair off and fish for 30 minute sessions before swapping over. We will be on the water three hours before lunch and three hours afterwards.

Placings will be counted for the morning session and the afternoon. Fish and Game rules apply.

Anglers will meet at Gladstone Bridge reserve beside the Ruamahanga River at 8:00 a.m.

If you are interested, please email Paul Baker at [pbakerema@gmail.com](mailto:pbakerema@gmail.com)

# Feather Merchants Fly of the Month



Venue: Tararua Tramping Club Library  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> , 7.30pm

(Please note that Tararua Tramping Club will be having their AGM in the main hall at that time. Fly tyers please use the downstairs side entrance only.)

## Green Woolly Bugger

One of the most useful lure patterns. The WB can be used day or night, river and lake, shallow or deep – and in discoloured water. Fairly easy to tie in a wide variety of sizes and colours. Black, olive, brown, green, orange and purple can be used with confidence. Olive is the most popular colour.



Thread Black 3/0 or 6/0

Hook TMC size 2-12

Weight Lead wire and/or tungsten bead Tail Marabou fibres

Rib Gold wire

Hackle Saddle hackle

Body Chenille

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 navigation menu with 'Home' and 'All Products'. The main content area includes a welcome message: 'Welcome to Feather Merchants New Zealand Ltd - fly fishing and fly tying wholesaler'. Below this is a promotional message: 'Proud Supporters of Future River Initiative - for every FM product purchased a percentage will go towards supporting Future Rivers projects, you can help as the more you buy the more the environment benefits'. A link for '2013 - 2014 Fly Catalogue.pdf' is provided. The page also features a 'FUTURE RIVERS' logo and text promoting 'SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES' and 'Introducing Future Rivers' as an environmentally conscious business initiative. The background of the website shows a close-up of a fish's mouth and a fly.

## **NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Deadline for the next issue is **10pm Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

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. (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 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 Monday 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 unravelled. 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.

## **WEBSITE**

The club website and facebook pages provide online information, contact details and useful links.  
<http://wellingtonflyfishers.org.nz>

## WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB MISSION

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

### 2017-18 COMMITTEE

<b>President</b>	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
<b>Past President</b>	Paul Baker	970-2595
<b>Vice President</b>	Linda Brown	
<b>Secretary</b>	Heather Millar	386-3049
<b>Treasurer</b>	Carmen Cotsilinis	386-3740
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Chris Paulin	027 874 7326
<b>Librarian</b>	Warren Horne	386-3049
<b>Website</b>	Peter Nagle	479-4944
<b>Club Trips</b>	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
<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
	John Gamble	027 5175825

### 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 2017 - 31 March 2018

Full member or family membership \$35, Junior membership no fee.  
Joining fee \$10 Overseas Newsletter postage \$45

**Enquiries: [kiwifyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:kiwifyfisher@gmail.com)**



WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB (INC)  
PO Box 828, 79-111, Seaside, Wellington 6141 New Zealand

## SPORTING LIFE - TURANGI

North Island - New Zealand  
Clubhouse on the Farnham-Tregeton River



SPORTING LIFE - The Mall, Turangi  
Tel: (07) 386-6996 Fax: (07) 386-6559  
sport.life@strz.co.nz www.sportinglife-turangi.co.nz

**SIMMS.**