

# Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC



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INC.

## AUGUST 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 6 August**

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

### **Cruising Round Cape Horn** *(with a little bit of fly fishing)* **A presentation by GRANT SCOBIE.**

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                      18-19 August - Turangi  
Fly Tying:                      Monday 20 August, 7.30pm  
On-Stream Day: Saturday 11 August  
   Wairarapa – Kurarau Dam  
Casting Clinic:



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

September 3



#### **New Members**

Jamie Fowler  
Kathryn van Wamel, Sander Wissing  
Andrew & Alexander Short  
Jessica Payne  
Alexa Millward  
Susanne Lang  
Constance Nutsford  
Renee Jaine

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Our big clean-up at the pond is now over for another year. Many thanks to those who turned up to help and did a marvellous job (see separate report).

Winter fishing at Taupo is starting to splutter into life with pods of fish starting to make their way upstream.

Our club trips are enjoying using the Auckland Club house which is well appointed and just what we need to arrive back to in the evening after hours of thrashing the water. While over forty fish were landed by the club members on the trip there were many hours of lack of success and some long distances walked. Once found, the fish were very receptive and under the overcast conditions small Glo-bugs worked all day. For the keen ones, night fishing also produced good results but you need to make sure that you have plenty of warm clothing as the river mouths are very cold both above and below the water this time of year.

The word is out that Kurarau Dam is in great condition and producing good fish so our next on stream day will be a visit to the Wairarapa. (See elsewhere in the magazine for details).

At the club July meeting the question of the provision of liquor at meetings was discussed and it was decided that we would only provide liquor for social occasions such as the AGM, Auction and Christmas function. Tea and coffee will still be available.

We are always looking for articles for the magazine and our new joint editors of Linda and Hal will welcome any contributions.

*Strato*

## **CLUB AUCTION - NOVEMBER MEETING**

Now is the time to look through your fishing gear, books etc which are now surplus to current requirements but would be very useful for other anglers. Items can be sold on your account with a commission to the club or as a donation to club funds. The October magazine will have a specific auction form for you to list the items



**Riverworks Primax Neoprene  
Waders \$129.99**

**33% off all last seasons Sims G3  
Waders**

**Full range of new season Sims  
accessories, vests and waders**

**NOW: Available to all club members  
10% off all goods in store  
You must produce your membership card**

***The Flyfishing Experts***

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

## RICE AND CELLPHONES

I have never been one for expensive cell phones, especially when taking them on club trips.

My \$80 phone is usually left in the car but occasionally I will take it on stream with me if I need to keep in contact with club members. As the phone is not waterproof, I usually keep it in a zip lock plastic bag. On our last trip however with no appropriate bag, I put the cell phone (and my reading glasses) in the supposed waterproof zip pocket on my waders.

An unintended underwater experience on the way back on the Tauranga Taupo, resulted in the pocket filling with water and submerging the cell phone and the glasses. Somehow between that event and arriving back at the car I dropped the glasses, but that's another story.

The cell phone however although it turned on immediately appeared to be a lost cause.

It was suggested that we take out the sim card, battery etc and unscrew those pieces which were un-screwable and place them all in a bowl of raw rice. We improvised and the pieces were all submerged but one day later there still appeared to be quite a bit of moisture under the screen.

Arriving home at the end of the trip we managed to find the screws that gave us greater access to the insides of the cell phone and again submerged these in rice for two or three days.

I had no confidence that this would work but having put everything back together I find my cell phone is now once again operational.

Amazing.

***Strato***

## A TALE OF A BIG TROUT AND THE TAIL OF A TIDDLER: A THOUGHT PIECE.

It was early March down South—at day-break, misty, windy and cold. I was up and ready for some action. Turned out the action would be more unusual than I could have thought.

We were staying in a quirky little river-side crib with washing facilities outside. So I quickly ducked into the relative warmth of the dunny to dress after my ablutions. On the dunny wall is a map of what the Maori poetically call “the land of the dancing spear grass”. It fires my imagination of what had once been. We had fished the river flowing through that land over the last couple of days: no dancing spear grass there now—some bizarre line-dancing perhaps—the long pivot irrigators slowly advancing, spewing too much water onto too much grass feeding too many cows. Or so I think.

We travelled further up the Waitaki Valley to the bush-lined river just sea-ward of a small hydro town. I had stopped on the bridge there earlier, peering into the clear, clear water. No cows around—pristine. Below my cap and through my polaroids I spotted fisherman’s nirvana—half a dozen monster trout— I would be back to claim them—or so I thought.

Damn! A car parked close to the bridge. Street shoes on the back seat the clue. Have they gone up or down stream? Oh well—nobody in sight, so we drew straws to decide which way for each of us. The fish were there, just waiting to be taken—a thought full of hope.

I struck out upstream and was soon casting to flighty quarry. Zilch. Not even a glance at my perfectly presented morsels. They were chasing each other, clearly only one thing on their mind. Spawning rainbows.

Now nymphing blind, I led a nice fresh brownie to the net. Then two tiny rainbows followed. “Just a waste of time, these tiddlers”— I thought. Another cast and the reel sang—a beauty, no tiddler this time—or so I thought.

The fight was nearly over when I caught a glimpse of a beautiful big brown trout as it broad-sided. I unlatched my net and bent over. Suddenly the line went slack. But hey! There’s something still on. Then in my net an unbelievable sight—a tiddler with my top fly in its mouth and a mangled tooth-marked tail.

It set me thinking —was the big fish foul-hooked by my lower fly as it attacked the struggling tiddler above—then unhooked itself free? Did it deliberately take the lower fly, then throw it? Or was it never hooked but released its prey when it saw me: that monster teasing me, letting go of his catch just as I was about to claim mine? I thought I was playing that big trout—but maybe it was it playing me?

I’m still thinking.

*Russell Tregonning*

## AN UNFORGETTABLE FISHING EXPERIENCE...

Hi guys , well it's been a great 9 months of fishing the South Island for the full season .

My Ford Ranger arrived Christchurch in August after shipping from Australia. I picked it up in September and headed to Reefton where I had my base for the next 9 months .

It was an unforgettable fishing experience , a trip of a lifetime with so many wonderful experiences and meeting so many wonderful people .



Traveled throughout the South Island clocking up 20,000km.

Did fish a short time on the North Island as I needed to ship my car out of Auckland. Fished thorough Hawkes Bay also another fantastic river named Ruakituri with unbelievable hatches of may fly that went for hours.

*Darren Lyle*

## CAPITAL TROUT CENTRE UPDATE

The annual clean-up of the pond took place last month.

During the week a dedicated team dragged the back pond, drained it, and with some help from Dawsons pumped the sludge from the bottom of the pond.



Then over the weekend the team moved the fish into the back pond and started on the front one...

*Moving the fish... how many have we got?*



*Woops... sprung a leak!*



*Cleaning the front pond with the bosses looking on...*



## **2018 RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival - Wellington**

### **LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA**

52 Beach St, Petone.

**Thursday, 30th August 2018 8.30pm- 10.30pm**

To purchase tickets go to

<https://app.etickets.to/buy/?e=16486>

Your e-ticket is delivered electronically after purchase and can be redeemed for an entry ticket at the RISE merchandise table in the cinema foyer from 7.00pm onwards on the evening of the show.

For more details visit [www.gin-clear.com](http://www.gin-clear.com)

or email [events@gin-clear.com](mailto:events@gin-clear.com)

All tickets are delivered by email, no paper tickets are issued.

There is no seat allocation for this event .

## A MASSIVE TRADGEDY

Often I hear fishermen talking about the lower Waitahanui River and pools they have caught fish in and referring to maps etc. I get a real feeling of sadness when I hear these comments, because unless you fished the Waitahanui River before around 1980 you don't know what it was like! So let me tell you what it was like and then what happened. My Dad was a keen fly fisherman and as a family through the 1960's and 70's we holidayed and had weekends at Waitahanui from May through to August each year, coinciding with the spawning runs of trout up that world famous river. All the fishing in those days was with heavy sinking wetlines and what fun it was to fish this magnificent river. Let me take you on a journey down the lower river starting at the Cliff Pool. There were 3 main pools in what is known as the Cliff Pool area, the top pool was difficult to fish and the middle pool was so deep I don't remember anyone ever getting a fish out it. You could see them in there when the sun was shining on the right angle but they were deep. The bottom pool was deep as well, very deep, deep enough that one day I was standing on the Cliff with my friend Greg Oke and decided that today was the day and jumped off the Cliff into the river. Goodness knows how my Mother found out but she hit the roof when she did. Out of the Cliff Pool and under the bridge and down Hutts Reach the river ran over the diagonal lip and into the depths of the famous Poi's Pool. Around a right hand bend and over another lip into Ladies Pool which I know was deep because I tried to get to the bottom with a snorkel and mask one summers day and it was from Ladies Pool that I remember the late Andy Brown landing a beautiful 7lb brown in the 70's but you can walk across that pool these days. Then down to the Fence Pool which was an absolute magnificent holding pool for trout and the favourite Pool of the late Jack Ram. Next was Lanes Reach which had a nice pool at the top on the right hand side and a lovely long lie on the left hand side further down. At the bottom was an interesting pool that had a few snags in it but my mate Mark Ayre landed a lovely 8lb hen out it one day. Then around a couple of bends and over another diagonal lip into Colonels Bend which was a crescent shaped pool, deep throughout and the right bank covered in blackberries. You could easily spend a couple of hours fishing your way through Colonels Bend. Some interesting water followed before Schoolmasters Pool which again was a magnificent holding pool. Whenever I walk past Schoolmasters Pool I think of Ray Oke of Fielding, it was his favourite pool. So many times I remember walking down the river and

seeing him standing at the top of the pool with his favourite hat on working his favourite fly on the end of 30 yards of deep sinking line through goodness knows how many trout used to lie in that pool and he certainly caught his share! A long straight, couple of bends of nice water and we arrive at De Latour's Pool and words fail me to describe that pool, it was simply magnificent and I don't believe even with the best of sunglasses and the sun in the right angle anyone ever saw the whole bottom of the pool. Have a read of what O.S.Hintz wrote in his classic book Trout at Taupo about this pool.

So what happened? Well in the mid 1970's the decision was made to plant forestry in the upper Waitahanui River valley. So bulldozers crushed the scrub which disturbed the soil, the rain washed sediment into the river and the pools silted up, that's what happened! You see rivers like the Tauranga — Taupo and the Tongariro Rivers have large catchments and when heavy rain falls they flood and scour and wash sediment out into Lake Taupo. But the Waitahanui River isn't like that, sure it has some catchment but it's mainly a spring fed river which is why it's known as the last to colour and flood of the eastern tributaries so large amounts of sediment in the river are not going to be washed out, they will silt the river up. Simple. Tom Marama was a Waitahanui local and he was smart enough to realise this and in the mid 1970's he tried everything to stop the forestry to protect this beautiful river but sadly, no one listened or helped him.

So today, the lower reaches of the Waitahanui River are, after 45 years of forestry, in my view a silted up disaster. The Cliff Pools, Poi's, Ladies, Fence, Colonels Bend, Schoolmasters, De Latour's are all gone. Sure some people may claim they fish those pools, but believe me, they are puddles compared to the magnificent pools they were.

So we can't change what happened, but I believe it's important we learn and be prepared to stand very strong against any other half baked idea that could affect another beautiful river or lake.

*Didimo Dave*

## 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 2018 - 31 March 2019.

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

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

**Graeme McIntyre      1.93kg rainbow jack      Waiotaka**

(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***

**Graeme McIntyre   3   1.93 kg rainbow jack      55cms      C/F 41.9**

### ***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)

## **CLUB EVENTS THIS MONTH**

### **CASTING TUITION**

**Anyone wanting casting tuition please contact Strato**

### **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>
18-19 August	Turangi	Strato

### **ON-STREAM DAY**

#### **Next onstream day – Saturday 11 August**

The On-Stream Day will be on the Kurarau Dam (Wairarapa), 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.

## FEATHER MERCHANTS FLY OF THE MONTH



Venue: Tararua Tramping Club Library

Monday 20 August, 7.30pm

(Access through side door on north side of building)

### CRAIG'S NIGHT-TIME

Developed around Lake Taupo in the 1930's to suggest the *koura* (freshwater crayfish) this pattern is still an outstanding trout catcher. The short tail (or tag) accounts for many fish that might be lost through nipping at the tail of a traditional pattern.

This is a very easy to tie pattern and should be present in any night fishers flybox.

Hook	TMC 5262 size 2 - 10
Tail	Red wool yarn or synthetic
Rib	Silver oval tinsel or lumo strip
Body	Black chenille
Wing	Pukeko feathers
Hackle	Black hen hackle
Topping	Jungle cock (optional)



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

A screenshot of the Feather Merchants website. The header features the 'FM' logo and a navigation bar. The main content area includes a welcome message, a link to the 2013-2014 Fly Catalogue, and a section for 'Future Rivers Sustainable Industries' with a logo and text about supporting environmental projects.

**FM**  
FEATHER MERCHANTS NEW ZEALAND

Welcome to Feather Merchants New Zealand Ltd  
- fly fishing and fly tying wholesaler

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

2013 - 2014 Fly Catalogue pdf

**FUTURE RIVERS**  
SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

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 20 August.

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 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.

### 2018-2019 COMMITTEE

<b>President</b>	Strato Cotsilinis	386-3740
<b>Past President</b>	Paul Baker	970-2595
<b>Secretary</b>	Heather Millar	386-3049
<b>Treasurer</b>	Carmen Cotsilinis	386-3740
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Hal Levine	027-420-0482
<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>	<b>Strato Cotsilinis</b>	<b>386-3740</b>
<b>Club Competitions</b>	Paul Baker	970-2595
<b>Committee</b>	Peter Buxton	475-3848
	Brian Bee	021-630-075
	Scott Garelli	021-325-032
	John Gamble	027 5175825
	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 2018 - 31 March 2019

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

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



WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB( INC.)  
PO Box 8226, Market Square, Wellington 6141, New Zealand

## SPORTING LIFE - TURANGI

South Island - New Zealand  
*Outfitters to the Famous Tongariro River.*



SPORTING LIFE : The Mall, Turangi  
Tel:(07) 386-8996 Fax:(07) 386-6559  
sport.life@xtra.co.nz [www.sportinglife-turangi.co.nz](http://www.sportinglife-turangi.co.nz)

**SIMMS.**