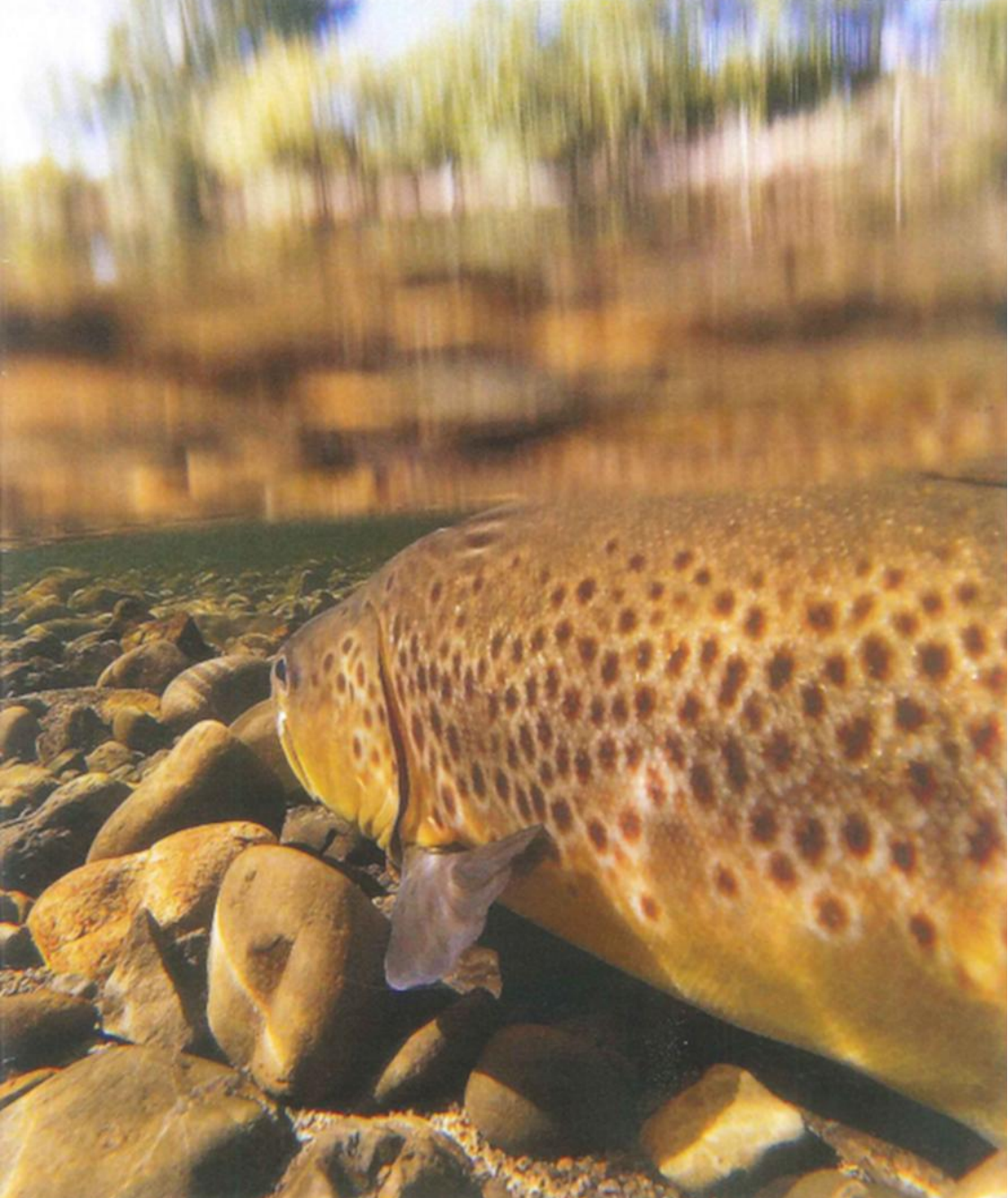


# Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.



# TIGHT LINES

The official newsletter  
of the Wellington Flyfishers Club inc.  
June 2023



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**Cover:** Photo by Braedan De Lange

*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 5th June, 7.30pm**

## **Want to improve your catch rate**

Club members will discuss the little things they do when fishing either wet fly, nymph or euro nymphing which they believe increases their chance of success.

Bring along your questions and hopefully your next flyfishing excursion will be a memorable one.

## **EVENTS THIS MONTH**

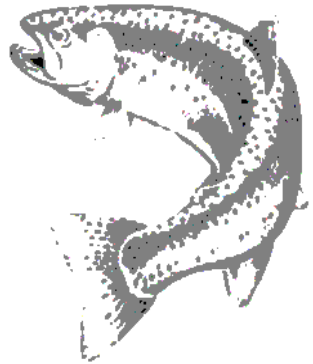
**Club Trip:** June 23-25 Turangi

**Fly Tying:** Monday 19 June  
7.30pm – Orange Rabbit

**On-Stream Day:**

Saturday – June 17 Hutt River  
Phone Strato 386 3740 by the Wednesday prior.

**Casting Tuition:** Anyone wanting casting tuition please contact Strato 04 386 3740



## **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to John Hadfield and Graham Baughan

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Taking over the role of President of the club for the next twelve months, I will be looking for the support of all club members to continue the activities of the club which makes it one of the largest flyfishing clubs in the country. We welcome Rod Lawson to our committee.

The monthly club meeting is a small but vital part of the total of activities of the club and we are always looking for guest speakers not only to provide some entertainment but also so that club members get a better understanding of this pastime that we are so devoted to.

Peter De Boer's presentation at the AGM was excellent and enjoyed by all.

Any club member that is willing to give us a presentation on any aspect of flyfishing experiences would be welcome.

The new season has started with the weather trying its very best to make things difficult but the enthusiasm of our members continues to shine through.

Last month's club trip to the Rangitikei and this month's trip to Turangi were badly hit by rain but elsewhere in the magazine the club trip report reveals some special moments came to the fore.

Similarly the Capital Trout Centre has recently hosted a birthday party for 14 young children who braved very wet weather just to experience the thrill of landing a feisty rainbow trout. Carmen and her helpers all contributed to making this a memorable occasion for the birthday boy,

The June club meeting is going to be an opportunity where members will discuss the little things that the successful anglers do which makes them consistently successful while others struggle. Come with your questions for what hopefully should be an educational night.

Strato

# **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

At the AGM it was agreed that membership subscriptions would remain at \$35.00.

Subscriptions for the year ending 31 March 2024 are now due and can be paid by cash at a club meeting or online to 06-0582-0030903-00.

If any of your details have changed (address, email, phone) please download a membership form and forward it to the club.

# **ADVANCE REMINDER**

In July we have our annual clean up at the Capital Trout Centre. This will be held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July starting at 9am each day. Come for both days or one day or even just part of a day, whatever you can manage.

# **CAPITAL TROUT CENTRE FUND RAISING RAFFLE**

Richard Benefield has again donated two fly boxes filled with flies to the Capital Trout Centre to raffle for fund raising.

The tickets cost \$5.00 each

We have a form with the numbers 1 to 150 which will be available at club meetings for you to write your name against a number.

The raffle will be drawn when all 150 tickets have been purchased.

If you cannot make it to a club meeting but would like a ticket (or tickets) please email [carmen.cotsilinis@gmail.com](mailto:carmen.cotsilinis@gmail.com) with your name, phone number and number of tickets.

Make the payment direct to the club account 06-0582-0030903-00 and we will add you to the raffle form.

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR WELLINGTON FLY FISHERS CLUB AGM – MAY 1 2023**

Club membership remains strong, with 130 paid-up members.

## **Club activities for the year:**

Regular member activities – Club trips, onstream days, fly tying workshops (Strato).

Interclub fly tying competition, held at Upper Hutt, (Paul, Richard Benefield, Linda Brown, Michael Gunn) (ably judged by Braedan De Lange) (This year WFFC is due to host this event)

Communications – Club newsletter (Linda), Website (Scott Garelli) and Facebook page (Susi).

Other fund raising & promotion – Wellington High Fly Fishing Course x2 (Strato & Carmen), Club Auction (Auctioneer Pat McShane), Flybox Raffle #1 (Donation by Richard Benefield) 1st prize (Rod Lawson) 2<sup>nd</sup> prize (Richard Robinson)

Capital Trout Centre – another successful season supported by a number of Club members throughout the year.

## **Club meetings over the year included:**

Auction, Fishing in British Columbia (Gordon Baker), Summer fishing reports, Christmas supper, Report on a South Island trip (Paul) (also Silent Auction), Saltwater flyfishing at Kuri Bay, Western Australia (Warren Horne), Opening day lies and Wainuiomata access points (Paul & Strato), Fishing Hawkes Bay (Dave Hern, HB Fishing Guide), update on fishing the Tongariro and other Lake Taupo rivers, Summer back country trips (Susi Lang and

Brian Benson), Women's Fishing Week at Owen River Lodge  
(Heather Miller and Jeannie Buxton)

### **President's trophy was awarded to Richard Robinson**

Richard joined the club in March 2020. He has shown to be an excellent helper at the Capital Trout Centre. With the sad passing of Neville Rush, Richard stepped in to provide help with numerous pond events and the feeding of the trout whenever Strato was unavailable.

He has a great manner with the kids and demonstrates the fish dissection in great detail.

## **PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES**

The following trophies were presented at the AGM

### **Certificates for 15 years membership went to**

Robert McIntyre, Peter De Boer, Colin Hadley, Mike Johnston and Warwick Greenwood.



### **Wallace Trophy – Best Condition Factor Trout**

Chris Anastasiadis CF 79.6



## **Hunting & Fishing New Zealand – Heaviest Trout Trophy**

Chris Anastasiadis 9½ lb

## **David Austin Memorial Trophy Rodd & Gunn – Photo Competition**

Susanne Lang



## **Ben Thomas Presidents Trophy Senior Angler of the Year**

Richard Robinson





# FISHING IN THE RAIN

The weather forecasters once again predicted that heavy rain would be a major factor for those making the trip to the Turangi area for the first time this winter.

Reports that schools of fish were building at the river mouths waiting for suitable conditions, gave us some hope.

Those of us that went up early on Friday went immediately to the Tauranga Taupo mouth where we were not only met with a lake water level that was extremely high but strong winds which resulted in waves crashing on the shore and over the spit making fishing the mouth virtually impossible.

Rain was also starting to become a factor but when we changed our location to the lower Tongariro, we found that we had the river almost all to ourselves and most of us decided wet lining with red setters and woolly buggers was an option.



A number of very well-conditioned fish were hooked, some lost, some landed but the highlight of the afternoon was the success of one of our new anglers who was looking to catch his first trout ever flyfishing. He had come on the trip merely to gain some experience and not really expecting to be successful, but the smiles showing in the attached photo say it all.

Conditions were not conducive to any night fishing and the following morning saw us again in the lower river with one angler being particularly successful with three fish but a rapidly rising Tongariro saw us re-evaluate where we would fish in the afternoon.

A number of us decided to fish Kuratau Lake where 21 fish were landed in the afternoon, most of them very small but a few nice 2 pounders which fought like considerably larger fish kept us on our toes.

Another highlight was the success of one of the newer club members visiting from the United States who made up for never having caught a New Zealand trout flyfishing by catching 6 small rainbows.



The rain which had been intermittent all day continued heavily overnight and the following morning the Tongariro had swollen to 130 cumecs and all other rivers that we approached were running high and dirty. A quick stop at the Kuratau mouth at least provided us with calm conditions but the dirty water was obviously a deterrent to the trout travelling upstream although a few fish did show some acrobatic jumps 100 meters out into the lake.

Kuratau Lake itself was dirty and up nine inches and unfishable so we all headed home to dry out our wet clothes and stand under a warm shower. Perhaps next time the weather may be kinder.

# LOOKING FOR A FLY FISHER TO SHARE BUCKET LIST TARPON FISHING EXPERIENCE



I've got the last boat booked the entire 2023 Tarpon season at Jungle Tarpon Reserve in Costa Rica. This is unique river fishing from a boat with a guide for Tarpon between 20 and up to 200+ Lbs at close range; not ocean fishing. Some particulars:

- Trip date: 9 to 16 September 2023
- Trip starts and ends in San Jose with return ground transport to Jungle Tarpon Reserve
- 5 full days + 1 to 2 half days fishing
- Single accommodation including meals, two fisherman per boat
- Maximum 4 guests at the lodge
- Gear available at the lodge as needed
- US\$ 4490 single accommodation, double fishing + gratuities and any needed tackle

Links to YouTube that get your endorphins lit up:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJstrUixGGs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gly1wBpvajU>

Link to more detailed online information:

<https://www.yellowdogflyfishing.com/destinations/jungle-tarpon-reserve/>

If interested, contact Brian Benson at 021 242 9522 or [brian.benson@damwatch.co.nz](mailto:brian.benson@damwatch.co.nz) immediately.

# MID WEEK ANGLING TRIPS

To date this year our Mid Week angling trips are fully booked almost as soon as I arrange accommodation. We even have nearly fully booked trips for 2024 - January, February and April.

This year Mid Week angling trips have fished at the:

Whakapapa River and Upper Whanganui River staying at Kakahi.

Rangitikei River, staying at River Cottage, near Springvale;

Rumahanga River, staying at Carterton.

Plus, I have fished the Awakino River and the Whakapapa and Upper Whanganui Rivers again with some overseas anglers.



**We have a vacancy for one person, as each person has their own bedroom, in a three bedroom Holiday House, during July 2023.**

Dates: Arriving Monday 17 July and leaving Friday 21 July 2023.

Accommodation: in Woodville cost about \$227 per person.

Payment is needed before 15 June 2023 to Maurice, then further details will follow.

This is ideal for those senior members who enjoy the company of other senior members, where the trip becomes a mixture of social and fishing experiences.

Contact Maurice Broome 04 (Prm) 2989663 (not after 8:00pm) and/or email [maurice-fishing@xtra.co.nz](mailto:maurice-fishing@xtra.co.nz)

# FLY OF THE MONTH

**Monday 19 June, 7.30pm** - Tararua Tramping Club Locker Room  
(Access through side door on north side of building)



## Orange Rabbit

Some lures are essential for the central Plateau. Along with Red Setter, Craig's Night Time, Smelt, Woolly Bugger and Glow Bug – Orange Rabbit completes the basic selection. An easy pattern to tie that works particularly well in Taupo's rivers.

<b>Hook</b>	TMC 5262 size 2 – 10
<b>Thread</b>	Black Mono
<b>Tail</b>	Orange hackle fibres
<b>Rib</b>	Silver oval tinsel
<b>Body</b>	Orange Chenille
<b>Wing</b>	Natural or grey rabbit fur strip
<b>Hackle</b>	Natural or grey hackle.

## Instructions

- Tie in thread at bend
- Tie in orange tail fibres to the bend
- Tie in tinsel at bend and let hang
- Tie in orange chenille at bend and wrap thread to head, then wrap chenille to head.
- Trim rabbit skin at front end to a point.
- Tie in pointed end of rabbit at head
- Wrap tinsel over rabbit to head (3 wraps) trying not to catch fur and tie off behind head.
- Tie in brown hackle feather at head, wrap 2 or 3 times and tie off.

If anyone has suggestions for fly patterns they would like to see tied at the fly-tying meetings please let Strato know (386 3740).

# GREAT BOOKS ABOUT FLY FISHING # 2

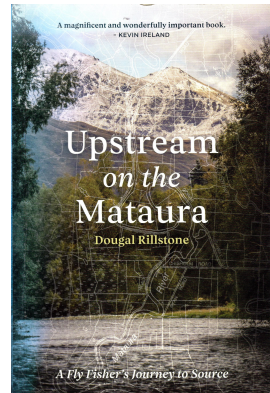
## **Dougal Rillstone: Upstream on the Mataura.**

**A Fly Fisher's Journey to Source.  
Mary Egan Publishing 2020. 247 p.**

New Zealand has more than 700 river systems, most of them contain trout. One might think that such a beautiful resource would be regarded as a national heritage and esteemed in the national consciousness. But I think that this not the case. Compared with many European rivers, we are not yet considering them as an aesthetic asset. English, German, French Rivers etc. hold their waters in much higher esteem. Most of the big European rivers have walkways and/or bike lines, sometimes on both banks, and they are intensively used for recreational purposes. We don't have that in our country, albeit some of our rivers start having better access, like the Hutt and the Waikato River.

Thus, the book on review is an eye-opener for the beauty and importance of a special river explored and fished in its full length: the Mataura River. Dougal Rillstone was probably the first New Zealand fly fisher who did exactly that and it is worth to follow him with his book along his 190 km long journey to source. Rillstone was born in Gore in 1949, close to the Mataura River, where he also caught his first fish. Later he became one of the most prolific trout fishers in the South Island and he was very intimate with the Mataura and all the 5400 square kilometres of its catchment. Fly fishing the Mataura kept him always close to the river over the decades. His statistics shows that he spent over 1500 days fishing the Mataura and its tributaries.

It is needless to say that the Mataura is one of the greatest self-sustaining brown trout fisheries in New Zealand and beyond.



Rillstone's idea of walking the 190 kilometres to its source was courageous, not only because of his age of sixty-eight. He had to take advice from a number of fishermen with similar experiences and he began to build his walking fitness before he started. His gear consisted of a tent, dried food, gas cooker, maps, locator beacon and – of course – a rod and reel. He hoped to complete the route of 250 kilometres in fourteen days, making twenty kilometres a day. Rillstone started his walk on the dunes and sandpits at Fortrose on the Pacific coast up to the Eyers Mountains in the North. It turned out that it would not be easy going. The river was not developed by well-defined walkways; you had to explore your own way. Many obstacles made the walk a big challenge, even an adventure. The first and most obstructive one turned out to be the electric fences on the farmlands. Another challenge was the weather with gales and torrential rain during the miserable summer of 2020 which often made the river flooded and impossible to cross. And the feet of the wanderer were not used to such lengthy marches. More than once Dougal had to turn away from the river to find a hot meal and a bed in one of the nearby hotels. At the end, he needed almost a month to complete his project.

It seems that Dougal was on a mission for himself, and for him it was much more than a walk. He wanted a personal memoir of the river as it was now, and what it has meant to him. He had fished most of the places on the Mataura and he recognized every pool, ripple, bend and seam when walking its banks. His journal shows that he did more than exploring the river. Dougal was interested in the people living in the villages along the river, the history of the area, the ever-changing weather pattern and the conversation with other anglers. He only met some twenty fly fishers from all around the globe, from Canada, the US, Australia and Japan, mostly older than sixty. Rillstone was also well aware of the changes that the river had occurred during his lifetime by the impact of the heavy pollution caused by the industry like papermills and meatworks. For a long time, the river was used as a rubbish tip for the communities. The water smelt bad. Dougal himself recorded his time as a schoolboy, when he was helping his uncle at his bookstore. His first morning job was to take the rubbish to the river. Opposite his workplace, pipes belched blood, fat and animal waste from the factory into the



river. It took a long time to change the attitudes towards the Mataura. It sounds like a miracle that its desecrated water finally recovered from the mistreatments to come back to the ancient glory, due to substantial efforts of the communities and the cleansing capacity of the river itself.

After two weeks, Rillstone reached the halfway mark, but he had not unpacked his fly rod on a single day. The atrocity of the weather (and the fences!) took most of his time. This changed when he entered the great planes and he could spare more time for “the great Mataura trout fishery”. After one month, on his seventy’s birthday, he reached the target, the small river in the Eyre Mountains. He had brought a cockle shell from the Ocean and gave it back to the water as a symbolic act and wondered how long it would take the Mataura to transport fragments of the shell back to the coast.

This beautiful book with its nice photographs, instructive memoirs and fishing experiences is certainly designed for the experts for this fine kind of sport, whereas the beginner of fly fishing would probably miss the subtleties of fishing: How to cast a line, which fly would be appropriate for wet or dry fly fishing, and where would be a good start for the Mataura? At Shepherd Creek, the Otama Bridge, the Adlusa Bridge, the Nokomai Gorge or the Fortune Creek, and not to forget the nice and sometimes very productive tributaries? The addition of a specified map would have been very helpful.

The answer to Rillstone’s question “Why I fish” lies in the author’s own thoughts. “I find it impossible to be in these big, solitary landscapes without reflecting on what this life is about and my position on the rapidly advancing conveyor belt of our existence. The chance to sit in the shade of a willow and watch the water, the insects, swallows, terns and even the odd rat, is lost to most. As I grow older this element of my fly fishing has become at least as important as catching trout. Casting a fly gives me a chance to see this world, because to fly fish well, you need to find a way to enter this natural place, not loudly at the top of the food chain but quietly somewhere in the middle of it, connected to it by the fly attached to a leader, a fly line and a rod”.

Rolf W.Brednich

# UPCOMING CLUB TRIPS



## June 23 – 25 Turangi

As usual we will be staying at the Auckland Fly-fishing Anglers Clubhouse “Turangi Lodge”.

Month	Dates	Destination
July	28 - 30	Turangi
August	25 - 27	Turangi

*To book your place on a club trip please contact Strato (04) 386 3740*

## WFF FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/WellingtonFlyfishersClub>



**Have you got the right flies  
for those Turangi trips**

**From Glow Bugs to Red Setters  
and many more**

**In Store Now**

Club discount 10% available on flyfishing purchases (excluding specials) with your membership card

The Flyfishing Experts

Hutt Valley Hunting & Fishing NZ  
8 Te Puni Street, Petone.

P O Box 33 206, Petone, Wellington, New Zealand  
Telephone: 0064-4-589 9500

## **ON-STREAM DAY**

**Next onstream day** – Saturday – June 17 Hutt River

Onstream days are opportunities for members who are new to flyfishing to learn from an experienced angler. 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

## **USEFUL LINKS**

For a list of useful links including licences, river flow levels, weather sites and organisations please visit the club website.

<https://wellingtonflyfishers.org/links>

## **CLUB MEETING VENUE**

Tararua Tramping Club rooms - 4 Moncrieff St, Mount Victoria, Wellington. For a detailed map and instructions on getting there please visit the club website <https://wellingtonflyfishers.org/club-meetings/>

## **NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please visit the Website for details relating to newsletter submissions

<https://wellingtonflyfishers.org/newsletter/>

## **COMMITTEE MEETING**

6 pm, second Monday every month. For additional details please see the club website

<http://wellingtonflyfishers.org.nz/committee>

## 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.

## WEBSITE

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

## 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. 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 2023 - 31 MARCH 2024

Full member or family membership	Junior membership	Joining fee	Overseas Newsletter (Email only)
\$35	no fee.	\$10	\$35

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

## RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

As a club member you should receive a copy of the club newsletter via email if you are not receiving club emails please see the website for details. <https://wellingtonflyfishers.org/newsletter/>

## CLUB MISSION

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

## COMMITTEE

<b>President</b>	<b>Strato Cotsilinis</b>	<b>386 3740</b>
Past President	Paul Baker	970 2595
Vice President	John Gamble	027 517 5825
Secretary	Heather Millar	386 3049
Treasurer	Carmen Cotsilinis	027 611 8088
Newsletter Editor	Linda Brown	027 230 4770
Librarian	Warren Horne	386 3049
Website	Scott Garelli	021 325 032
Facebook Editor	Susi Lang	027 564 6008
Club Trips	Strato Cotsilinis	386 3740
Helpdesk	Hal Levine	027 4200 482
Fly Tying & Casting	Strato Cotsilinis	386 3740
Club Competitions	Paul Baker	970 2595
Committee	Peter Buxton	472 3456
Committee	Rod Lawson	021 119 4115



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