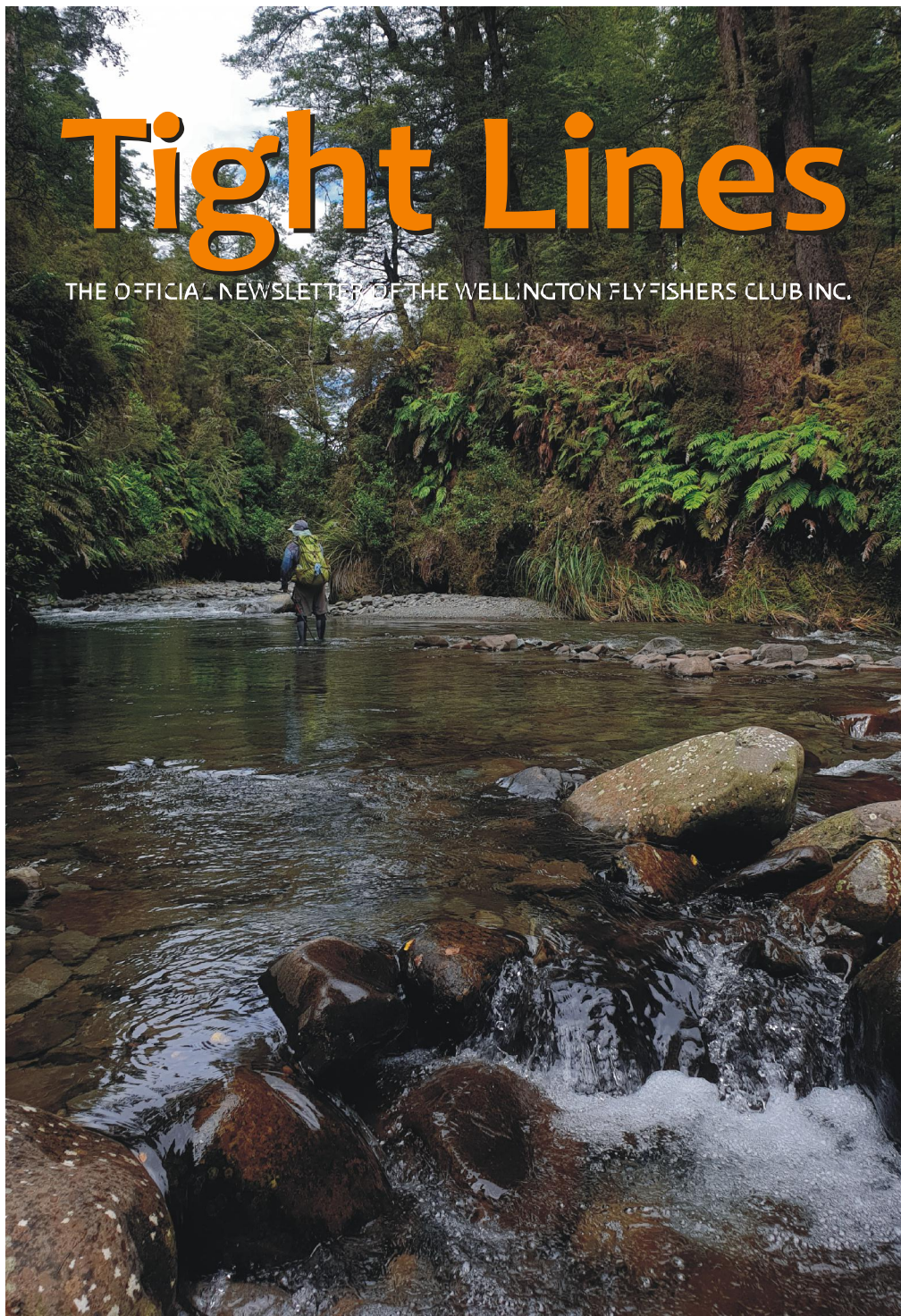


Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLY-FISHERS CLUB INC.



TIGHT LINES

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



CONTENTS

CLUB MEETING.....	2
PRESIDENT'S PAGE.....	3
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS.....	4
POND OPEN DAY.....	4
FLYBOX RAFFLE	
FUND RAISING FOR CAPITAL TROUT CENTRE.....	4
DR R.G. WEAR - <i>John Gamble</i>.....	5-6
UPCOMING CLUB TRIPS.....	7
GREAT BOOKS ABOUT FLY FISHING #5 - <i>Rolf Brednich</i>.....	7-10
A FLY TYING LEGEND - <i>Rolf Brednich</i>.....	10
FLY TYING - <i>Richard Benefield</i>.....	11-14
POND CLEAN UP.....	15
FLY OF THE MONTH.....	16
HUNTING & FISHING.....	17
ON-STREAM DAY	18
USEFUL LINKS.....	18
CLUB MEETING VENUE.....	18
NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS.....	18
COMMITTEE MEETING.....	18
HELPDESK.....	19
WEBSITE.....	19
CLUB MEMBERSHIP.....	19
FEES 1 APRIL 2023 - 31 MARCH 2024.....	19
RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL	20
CLUB MISSION.....	20
COMMITTEE.....	20

Cover: Susi Lang (*tributary off the Mohaka*)

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 4th September, 7.30pm

Review of rivers in our area after all the storm events by **Matt Kavermann**
of **Fish & Game**

EVENTS THIS MONTH

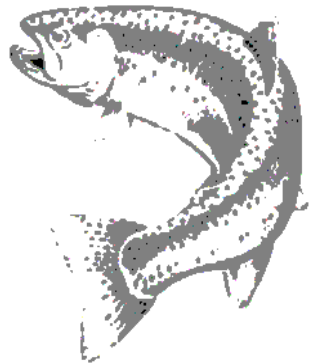
Club Trip: September 16/17 - location TBC

Fly Tying: Monday 18 September - Gold (Black) Bead Hare & Copper Nymph

On-Stream Day:

Sunday 24 September - 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 Connal McIvor

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As the new season draws near and under normal circumstances many of the rivers in our region would be legally open for trout fishing the storms and devastation which have occurred over the last six months have had a significant effect on many of these waterways. It is difficult therefore for members to know whether visiting some of their favourite spots are going to be productive or a waste of time.

Certainly the devastation which I witnessed on the Napier Taupo road on the Mohaka and other surrounding rivers was huge. The amount of silt which is now piled meters high in some places, will over coming years be constantly washed into the waterways in the area.

Fish & Game appreciate the difficulties that licence holders are going to experience in trying to fish those areas and Wellington Fish & Game have been doing a survey to at least provide some information which may be useful to licence holders in deciding the location of their next fishing adventure.

Matt Kavermann from Fish & Game will therefore give us a presentation at the club meeting to be held on Monday 4th September which will hopefully assist club members in this regard.

Many of our club members use the Taupo fishery as their main fishing exercise and fortunately it has not suffered from any of the devastation other rivers have experienced.

However at the same time, rainfall in the area has been very inconsistent and catches of feisty rainbows running upstream to spawn have been rather hit and miss.

Any significant rain over the next two months should see good runs up your favourite rivers.

Don't forget you need a new licence for the Taupo area for the period which commenced on 1st July 2023.

Also don't forget the new licences for the rest of the country are due 1st October 2023 for the new season.

Good luck with your fishing.

Strato

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for the year ending 31 March 2024 are due and can be paid by cash at a club meeting or online to 06-0582-0030903-00. The subscription remains at \$35.00.

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

POND OPEN DAY

The season at the Capital Trout Centre begins with an OPEN DAY on Sunday 3rd September.

If you are able to assist please phone Strato 3863740 so we can draw up a roster. Licences/registration tickets will be collected from Hunting & Fishing and Capital Fishing on Saturday 2nd and we will then be in a position to know how many registrations we have and at what times we need the most help.

FLYBOX RAFFLE FUND RAISING FOR CAPITAL TROUT CENTRE

Tickets \$5.00 each

First and second prizes of a flybox filled with beautifully tied flies.

The raffle will be drawn when all 150 tickets are sold. Refer to June's Tight Lines for further information.

DR R.G. WEAR

I am sad to pass on the news that long-standing WFFC member Bob Wear passed away on 9th July, he had been unwell for some time. Bob had been a club member since the mid 1980's and was a member when I joined in the early 1990s. He was made a life-member in 2021. Bob grew up in the Hutt Valley and studied at Victoria University of Wellington from where he obtained a PhD in Biological Science in the late 1960's. Following his PhD he spent some time overseas, I think in the Philippines, where he developed his interest in commercial freshwater prawn farming and marine aquaculture.

Bob was always innovative, inventive and entrepreneurial – he helped to establish the Victoria University of Wellington Marine Laboratory (now the Coastal Ecology Laboratory) on the south coast of Wellington and to develop marine aquaculture through his long-standing interest in commercial freshwater prawn farming.

He owned a bach at Whareroa on the SW shore of Lake Taupo and I visited there with him on many occasions through the mid 80s and later from 2013 until 2021. The initial bach was pretty spartan, and I recall, to Bob's delight killing a rat in his kitchen on one occasion!

He and Jan undertook a major rebuild of the property in the late 80s early 90s. During this time I visited on a number of occasions, often with Rolf Brednich, also a club member and also one of Bob's golfing mates. Usually, we fished the stream mouth at Whareroa in early morning and late at night, with trips to fish the Tongariro River, Lake Otamangakau, Lake Kuratau and Kuratau Stream.

Bob had the stream mouth fishing at Whareroa stitched up – he fished with a sink-tip line – his own version, a number 8-weight double-taper floating line, with a sink-tip about 1.5 m of Hi-d sinking line spliced on. His leader was never less than 10 kg,

latterly of fluorocarbon (for it's extra mass). At night time he often used lumo flies, but also had some of his own creations that looked horrible, but were very effective. He had a number of 10 lb+ fish in his diary – they were invariably returned.

I recall on one evening were fishing the Whareroa stream mouth around dark, probably late February 2018. There were a few other anglers at the true stream mouth, and I think Rolf was with us, so we were stretched out along the beach to the south west of the mouth, when Bob grunted to me that he had hooked into something quite large. The fish ran him up and down the shoreline a few times and then simply took off out into the lake. The bend on Bob's rod told a story, it was a big fish, definitely double figures, but it straightened the hook and was gone. Bob simply continued to fish!

On another occasion in the period between Christmas and New Year 1998, I drove up to Whareroa and joined Bob and Jan for a few days. I remember that I arrived on Sunday around lunch time, it was a bright sunny day and there were many swimmers and sunbathers along the beach. Around 3.00pm Bob suggested we put the rods up, sandals on, and wander out along the Lake shore amongst bathers and sunners from Te Hape Bay towards the Kuratau headland. He suspected there might be a few smelting trout around, so his advice was floating lines and a long leader – which to Bob was about 3 metres and silicon smelt flies. We were not disappointed because the trout had herded a large shoal of smelt into the Bay area and in the space of an hour we sighted, hooked and released nearly 30 fish, all in top condition and around 2.5 – 3.5 kg! Several fish were kept for BBQ or smoking and they were fat, full of smelt and prime eating.

So Bob, if you are up there, looking down, it was a pleasure to know you, to fish with you and to share a dram, RIP. Our commiserations and condolences to Jan and all the family. J.G.

UPCOMING CLUB TRIPS

September 16/17

The location of the September Club trip is yet to be decided.

The location will be advised at the September club meeting and via email.

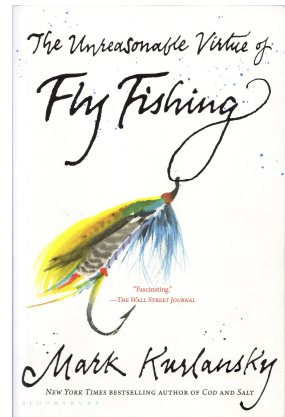
GREAT BOOKS ABOUT FLY FISHING # 5

Mark Kurlansky:
The Unreasonable Virtue of Fly Fishing.

New York, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021. XXII, 279 p.

The author of this fascinating book is a senior fly-fisher who has fished trout and salmon in many countries. He has published a large number of books, fiction and nonfiction, but none of them about fly-fishing. This changed, when he returned to his birthplace on the Big

Wood River in Idaho. Ernest Hemingway had lived there. Mark Kurlansky became a trout historian with a good sense of humour, as he wrote: "Whenever I see a body of water, I look for fish. When I am by a river, I stare into the glassy pools, ... I always ask where the fish are, and when I think I know, I want to try to catch them".



As an historian, after a lifelong love for fishing, he dived deep into the history of this subject and produced a book about many historical aspects of fly-fishing. He believed that fly-fishing required a strong scientific background, an understanding of fish and the animals they eat, knowledge of nature and weather patterns and the life of the river. The reader of this book will be immediately captivated by Marks's most interesting knowledge of the origins and developments of fly-fishing. Only a few readers might be aware that the first mentioning of fly-fishing dates back to the Roman Empire when Ovid, the famous author of the Art of Love wrote the following lines at the end of the first century B.C.:

*Let your hook almost be cast
In a pool where you least expect it,
There will be a fish.*

Chinese history even dates further back. In a manuscript written about 3.500 years ago, the use of an artificial fly for fishing was described. The American Indians are known for practicing fly-fishing for trout and were convinced that the purpose of fishing is to catch fish for food. "It is a gift from the gods, and to play with it for recreation disrespectful". Most of the European Middle Age countries already used flies for fishing, and a number of medieval Latin recipe books from monasteries are testament of the fact that trout had been fished for consumption and not for recreation. The Complete Angler, the most famous book on fly fishing by Isaac Walton from 1653, was based on earlier – and better -books - but became nonetheless a best and long-seller.

The book under review has altogether 14 chapters, but the most valuable ones are those about the fishing techniques and tackles: The Fly (6), the Rod (7), the Reel (8) and the Line (9). They are full of trivia, data, lore, anecdotes and eccentric history, worth studying and also fun to read.

Because this is an academic publication, it has a comprehensive bibliography, an index, a list of the rivers and a list of illustrations albeit of poor quality.

Some of the lessons and quips I learned and liked from this book

- “He was fond of angling, and seemed proud of being able to like such a stupid occupation.” (*Leo Tolstoy*)
- Many people thought for a long time that salmon cannot be caught with a fly. A territorial dispute to abandon the Oregon Territory was solved because it was thought useless for salmon fishing.
- The first rule when cooking trout outdoors is to keep the fish intact. Do not cut into steaks. A whole fish is a wonderfully sealed natural package.
- There are more than 6,5 million fly fishers in the United States.
- In his book *The practical Angler* of 1857, William C Stewart promoted the concept of casting upstream.
- Why is it that people tie flies in winter? The standard excuse is that tying flies gives you something to do in off-season. How else to explain the fact that there are many skilled tiers in famous fly fishing areas don't even fish? They just like to tie flies.
- It is not certain who invented dry fly fishing. But Frederic Halford, a wealthy English fisher of chalk streams, developed and promoted the idea. In 1868, he transformed the idea into a popular elite form of fly fishing by introducing new flies, casting techniques and floating lines and carefully studied insects. He spread the idea through his book *Floating Flies and How to Dress Them*. Thanks to him, dry-fly fishing is now a major branch of fly fishing.

- The US State of Oregon started requiring men to purchase fishing licenses in 1899, but women were not required to have them until 1923. Some US. States did not require women to get fishing licenses until the 1960s.
- There is an American Fly Fishing Museum in Manchester, Vermont, founded in 1968.
- “You can’t lose a fish because it was never yours”
(Isaac Walton).

Rolf W.Brednich

A FLY TYING LEGEND

Leonardo da Vinci had a dream. The artist was working in a tackle shop, laboring until he had made the ultimate fly, which he called The Last Supper. When his employers saw it, they fainted, and word of the fly soon spread. In a matter of months, that trout fishing lure was a sensation. Millions of the Last Supper were sold in America. The Vatican ordered ten thousand and they didn’t even have any trout. Testimonials poured in. Thirty-four ex-presidents of the United States all said, I caught my limit on The Last Supper.

Richard Brautigam, Trout Fishing in America 1960

FLY TYING

A few weeks back I was staying at TALTAC and met a member from Tauranga who was keen to start tying flies but didn't know where to begin and, probably because I had had ½ a glass of wine more than my daily quota, I rather foolishly offered to e-mail him the basics. It wasn't until later I realised it was quite an onerous task. I also know that fishermen hold strong opinions and what I say here is very much open to debate but I said I would email, so I did. To avoid being sued I have edited out some comments critical of some retailers.

Recently I have had two poor experiences with retailers. The first was I needed some black marabou to tie wooly buggers. Without really looking at it I bought a packet (for \$9.99) but it was possibly the lowest grade of marabou I have ever had - \$10 wasted. Looking at past purchases of marabou from Hareline, Surestrike, Tightlines & Metz the average price \$6.29; & all are excellent quality. The second was I bought a packet of egg yarn, quality is fine but it cost \$13.00! The last yarn I bought cost \$4.95. I suspect that both these experiences carry through to other materials as well so shop around and look carefully. You will never tie flies you are pleased with using shonky materials. I see now I could have bought Wapsi Egg Yarn at half the price.

Tools you need

Vise: I have a Renzetti Traveler 2200 and am very happy with it. I know of others who are equally happy with the same make & model. It is available with a clamp or weighted pedestal. There are lots of other good vises around these days. Shop around knowing the decision you make, if it has shortcomings, it will frustrate you. Cheap = poor quality. This is the most expensive item you need to have and will probably cost you \$250+.

Bobbin holders: These are the gizmos you attach your thread to. You need two to start with: one expensive.

A bobbin threader: to get your thread through the bobbin holder. Cheap is ok.

Scissors: Dr Slick is the "go to" brand but cheap pairs (usually made in India or Pakistan) are fine.

Other tools: Whip finishing tool - two designs, look on YouTube; a long needle, a craft knife, a chenille tool, small wire cutters and small hackle pliers. Again cheap are generally good.

Hooks: Start off with 3 packets. Don't start too small: Nymphs & caddis #10 or #12, Streamers #6 or #8. Don't tie glo-bugs at first, they can be trickier than they look! Also not dry flies until you have the basics.

Good brands	No of hooks	Appx. Price	Comments on what's in the box
TMC	20	\$11.00	Best description of hook profile:eg 2XL 2XH 2XW PB*
Black Magic	30	\$9.99	Passable description but a little confusing
Kamsan	25	\$9.99	Good hooks but worst description
Fulling Mills	50	\$12.95	Reasonably good description
Grip	25	\$6.95	Reasonably good description
Hanak	25	\$9.95	Reasonably good description
Mustad: if you can find them			* Abbreviations: L = length, H= Heavy, W = Wide, PB = Perfect Bend + others
Ali Express: Cheap but I don't know about quality – What you order may differ from what you get			

Thread: Initially Uni-Thread or similar 6/0 Black, a reel of .20 lead & a reel of fine copper wire.

Other: Sally Hansen "Hard as Nails" clear nail varnish from either Warehouse or Farmers.

Beads: Brass or tungsten. Black, gold or orange: I think trout are colour blind? Have never seen an insect with a shiny metal head & lead wrapped around the shank sits level in the water. Beads do have their place.

Materials: Hard to find good quality stuff at any price these days. Best to go on line.

Fly patterns to start with:

- **Streamers:** Wooly Bugger using good quality Marabou, a Red Setter & an Orange Rabbit
- **Caddis:** Green and/or dark brown vinyl & one with a dubbed fur body and perhaps maybe a bead head.
- **Nymphs:** A Pheasant tail nymph and a Hare & Copper.

Once you have tied the above to your satisfaction, some with lead, some without, some with beads of colour you like (don't think the trout care one way or the other) you have half a large box of flies!

You need somebody who owns a gun to shoot a peacock for you. You want the tail: also somebody to shoot a rabbit. Both should be shot in autumn or winter. Nice thick hurles & thick fur, definitely shot in a colder climate. Retail hare's masks & pheasant tail feathers are fine.

At this point you have probably got all the basic bits & pieces and spent more money than you budgeted for, so you need to be sure this is something you want to do. Before you start go on to U-Tube: Barry Ord-Clarke, Salmonscape & Davy McPhail have good sites to look at. There are heaps of others... You can work out

what feathers, chenille (orange for your rabbit streamer & red setter) fine wire etc. etc.

Get other opinions - every person who ties flies has a different opinion, a bit like every fisherman! Sadly I am a 90% fisherman - one who catches 10% of the fish; and then only on a good day! ... so get other advice.

In Wellington we have monthly fly-tying at WFF good basic patterns, an absolute must for people new to tying.

Happy Days!

Richard Benefield



POND CLEAN UP

The annual clean up at the Capital Trout Centre is one of the club's events which is two days of hard work for those that turn up to help. The weather plays a big part on what can be achieved but some basic tasks have to be prepared ready for the next shipment of rainbow trout from the Ngongataha hatchery.

This year showery weather persisted over both days but the eleven club members did a super job and most of the work was completed.

The highlight of every clean up is the netting of the front pond to ascertain how many fish we have left from last year's shipment and to transfer these fish to the back pond. This involves the lowering of the water in the front pond and a number of the helpers dragging the net. One helper was so keen to see the fish she decided a swim in the freezing water was the way to get up close.

Strato

WFF FACEBOOK PAGE

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

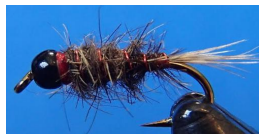


FLY OF THE MONTH

Fly tying is sponsored by [Fishscene](#)

Monday 18 September, 7.30pm - Tararua Tramping Club Locker Room (Access through side door on north side of building)

Gold (Black) Bead Hare & Copper Nymph



This is arguably New Zealand's Greatest contribution to fly design.

It is the easiest pattern to tie in its most simple form yet it is one of the most effective nymph designs. Tied "in the round" so it looks the same no matter how it is drifting. A perfect starting place for anyone thinking about giving flytying a go. Larger examples probably suggest large swimming mayflies, bullies and stoneflies, medium sizes suggest caddis pupae and small ones midge pupae.

Hook	TMC 3769 size 8-18
Thread	Danville 6/0 black
Rib	Copper wire
Underbody	Lead wire
Body	Dubbed hares fur
Bead	Gold or Black bead

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





Fishing Licence BONUS

**Free polarised fishing glasses
on purchases of full season fishing licences**

**Offer valid to 31st October 2023 or while
stocks last**

**Limit 1 pair of sunglasses per licence
Ts & Cs apply**

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 – Sunday 24 September - 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 inks. <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

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

President	Strato Cotsilinis	386 3740
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

