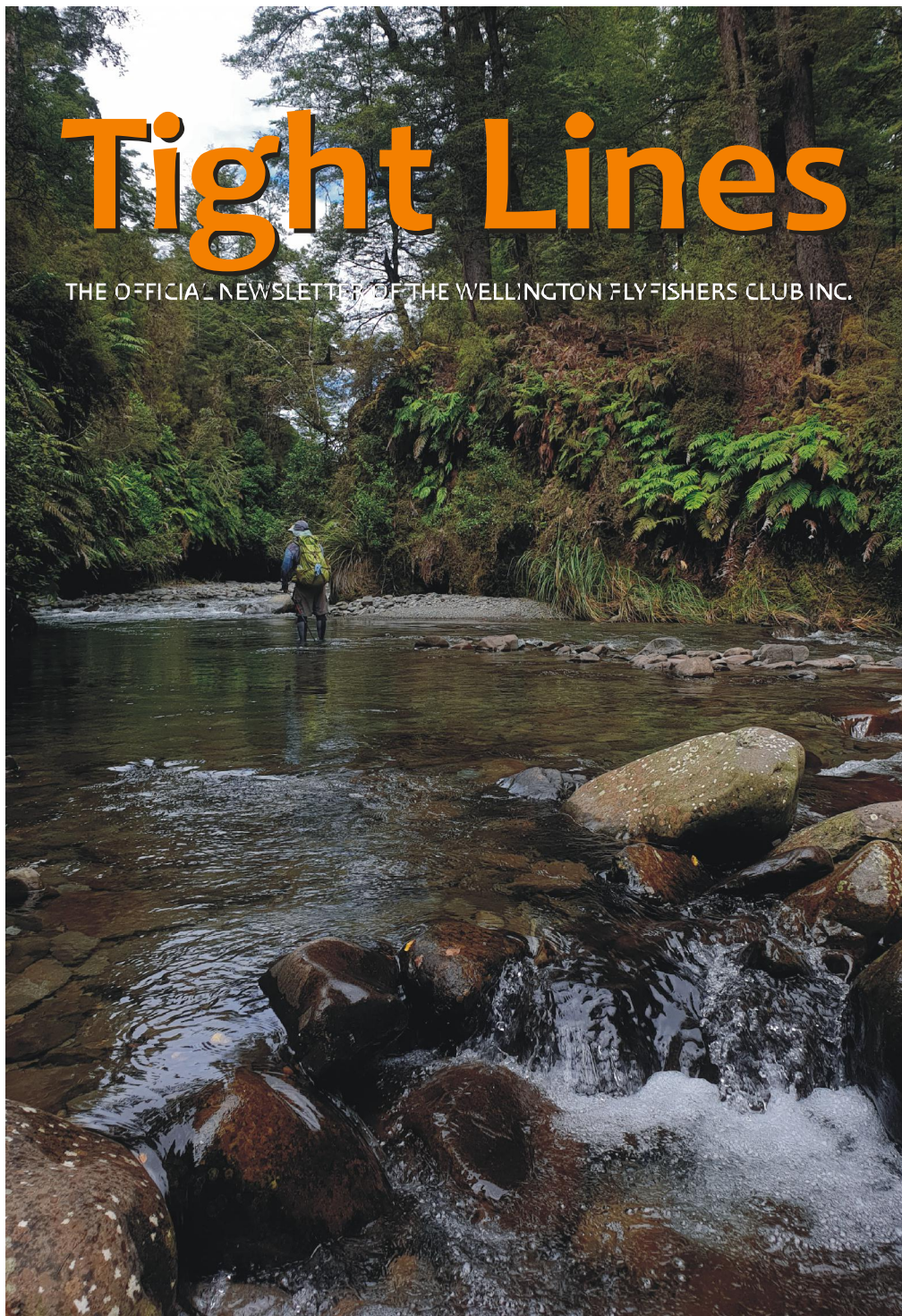


# Tight Lines

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



# TIGHT LINES

The official newsletter  
of the Wellington Flyfishers Club inc.  
April 2024



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**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 1st April, 7.30pm**

Tararua Tramping Club Rooms – 4 Moncrief St,  
Mount Victoria, Wellington

With the annual spawning run up the Taupo rivers many club members will be looking to travel to Turangi over the coming months.

**The April club meeting will therefore provide practical solutions on appropriate tackle fishing methods.**

## EVENTS THIS MONTH

**Club Trip:** April 19/21 - Tukituki

**Fly Tying:** Monday 15 April – GLOW BUG

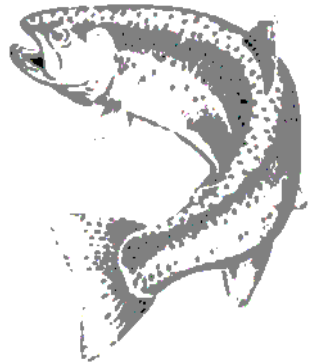
**On-Stream Day:** Sunday 28 April - Wainuiomata River  
Phone Strato 386 3740 by the Wednesday prior.

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

**Capital Trout Centre:** Closed

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Jahdyn Poutawa  
and welcome back Rob Gourdie



# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A recent club trip to the Ruamahunga made me really think what does constitute a successful days fishing.

Here in New Zealand fish in the 1 -2 kilo range are caught consistently and our rivers and lakes can produce trout of significantly bigger sizes. However when one watches videos of trout fishing overseas and for those of us who have been lucky enough to experience trout fishing in some European countries, fish of around 200-300 grams are commonly targeted and in many cases these are adult fish.

Overseas anglers catching a number of these small fish on a fishing expedition deem it a success and we therefore need to stop and think occasionally of how privileged we are here in New Zealand.

Our recent trip to the Ruamahunga, which is reported elsewhere in the magazine, produced a large number of small fish, in this case juveniles, but on a beautiful day with easy and free access and with excellent water conditions it was still a very pleasant way of spending the day.

Upcoming trips and the winter spawning runs up the Lake Taupo rivers give us the opportunity to catch fish which many overseas anglers can only dream of but hopefully will be a rewarding time for club members.

Good luck over the next few months.

*Tight Lines*

*Strato*

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that Wellington Flyfishers Club Inc will hold its AGM at its normal club meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30pm at the Tararua Tramping Club hall.

Full agenda and associated papers will be published in the May magazine.

## REMINDERS

**The club's annual photographic competition will be held at the AGM on 6th May.**

- You must have taken the photos
- Limited to 2 photos per person
- Photos must have a fly fishing theme or scene
- No specific size or orientation required
- The photos will be judged by members attending the meeting
- The committee will decide which if any of the photos will become the next cover of Tight Lines

**The Wainuiomata River season ends on 30<sup>th</sup> April.**

Check Fish & Game regulations for other rivers before you plan your trips.

## FLYTYING NIGHT

The flash back pheasant tail is one of the most productive nymphs used by trout fishermen.



The group who attended the last flytying night found it a challenge especially when tied on size 14 hooks.

Hopefully however the final results will bring some success when tried on the river.

# CAPITAL TROUT CENTRE

We have asked the Ngongotaha Hatchery to deliver our annual shipment of 1000 rainbows one month earlier this year to try and avoid the hot temperatures of mid-summer.

As a result the pond clean-up will therefore be earlier than normal and will be held on the weekend of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Further details will be in the May and June magazines.

## LAST CAST

The Capital Trout Centre has had only three fish in the pond since mid January.

They have teased a couple of groups by rising to food and swimming around their flies but evading capture.

The anglers 'Last Cast' proved a charm for a ten year old angler, who was having casting lessons, when he was advised to have a last cast before going home. He hooked onto a 1.540kg rainbow and with advice to play the fish carefully, managed to bring it to the net.

On gutting the fish we marvelled at the fact that his stomach was absolutely full of food pellets but his greedy grab at one more pellet was his undoing.



# BEST FISH AWARDS

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

## **Hunting & Fishing Heaviest Fish (Senior)**

Susanne Lang            15 lb            Rainbow  
November 2023

## **Wallace Condition Factor: best conditioned fish**

Maurice Broome        CF 66.31        Rainbow  
February 2024    Tukituki

## **Biggest Fish Junior**

Jahdyn Poutawa        1.540kg        Rainbow  
March 2024    Capital Trout Centre

# CLUB ANNUAL FISHING COMPETITION

The annual competition for the Club's fishing trophy was held on the Ruamahanga River on Saturday 24 February. This has always been a friendly affair and closely contested by a few keen anglers. This year we had six entries, but one competitor woke up early Saturday morning feeling poorly, which resulted in an odd number of anglers. Because we fish in pairs, taking turns to fish or act as controller, we had to cut back to 4 anglers.

Strato kindly pulled out and helped draw the pairs and beats on the river before heading home. The first session had Paul & Brian paired to fish upstream from the Gladstone Bridge. As soon as we headed out on the river, we saw three fly fishers before us in the first pool; not an auspicious beginning. A polite conversation introducing ourselves and determining fishing intentions we learnt that the father was taking his two sons to a large pool 10 minutes' walk upstream that was 'full of fish'. We offered to avoid that water, and they decided to go directly there and leave the rest of the river to us.

Brian fished the first ¾ hour session, and we quickly learned that most of the fish were likely in the 'big pool with the willow lined bank'. Paul was still below the big pool for his ¾ hour session. He hooked and lost one fish on the dry fly / nymph combo. It took in a blind spot on the water caused by the sun shining through the willows, and so was probably not well hooked.

Brian in his next session missed a strike on a fast run and then headed upstream past the 'big pool, full of fish', where the three anglers were focussing their efforts. The next pool up was very long and on the right-hand side of the riverbed. There were six – ten or so fish feeding in the flat water near the willows in the lower half of the pool. In the limited time left, Brian was not able to elicit a take, and so finished the morning with a blank. Paul then had a go for the same fish, and had two fish rise to the dry, but failed to successfully hook up. Further up there was a deeper pocket of water near a downed tree, with two fish visible down deep. Paul switched to euro-nymphing to get down deep to the fish. He failed to get a strike from the bigger fish but did pick up one small fish at 24cm long. A last frantic effort towards the top of the pool failed to add to the score, so the morning ended with Paul having one small fish.

Back at Gladstone we learned that Jarek had better luck. He and Rod fished upstream from the Dakins Road picnic area. Jarek had landed two fish, 20 cm and 41 cm. Rod had hooked into a fish but unfortunately missed out on landing it. So the morning session was Jarek 1 st , Paul 2 nd , and Brian and Rod 4 th equal.

Fortunately for the afternoon session we had decided to fish fresh water. Jarek and Brian drew downstream from the Gladstone Bridge, and Paul and Rod downstream from Wardell's Bridge.

Jarek maintained his consistency by landing two fish, 36 cm and 21 cm, and quite reasonably may have hoped to be in the running for the trophy.





Brian had a much better afternoon and landed five fish averaging 32 cm.

Paul had the first session at Wardell's and opted to start fishing with two wee wets on a nymph tip line. He was quickly into action with small fish hitting the flies regularly. In the first session he landed seven fish up to 30 cm, and almost as many that were under the size limit of 18 cm.

Rod stayed with dry fly / nymph combo in his session, and picked up two fish, 19 and 25 cm, when he allowed the nymph to swing around below him in wet fly fashion.

In his second session Paul continued down the shallow run from where Rod had finished, but apart from one 18 cm fish, anything else he caught there was undersize. To finish the session, he headed down to the confluence with the Waingawa River. There was a deep gut where the rivers joined, and after a few casts on the high bank on the left side of the river with a euro-nymph rig and dropping one fish, crossed the middle of the pool at waist depth to access the water from the RHS. Rod also crossed with the measuring board in hand. Being somewhat shorter, that was not easy. The effort was worthwhile however, with Paul landing another three fish; 33, 28 and 46 cm, in the last 15 minutes of his session.

Rod wasn't able to land another fish in his final session.

In the final tally, Paul had the win with a 2nd & 1st placing, Jarek second with a 1st and 3rd , and Brian third with his 2nd placing in the afternoon. Everyone enjoyed the day's outing, and for now, we know where to go...to the big pool, full of fish.

Paul



# UPCOMING CLUB TRIPS

April	19 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup>	Tukituki
May	10 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup>	Whakapapa
June	14 <sup>th</sup> /16 <sup>th</sup>	Turangi
July	5 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup>	Turangi
August	9 <sup>th</sup> /11 <sup>th</sup>	Turangi

## ONSTREAM DAY – RUAMAHUNGA RIVER

The three of us who visited the Ruamahunga River for onstream day, enjoyed a beautiful sunny days fishing.



Rain overnight had failed to have any effect on water levels and we found the river low and clear. A cool morning also meant there was very little feeding activity. However Jarrad and David were successful with a few fish (see photo)

By lunchtime however a hatch of mayflies really got a significant numbers of small rainbows feeding actively with approximately 30 landed but regrettably none even made the 1lb. These would have been good catches for the Club Champs held two weeks prior but it was disappointing that few significant fish in terms of size were caught on the day.

Nevertheless an enjoyable days fishing.

# KAPITI WOMEN ON THE FLY

## February 2024 Update

### Practical Skills Sessions are in Demand

Women on The Fly NZ's, 2024 series of Sunday fly fishing skill sessions got underway with a great session earlier this month for women in the Wellington region. 13 ladies turned up for casting tuition from Gordon Baker at Haruatai Park in Otaki. The ladies travelled as far as Wairarapa, Manawatu and Wellington city, with a third having never held a fly rod previously.



These practical sessions are planned for the 2nd Sunday of the month. The next session, targeting beginners and novices, is at 10.30 am on Sunday 10th March at the Otaki Bridge Club. Topics covered will include three essential fly fishing knots, three basic leader set-ups, introduction to fly lines and essential fly patterns.

### Planning ahead

The steering group, (currently myself, Gordon Baker, Greg du Bern and Betty Mani) met recently to plan for 2024 and beyond. As well as running local activities, we are now supporting women from clubs in other regions to host events - currently the Tauranga Anglers Club and Christchurch Fishing & Casting Club. It is heartening to find women leaders in other regions to grow the community and leverage the knowledge and experience that WoTF has acquired over the past three years.

We have also recently had discussions with Fish & Game NZ on how we can collaborate on growing female participation. Also, please keep an eye out for a Stuff article in mid-March promoting women and fishing. (Clues in the photo below.)

### WoTF NZ Mission Statement

As New Zealand's best-connected community for women who fly fish, Women on the Fly is dedicated to enriching women's lives, emphasising the benefits to mental, physical, and social well-being, and fostering respect for our natural environment.

We connect anglers, host events, and promote women-led initiatives through collaboration, building skills and confidence for everyone from curious beginners to experienced enthusiasts.

Please follow our activities on this [Facebook Page](#). There is also a private [WoTF Facebook group](#) that provides a safe space for women who fly fish, (or would like to fly fish) to share information, arrange fishing activities, and learn from each other about all things fly fishing.



Or contact me directly at [leigh@leighjohnsonnz.com](mailto:leigh@leighjohnsonnz.com) or visit [www.womenonthefly.nz](http://www.womenonthefly.nz) to receive regular updates.

## WFF FACEBOOK PAGE

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



# FLY OF THE MONTH

Fly tying is sponsored by [Fishscene](#)



**Monday 15th April, 7.30pm** - Tararua Tramping Club Locker Room (Access through side door on north side of building)

Winter fishing for many of our club members is predominantly directed to fishing the Taupo and Rotorua areas.

We have had a number of requests to repeat previous sessions relating to popular Taupo patterns.

**This month's fly is a GLOW BUG.**



## Materials

Thread	Danville flymaster or Kevlar if available
Hook	TMC 2457 size 14 or 105 size 10
Body	Glow-Bug yarn – preferably stretchy yarn Various colour combinations including; champagne, fire orange, fluorescent orange, flame, deep dark red

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





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

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and many more**

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

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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 28 April - Wainuiomata 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](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	027 472 3455
Committee	Rod Lawson	021 119 4115



WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB( IN C).  
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