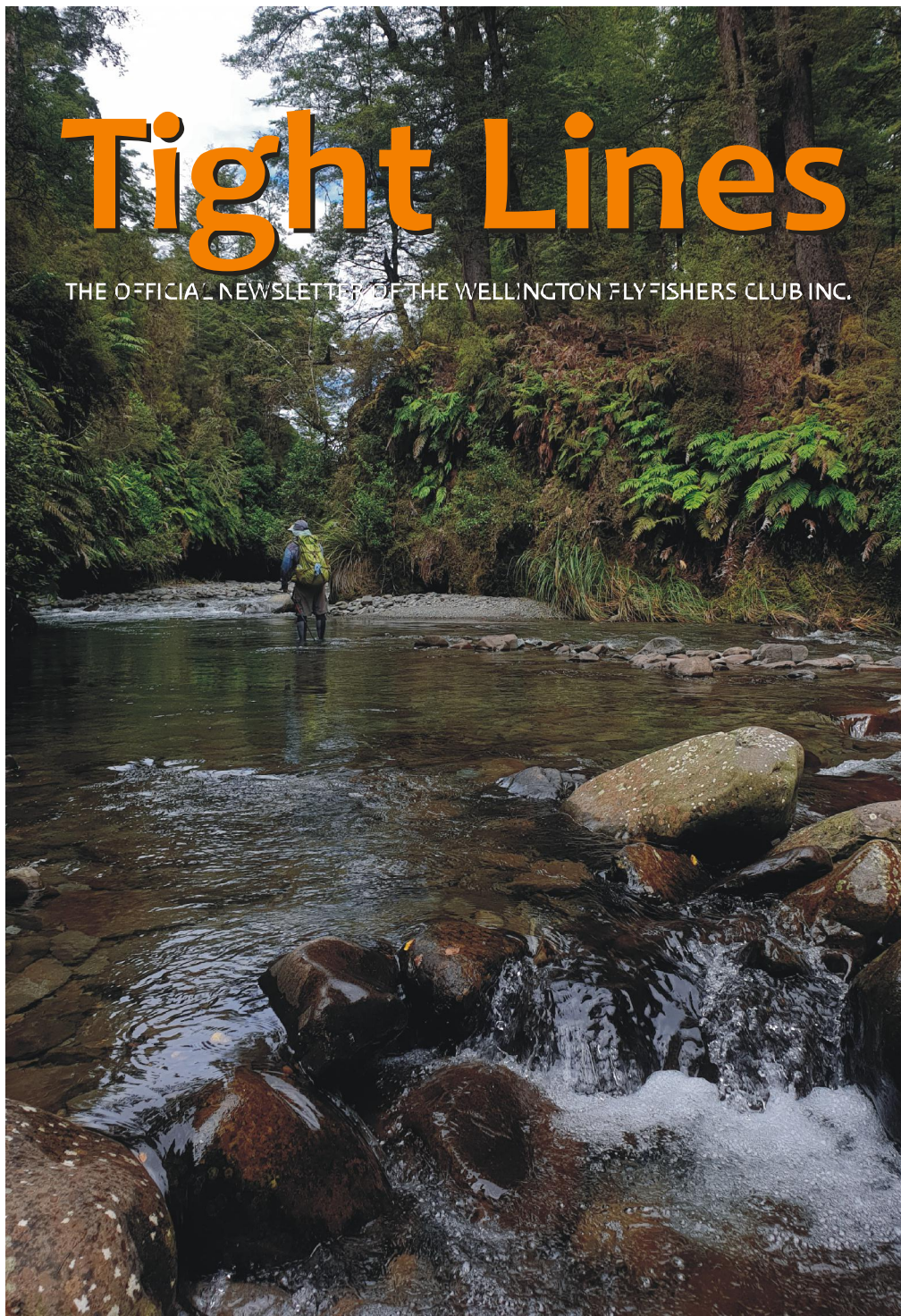


Tight Lines

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



TIGHT LINES

The official newsletter
of the Wellington Flyfishers Club inc.
March 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 5th March, 7.30pm

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

MOHAKA REVISITED

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Club Trip: 22-24 March - Mohaka or Rangitikei

Fly Tying: Monday 18 March – Flash Back Pheasant Tail

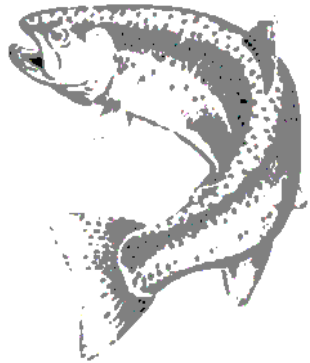
On-Stream Day: Saturday 16 March - Ruamahunga River
Phone Strato 386 3740 by the Wednesday prior.

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

Capital Trout Centre: Closed

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to: Rachel Bluck, Colin Doig
and Flynn Doig



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The forecast for a hot summer appears to be coming true with some brilliantly fine days which must surely encourage club members to wet a line on some of the local rivers or further afield.

Despite the disastrous weather events of last year, rivers are now recovering and where the silt is giving way to gravel, fish are ready to take the fly.

Despite habitat destruction, reports from a number of areas are that fish are in excellent condition and although down in numbers, are providing good sport.

The continued hot weather however has a downside in that water levels are beginning to decrease significantly and the water temperatures are rising. Fish will therefore be looking for deeper water with good oxygen levels so these should be your main target. Reports coming in also confirm that the Hutt in some parts currently has a good evening rise for those wanting to fish dry flies and on calm still nights the rise continues till well after dark.

As the summer ends and autumn begins, make sure you are aware of the licence regulations which close some rivers for the winter.

Tight Lines

Strato

CLUB AUCTION

This has now been re-scheduled for July.

The April meeting falls on Easter Monday.

The May meeting is the AGM.

The June meeting falls on Kings Birthday weekend.

REVIEW OF MEETING

February 2024

Considering it was a public holiday, a reasonable number turned up to the club meeting on Monday. In addition to the normal announcements, Strato gave a presentation on the new access map for the Wainuiomata River showing up-to-date telephone numbers and the access requirements of the various owners. The maps have been distributed to all club members.

This was followed by a presentation by Heather and Warren.

For a number of years, Heather and Warren have been visiting Jurassic Lake in Argentina (and Strato also). Photos taken on their first visit in 2015 were compared to photos taken on their visit in October 2023 showing the massive effect the dry period which Argentina has sustained over the last eight years has had on the shoreline. A number of bays that were fished in the initial trips are now completely out of the water and a number of smaller lakes have also dried up completely.

One of the rivers supplying water to one of the smaller lakes is no longer fishable.

Fortunately the main lake is big enough to still be a great place to visit and Heather's 15 pounder and numerous other large fish still make it a very successful five days.

WALKER ROAD ACCESS

For those who like to fish the Tukituki River and the Waipawa River, please note that the Walker Road access which comes out where the two rivers meet is currently closed and will be closed until at least the beginning of April.

The only access to this area therefore is either walking down from the Waipawa township or fishing up from the Pourerere Road bridge over the Tukituki.

Reports are that the river is starting to recover and the fish are in good condition.

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BEST FISH AWARDS

Current records - 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Hunting & Fishing heaviest fish (senior)

Susanne Lang - 15lb Rainbow - CF 48
November 2023

Wallace Condition Factor: best conditioned fish

Maurice Broome – 1.360k 42 cm Rainbow
Tukituki – 19/02/2024 - CF 66.31

WFF FACEBOOK PAGE

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



THOUGHTS ON NZ FISHING IN THE EYES OF FOREIGN ANGLERS

(Family visit continued)

I thought I'd start this instalment with a brief re-stating of my Brother's view of New Zealand as a geographical location in general, and a fishing destination in particular (for the benefit of those of us who grew complacent or unaware of how good we have it).

Notwithstanding the environmental problems that exist and are extremely worthy of addressing, NZ enjoys a wealth of natural-state rivers with clean, swimmable water and excellent size trout in them, not to mention the surrounding national parks and reserves. He was totally enchanted by it all.



For our second, extended road-trip through the NZ North Island we chose Central Plateau and its rivers and lakes. The first stop was of course Turangi, but not before we stopped for a look at the world famous Otamangakau Lake. To say we just wetted a line there would be a fair description. I have not fished it in many years (my biggest NZ trout, 9.5 lb. hen, is from there) but the access to shore-based fishing spots I remembered must have changed, as I could not find any.

Turangi and the welcoming atmosphere of AFC house. We settled in and decided to have a visit to National Trout Centre. Wojtek simply loved watching big fish in a small stream amongst Panga trees. This was duly followed by a session on Tongariro River. Not an ideal part of fishing season but can be rewarding, especially at dusk. As it happened, nothing happened after dusk but we managed a couple of fish each with the biggest about 2.5 lb. on wet line. Back to the comforts of the house, after a curry meal and well-chilled beers and we were able to face another day.

I had some sightseeing planned but at the back of my mind there was a particular fly-fishing destination that we ought to visit... Wai-O-Tapu and Rotorua were of course worth seeing. Places that are unique in their own ways, attracting plenty of tourists from all over the world.



We did do it justice but eventually tourism had to give way to a call of the trout and we found ourselves on Ngongotāhā stream. My last few seasons there were full of excitement and I was hopeful that my brother would share in that. We found the stream the lowest I have ever seen it with fish

clearly visible and just as easily scarpering for sticks and undercut banks. Hmm, this is not going to be easy. The trout fishing lesson nr 3 took place right there and then, namely how to stalk trout or make them believe that you are a part of scenery. Wojtek immersed himself completely in the sheer level of difficulty and maintained a positive outlook in the face of adversity...enough of colourful language... in 3 hours I managed to hook 9 fish, landing 8 (of which 6 were good size albeit a bit skinny) and he got none...

The evening that nigh involved more curry and even more alcohol but by the next morning it was all water under the bridge and we were ready to face the Tongariro Crossing.

An amazing experience shared with hordes of tourists from everywhere in the world. Spectacular views (on a good day, such as the one we enjoyed) of Mt Tongariro, Mt Ngāruhoe, and Mt Ruapehu were something to behold. We enjoyed the day immensely.

Later the same evening we were setting camp on the banks of Whakapapa River and enjoyed balmy surroundings, along with a perfectly swimmable clear river, as well as a cave full of glow-worms.

From a foreign visitor's perspective, those were things that had to be experienced to be believed.

The next morning involved some stressful moments by way of five cars, each carrying 2 or 3 fly-fishing folk. It prompted us to start rather early in order to try parts of the river with nobody on them. The early morning was a reward enough, both in terms of fish and the beauty of the surrounding landscape. Suffices to say that the day paid off in both regards. I got 3 and Wojtek got 2 fish (another highlight for him was hooking his second good size brown, only to loose it again...)

Another day in the same spot was spent revisiting fishing locations that were heavily fished the day before but with a hope that the night would have equalised our chances of positive fishing experience. Amazingly, that was exactly the case. I found a stretch of river that I had seen no fish in the day before and managed 3 beautiful

rainbows. Wojtek hooked yet another beautiful fish that jumped and spat the hook in front of both of us. I must say, zen-like peace on his face, where lesser men would swear, impressed me a lot.



The afternoon of the same day we found ourselves passing by Whanganui River. After a couple of false turns, I found a spot fondly remembered from a Club trip a few years back and we were in the game. By the time Wojtek had constructed his leader and tied on his flies, I was into two lively fish, a chunky

rainbow and a decent brown. Again, like a stoic, the Man started fishing likely water and soon hooked an equally vivacious rainbow, only to lose it again. Never mind, nothing, but respect...

Whanganui was very low and quite overgrown with algae but likely water contained fish and those were taking readily and were in good condition. The stretch we fished was quite popular. We spotted a spin-fisherman further down and were soon joined by a guide and her client. The guide was a lady I remembered watching czech-nymphing on Tongariro River two winters back. She had been an expert then and it was good to see her having a good business with guiding (the woman she was guiding apparently had caught a lovely 5 lb. rainbow on Tongariro the day before).



We had 3 days left so decided on setting camp, hopefully for 2 or 3 nights, at Ruatiti Domain on Manganui O Te Ao River. The lower camping grounds (by the river) looked glorious and we had it all to ourselves. The evening was balmy and although there was a forecast for rain the next day there was nothing for us to do but relax. A mandatory one hour was spent on fishing the runs in front of us (I hooked a lovely

rainbow that went down the river with a scream of the reel and jumped spitting the hook). Wojtek decided to observe and absorb the scenery. I guess, the hope was there would be learnings in watching older brother fish...how vain of me. We also took advantage of our replenished supplies, courtesy of New World Taumaranui, and fresh food and cold beers were in order.

That night, or rather closer to the morning, the rain arrived and it was merciless. The drip from a couple of spots on the canopy of the tent was the least of our worries. Even though I tried to position the tent strategically, on a gentle slope, the volume of rain was such that water



gathered everywhere including underneath the tent. Sunken mats, sleeping bags, as well as our spirits left us with no choice but to evacuate. It continued raining for most of the day and arriving in Wellington two nights earlier than planned called for modifications to our plans (Wojtek was leaving in 6 days at that point).

The first thing after we managed to dry everything out was another visit to Te Papa, where we visited the exhibition of Patagonian dinosaurs. It is running until April and I recommend it to everyone, especially with children. The second point added was one last visit to Wainuiomata River (we visited Wainui 3 times in total). Difficult though our local stream can be the hopes were still for Wojtek to get his NZ Brown.

Fish were abundant and taking but quite fussy. I took a full advantage of the situation by landing 5 fish; alas for Wojtek the result was different... I tried to sound up beat and assured him that this was not an easy fishing destination but his spirits were visibly low ». At some point he mentioned something about going back to spinning full hog, abandoning fly-



fishing, but coming back home with a full fly box I hope he reconsiders and continues to practice (he has the gear now and a hang of casting etc.) and pays us another visit soon. After all, there is so much water to visit left.

Jarek Jurasz

INTERESTING WAYS TO ENJOY YOUR TROUT

Thanks to (marthastewart.com)

Smoked Trout and Cucumber Appetizer

Cut English cucumbers into 1/4-inch-thick slices, then use them as cool, crunchy bases for rich, buttery flaked smoked trout. Sprinkle them with cracked black pepper and serve with a dry martini—gin is a top-notch match for these flavors.



[Smoked Trout and Cucumber Appetizer Recipe \(marthastewart.com\)](http://marthastewart.com)

Smoked-Trout Pate

Flake fish into large pieces and transfer to a large bowl. Add cottage cheese, onions, creme fraiche, and olive oil; season with salt. Mix until just combined. Serve with grilled bread.



[Smoked-Trout Pate Recipe \(marthastewart.com\)](http://marthastewart.com)

FLY OF THE MONTH

Fly tying is sponsored by [Fishscene](#)



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

Flash Back Pheasant Tail Nymph

There are numerous variations of this pattern.



The Pheasant Tail nymph is one of the most useful nymph patterns. Rainbows and Browns love them because the nymph imitates a wide range of naturals. Mayflies, caddis, midges and damsel flies are all suggested by this pattern.

Materials

Hook	Kamisan B175 #12 & #14 or TMC 3769 #10-18
Tail	Fibres from pheasant tail
Gold rib	Copper wire
Body	Pheasant tail fibres over lead wire
Wing Case	Pheasant tail fibres and flash back
Thorax	Peacock herl or hares fur or copper wire
Head	2.8mm gold, brass or glass bead – optional extra
Legs	Hackle or pheasant tail fibres

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





**Summer fishing season is now
well under way**

stock up on flies, lines, nylon etc

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 16 March - Ruamahunga 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>

HELPPDESK

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	027 472 3455
Committee	Rod Lawson	021 119 4115



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