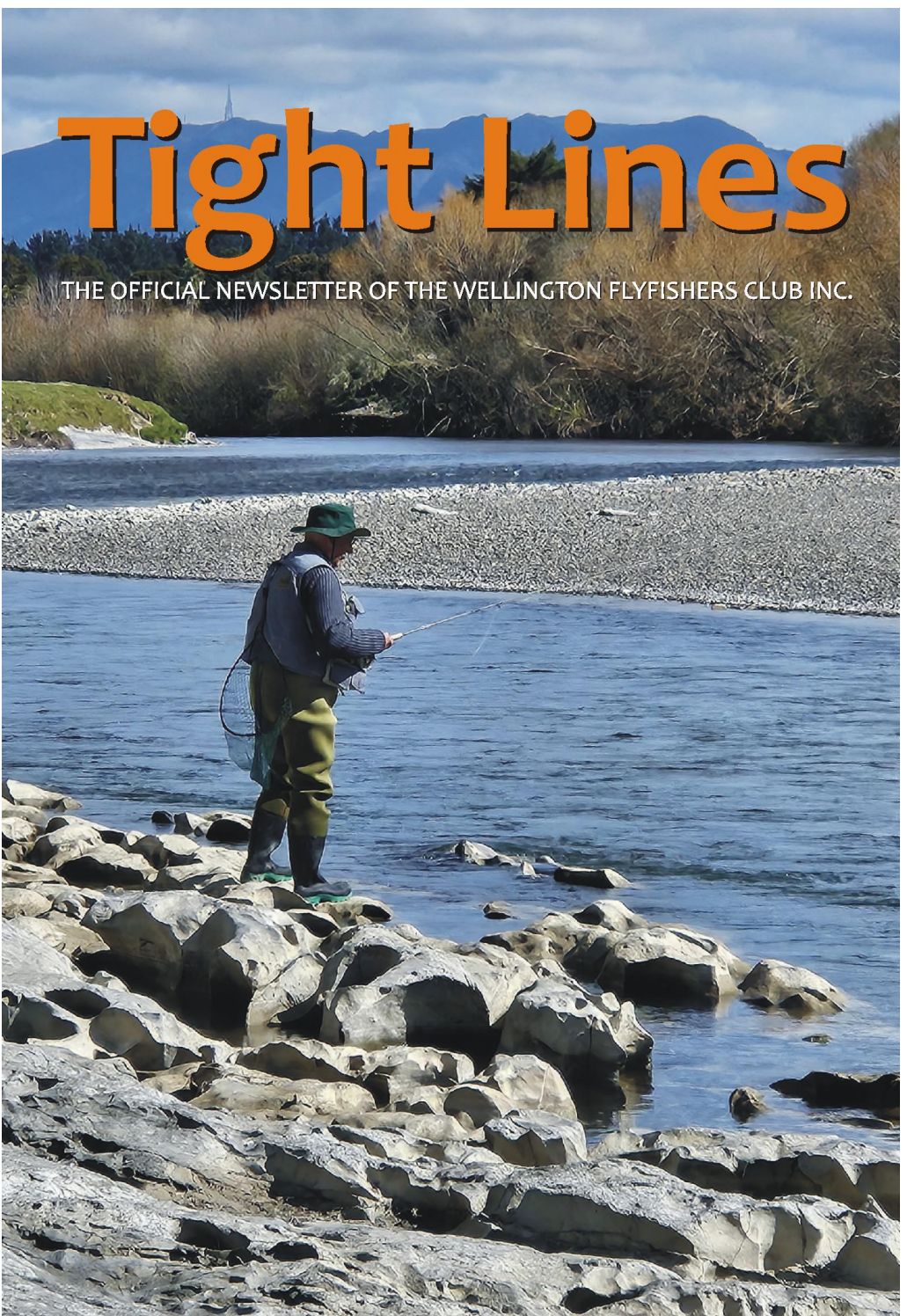


Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.



TIGHT LINES

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



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Cover: Susi Lang (*Strato fishing the Manawatu River at Oringi*)
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 2nd December , 7.30pm

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

Women on the fly NZ

Presentation by four Club members

End of Year Social Evening

Partners invited

Supper

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Club Trip: 13 - 15 December
Whanganui/Whakapapa

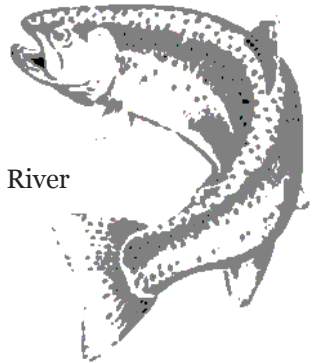
Fly Tying: 16th December
Bead Head Hare & Copper Nymph
for details see Fly of the Month...p12

On-Stream Day: 21 December - 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: Next Open Day
Sunday 8 December

Licences/registration tickets are available at Hutt Valley Hunting &
Fishing, Petone and Capital Fishing, Ghuznee Street.



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

2024 has been another positive year for the Club with good attendances at meetings and the various events.

The Capital Trout Centre has had excellent numbers turning up at Open Days and is still a popular venue for groups. The next Open Day is scheduled for Sunday 8th December.

A feature for 2024 was the success of the group Women On The Fly.

A number of our club members have joined the group and our meeting on the 2nd December will be a presentation by these members telling of their experiences. Something to look forward to.

With the festive season coming up there is no meeting in January but hope you all have the opportunity to travel to your favourite fishing destination and cast a fly and hopefully experience tight lines.

All the best
Strato

REMINDER

There is no club meeting or fly tying in January

FISHING IS GOOD FOR YOU

A group from Otago University have recently published a report on exploring the relationship between trout fishing and wellbeing. The report summarises insights from Aotearoa New Zealand trout anglers who were interviewed.

The report starts with the following Abstract and the full report can be found on the New Zealand Fish & Game website who commissioned the study.

Exploring the relationship between trout fishing and wellbeing: insights from Aotearoa New Zealand trout anglers

ABSTRACT

Internationally, there is growing interest in understanding the potential for recreational fishing to enhance the wellbeing of participants. To date, no studies have investigated the potential for recreational trout fishing to influence wellbeing in the Aotearoa New Zealand context. To address this gap, nine semi-structured interviews were conducted with anglers in the local community and explored their understanding of wellbeing and how they perceive trout fishing contributes to their wellbeing. The interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed, analysed thematically, and examined using the Te Whare Tapa Wha model of holistic wellbeing. For trout anglers, wellbeing incorporated mental, physical, spiritual, and relational health. Trout fishing was perceived as enhancing these elements of wellbeing by fostering positive states of being; cultivating connection with self, others, place and nature; allowing for disconnection from stressors; and providing physical exercise. These exploratory findings highlight the potential for trout fishing to enhance all dimensions of holistic wellbeing within the Te Whare Tapa Wha model and a need for further research into this area.

REPORT ON NOVEMBER MEETING

The club meeting on the 4th November had a two-fold purpose.

The first was to formally review the new draft Constitution required by the new Incorporated Societies Act, which had previously been sent to members.

The draft Constitution had been fully endorsed by the committee and we are pleased to say that the meeting gave the new Constitution unanimous support.

It will now be forwarded to the registrar as required.

The second part of the meeting was a presentation by Paul Baker and Andrew Morrow on their trip to the Ohau River in the South Island where they had been fortunate to win a ballot to fish this prestigious trophy trout river.



Andrew's magnificent rainbow of 26 lb was followed by an 11 pounder while Paul's 14 pounder, ensured success for the guys and encouragement to try again in the future.



Overall the club meeting was very successful.

A FISHING POEM FROM THE US

written by Mike Sepelak

'Twas the day before Christmas and down on the Haw
Not a fish was arisin', the weather was raw.
The water was frigid and brisk was the air,
Too chilly for fishin', but I didn't care.
The browns were all nestled down deep in their pools
While rainbows and brookies were nobody's fools.
And I in my waders and old fishing cap,
As usual, just couldn't cast worth a crap.
When further upstream there arose such a crash,
I started, and slipped, and sat down with a splash.
My glasses went this way, my rod, it went that.
You know you're in deep when you've floated your hat.

The gleam of the sun on the river around
Was lovely, but hell, I was going to drown!
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a funky old kayak. (The end must be near.)
With a little old paddler, too fat for the boat,
Who was trying his best just to keep afloat.
Through the rapids he teetered, bounced off every big rock.
The dude's in big trouble, I thought with a shock.
But as he arrived at my favourite hole
He snapped it in place with a neat barrel roll

And glided in softly, as smooth as can be.
No fish would be spooked, except maybe me.

And then in a twinkling he popped out of his craft
Like a cork from a bottle, I shouldn't have laughed.
He reached back inside and he slowly withdrew
A lovely old 4wt of shiny bamboo.
He was dressed all in Gore-Tex and looked straight from the pages
Of catalogs like Orvis', Hardys' and Sage's.
A vest full of goodies encircled his frame
With gadgets and zingers, too many to name.
He spoke not a word but went straight to his fun,
Throwing laser-like casts, seeming straight from a gun.

His roll casts were graceful, his loops were so tight.
Presentations were flawless, each drift was just right.
He threw pheasants and hare's ears and woollies and strymps,
Hoppers with droppers of copper john nymphs.
He had all of fly fishing's mysteries debunked,
But darned if old Santa Claus didn't get skunked.
I felt sort of bad for the old elf.
But why fish the Haw, I was asking myself.
He could have fished Battenkill, Madison, Snake.
It seemed that the Haw was a foolish mistake.
I needn't have worried, I had nothing to dread,
For he gave me a wink and here's what he said.
"We all should remember, and here's what I'm wiishin',

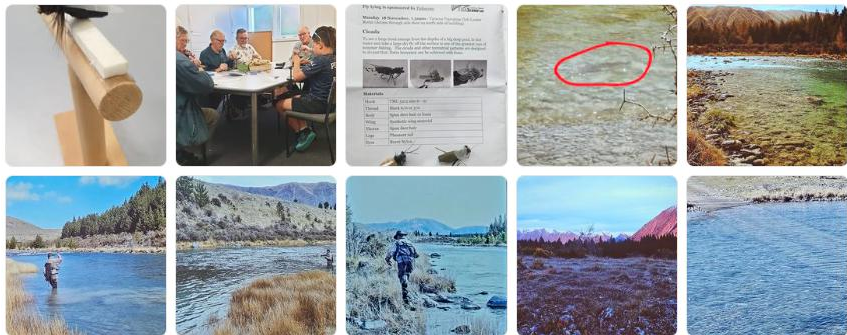
That it's not about fish, but it's all about fishin'.”
He sprang to his ‘yak, to the rocks gave a push,

And shot down the stream with a splash and a whoosh.
But I heard him exclaim as he drifted from sight
“Happy Christmas to all, and to all keep lines tight.”

Richard B

WFF FACEBOOK PAGE

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



WHY BOTHER?



A ‘how did your weekend go?’ chat with a work colleague turned briefly to some success catching several trout using a kit-build fly rod. “How did you cook them?”, he asked. “Oh”, I replied, “I put them all back”.

A long moment’s silence.

“Um, then why do you bother?”

It was my turn to hesitate as I pondered how to answer. I bumbled that it was a good question, that I thought the same thing when I started out, hard to explain....

Firstly, it is impossible for a non-fisher to understand how utterly addictive flyfishing can be. The challenge of outwitting a fish with all its hometown advantages provides a particular dopamine hit.

Mastering the art of fly fishing is a lifelong pursuit. There are so many variables that it is impossible for all but a few to reach guru status. There is always something to learn – new water, new species, new techniques...

“If I fished only to capture fish, my fishing trips would have ended long ago”. So is the quote from historic fishing figure Zane Grey. Fly fishing has a sense of mindfulness. To do it well, everything else in the world fades to the background, and the focus shifts completely to

the natural world. A small insect breaking through the water film, a breeze over the right shoulder, visualising the current beneath the surface, spotting a shifting shadow in the depths. It can be magical, meaningful, and mindful.

At first, I caught so few fish that I tended to keep them for the pan. I can't quite pinpoint the moment when I landed a brown trout, admired its sleek profile and dappled, camouflaged coat and understood that this one needed to be released to continue to grow, and spawn progeny in its image.

And finally, a practical aspect. I still have some fillets in the freezer from winter fishing on the Tongariro – that time of year where 'harvesting' trout is more common. Only take what you need, and I needed no more.

The result? My workmate continues to be bemused and bewildered by this pursuit so intrinsically understood by those it bewitches.

Greg Smith

<https://riversmiths.co.nz/>

FLY OF THE MONTH

Fly tying is sponsored by [Fishscene](#)



Monday 16th December, 7.30pm - Tararua Tramping Club Locker Room (Access through side door on north side of building)

Bead Head 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.

Materials

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



***PRIMAL Rods 6wt plus 5/6 line
\$199.99***

***Full range of SIMMS waders & boots
Don't forget sun glasses
and***

Ensure you have a new season licence.

Other than for specials, Club discount 10% is available on
flyfishing purchases 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 – 21 December - 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>

HELPLESK

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 14006, Kilbirnie, Wellington 6241, 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 2024 - 31 MARCH 2025

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
Committee	Peter Irwin	021-499-582



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