

Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.



TIGHT LINES

**The official newsletter
of the Wellington Flyfishers Club inc.
September 2025**



CONTENTS

Club Meeting.....	2
President’s Page.....	3
Capital Trout Centre.....	4
Advance Notice - Club Auction Monday 3rd November.....	4
Capital Trout Centre Open Day Report - 10th August.....	6
The Annual Interclub Flytying Competition.....	7
Flytying Club Meeting Report - 18 August	7
Fishing the Taupo Area.....	8
Report on Club Meeting August 4th Presentation	11
July Club Trip Report.....	12
Wff Facebook Page.....	14
Fly of the Month.....	15
Hunting & Fishing.....	17
On-Stream Day	18
Useful Links.....	18
Club Meeting Venue.....	18
Newsletter Contributions.....	18
Committee Meeting.....	18
Helpdesk.....	10
Website.....	10
Club Membership.....	10
Fees 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026.....	19
Receive the Newsletter via Email	20
Club Mission.....	20
Committee.....	20

Cover: Paul Baker (*Rolling River looking up towards Mt Owen*)
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 SEPTEMBER 2025, 7.30pm

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

“The Hard Way” – A Film Presentation by Miles Nolte

followed by

A discussion on Taupo Fishing Regulations – see separate article in magazine

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Club Trip: September 12-13-14 - Turangi

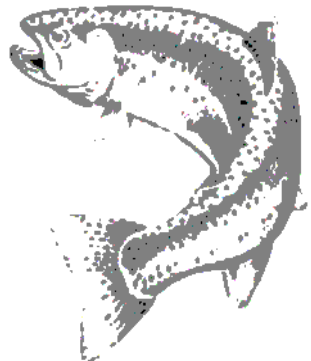
Fly Tying: Monday 15th September - Lunkerbuster
for details see Fly of the Month...p15

On-Stream Day: Saturday 20 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 Allen Cox



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

After last month's very successful pond clean up about a 1000 young trout were delivered to the Capital Trout Centre from the Ngongotaha Hatchery.

The first Open day of the season was held on Sunday 10 th August. The weather forecast was poor and although there were some bookings we weren't sure if families would turn up.

We were wrong. Nearly all who booked a slot turned up and were dressed for the weather. About 48 children took home two fish each. The average weight was 260grams.

Thank you very much to the Club members who came to help kids catch fish, to write certificates and weigh fish, to cook and sell sausages and especially to Carmen for gutting all the fish caught.

I found it interesting to notice that those that helped at the open day where pretty much the same people that helped at the clean-up day.

The next open day is Sunday 28 th September. Can you help?

I've been wondering how we can grow our junior membership and/or family memberships.

What are the barriers to young people joining and how could club members help overcome these? Are there some club members who would consider organising a junior section? What might that look like? What do other clubs do?

We see dozens of kids at the pond every open day and many we see several times over a season. How can we maintain contact and encourage these young people to get out and fish more? Do you have the IT skills to design and build an online booking system?

There won't be an instant solution but to grow the club we need more members. Are we welcoming to members of all ages?

Heather Miller

CAPITAL TROUT CENTRE

Next Open Day – SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER

Registration tickets will be available from Hutt Valley Hunting & Fishing, Petone and Capital Fishing Ghuznee Street from Monday 15th September. Tell your friends.

9 am to 3pm.

Helpers very welcome.

Please phone Strato and indicate your interest so that a list can be made up and any cancellation or other information can be advised.

ADVANCE NOTICE - Club Auction Monday 3rd November

The club auction is a time for new members to the sport to stock up on basic requirements for fly fishing at a very low price. It is also the opportunity for long time anglers to sell/donate equipment which is no longer required or they have an over-abundance of.

A form is included on the next page that needs to be completed well prior to the auction date to enable catalogues to be prepared.

A link to the full size pdf form is also attached in the Newsletter email.

CAPITAL TROUT CENTRE OPEN DAY REPORT - 10TH AUGUST

Despite cold conditions and predicted gale force southerlies with showers, the Open Day went ahead and we were pleasantly surprised to have 48 children turn up.

A good group of club members were on hand as well, to help these budding anglers and the smiles on their faces as each one showed off their catch to their parents or friends made it all worthwhile.

Only a handful of children who had registered didn't make it and the reasons had nothing to do with the weather.



As is normal with the first Open Day of the season, the fish were not large, averaging 260 grams which was similar to previous years.

The Trout Centre this year is also experimenting with 100 ova received from the hatchery and these have all now hatched but have to be kept in darkness for the next few weeks before they can be shown to the public.

The next Open Day is the 28th September 2025.

THE ANNUAL INTERCLUB FLYTYING COMPETITION

Are you a keen fly-tyer? Do you enjoy tying under a bit of pressure ?
Are your flies good enough for a competition?

The annual interclub FlyTying competition is happening again on Tuesday 11 November at the Hutt Club. Our Club will enter a team. We would like to get a team together early rather than at the last minute. If this is something that interests you then please talk to Strato or Paul.

FLYTYING CLUB MEETING REPORT - 18 August

Green Woolly Bugger



Originally trout fishing in New Zealand and especially the Lake Taupo area was downstream wet lining with a variety of lure type flies. The green woolly bugger became very popular and in later years has been found to be an excellent river and lake fly no matter where you fish for both Browns and Rainbows

especially when the water has some colour. An easy and quick fly to tie as those who turned up for the last flytying night experienced.



Good luck when their creations are put to the test.



FISHING THE TAUPO AREA

Fishing regulations for the Taupo area and in particular, rivers which flow into Lake Taupo, have seen many changes over the years, challenging the fly fishing only rules.

The introduction of glow bugging and the ability to add weight to your fly or leader to aid sinking, have all tested the fly fishing only rule but both are currently within the regulations.

In recent times however we see some anglers attaching more weight to the leader to assist casting distance, which is illegal.

The difficulty faced by the Department of Conservation and the Rangers to enforce this rule is how do they determine whether the weight is being used to assist casting or to sink the fly.

Controlling the harvest from Lake Taupo and its tributaries is what the regulations are all about and as long as the anglers do not exceed the harvest regulations DoC appeared to take the attitude that this new method of fishing is too hard to monitor.

This does not alter the fact that it is illegal.

Below is a paper prepared by Paul Baker with suggestions as to how this issue should be managed by the Department of Conservation and the Rangers.

The committee seeks your thoughts on the issue and the matter will be discussed at the next club meeting to be held on 1st September.

Department of Conservation

Taupo

By email:

Kia Ora

Re: Euro-nymphing in the Flyfishing waters in the Taupo conservancy

The Wellington Flyfishers Club (WFFC) asks that the Department of Conservation (DoC) fisheries rangers enforce the Taupo Fishing

Regulations in respect of the use of weight added to leaders in flyfishing only waters.

Such a policy does not require a change in the Angler's notice for Taupo District.

The reason for this request is that there seems to be an increasing trend of anglers using added weight for the purpose of casting a fly and ensuring the fly stays on the bottom while it swings around in the current on a tight line. This method of fishing has the advantage of being able to be cast with a single motion of the rod and is effective in catching fish because the angler has direct contact with the fly (or flies) being used.

The WFFC proposes that DoC should enforce the Taupo Fishing Regulations when the angler has added weight to the flyline or leader and where the fly cannot be cast in a similar manner in the absence of the added weight, i.e. proving that the added weight was being used to facilitate casting.

Another test that could be used to determine if the added weight was being used to facilitate casting is when the fly can be cast more than twice the length of the line used in the back cast. (This does not inadvertently penalise shooting heads or long Spey casts because weight is rarely used in those methods.)

The WFFC accepts that the distinction between flyfishing and spin fishing has become blurred with the rise in the use of the Euro-nymphing technique. The WFFC contends however that flyfishing is a sport where anglers must learn and apply a skill to the art of presenting an artificial food item to tempt trout to consume or snap at. Using weight to cast a fly in the manner of a spinner does not meet that definition.

It also expects that the most skilled anglers will catch the most fish, rather than the angler that is prepared to use the most weight attached to their leader to present the fly.

The competition flyfishers introduced the 6 metre leader restriction to limit the casting ability of euro-nymphing as an adjunct to its rules on fly weights and ban on additional weight on leaders, i.e. the 6 metre leader restriction is a meaningless restriction unless there is also a limit to the weight that can be added to the leader or used in the fly's construction. In competition fishing the angler using the euro-nymph technique still needs to back-cast in order direct the fly to its desired

location and skill is required to achieve that. Furthermore, the flies are restricted to a single tungsten bead no larger than 4mm plus some lead tied into the body. This provides enough weight to fish effectively in most circumstances. The key here is that the fly needs to be allowed to drift with the current to achieve depth and fly presentation. It is rarely dragged across the riverbed in the manner now being used by “Euro-nymphers” on Taupo rivers.

The WFFC has members that recall the debates over nymphing versus wet-line and the use of glo-bugs on the Taupo rivers, but it does not believe this issue has parallels with those. It would like to see the sport expand in popularity and believes seeing other anglers succeed by simply chucking out a weight with a glo-bug or similar and bouncing it across the bottom of the river is detrimental to anglers enjoyment of their flyfishing.

Definitions in the Angler’s notice for Taupo District for reference:

fly fishing means to fish for trout with a fly rod, fly reel, fly line, leader, and artificial fly or flies.

fly line means any floating or sinking line used to facilitate casting that is at least three metres in length.

leader means the nylon, fluorocarbon or other material attached directly to the end of the fly line. It must not exceed six metres in length including tippet.

(4) No person fishing for trout in waters reserved for fly fishing (as set out in the Schedule), shall add to or attach to any fly line, leader, or fly-

a. any bare hook, spinner or bait;

b. anything made from lead, glass, plastic, or other material to facilitate casting or to increase the buoyancy of the line (excludes tippet rings and swivels); or

c. any sinker or other weight;

but may attach a strike indicator and may add weight to the leader to facilitate sinking.

Weight added to the leader may only be in the form of split shot or putty made from lead, bismuth or tungsten.

WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB Inc

REPORT ON CLUB MEETING AUGUST 4TH PRESENTATION

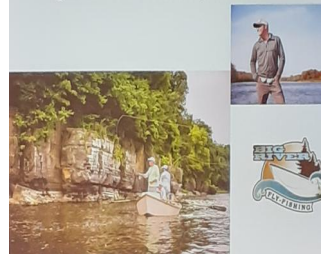
Flyfishing in New Zealand is generally chasing Rainbow and Brown trout with a few minor species also targeted.

Overseas however there are numerous other species which anglers take great pleasure in honing their flyfishing skills, one of which is Bass fishing, especially in the United States.

Andrew Morrow, a club member, has had experience in chasing Bass especially in the Great Lakes area and his presentation to the club meeting on August 4th was very well received by a good turnout of club members despite wintry conditions.



Fly fishing the Kankakee River with guide Will Winans, June 2024



With the aid of a guide, 16 Bass of various sub species accepted his flies and were released back to fight another day.

Thanks Andrew

JULY CLUB TRIP REPORT

The latest trip to Turangi on the weekend of 25th to 27th July was one of mixed emotions.

We had been unable to hire the Auckland Club House, even though we'd tried to book it in February and subsequently found out it was being used by the Kapiti Club. As it turned out, not only was the Kapiti Club up there on this weekend but also the Manawatu Club and a group of 16 anglers having a competition. Finding alternative accommodation had proved very difficult but we were at last booked in to the Tongariro River Retreat. This has an amazingly low tariff of \$25 a night and while not glamorous premises it has 15 bunk rooms and what appears to be an extremely loyal group of customers. It has a very well appointed kitchen with a large dining area and a separate TV lounge. The sleeping quarters were quite adequate and will certainly be an option for the future.

Those of us who went up Friday morning and fished the afternoon were faced with a very clear Tongaririo with dozens of anglers splashing their way through most of our favourite pools. Four of us had gone up early and only one fish was landed.

The evening provided very clear evening skies which only produced one fish for those that tried their luck at the Tauranga Taupo mouth.



We decided that Saturday morning we would get up early and although faced with very frosty conditions, we found the lower reaches of the Tongariro all to ourselves. One of the group fishing the Reed and the Jones pools with a wet line had 13 fish take the fly over a two hour period which resulted in five very nice conditioned fish to take home.



Others went upstream for the mornings fishing with a few fish coming to the fly. Two of the group later in the afternoon went downstream and fishing the Reed and Jones again managed good fishing with a total haul for the day for the two of them of ten fish.



Sunday morning those that were late in leaving for the river were unfortunately faced with the lodge manger suffering what appeared to be a heart attack and was rushed to hospital. Hopefully Ian has recovered and we will keep in touch.

Sunday fishing was not very productive with one angler trying the Hinemaia successfully and the odd fish being caught by those who did not return to Wellington early.



Weather wise we could not have asked for anything better with clear skies and no wind which made the fishing pleasurable but the lack of rain in the week prior to our travelling to Turangi did not provide great encouragement for the fish to run. The locals all said we should come next week as heavy rain was forecast.

Over all it was a very enjoyable weekend.



WFF FACEBOOK PAGE

Checkout the latest news on the club facebook page

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



FLY OF THE MONTH



Fly tying is sponsored by [Fishscene](#)

Monday 15 September 2025, 7.30pm - Tararua Tramping Club
Locker Room (Access through side door on north side of building)

This month's fly is a **Lunker Buster**



In the early days of my competitive fishing, I received great support from Roy Cotter, from Pahiatua, who not only assisted in suggesting suitable competition venues on the Manawatu River but supplied me with a number of flies. These included a pattern which he had developed himself which he had aptly named the Lunker Buster.

The word Lunker is an Americanism denoting a large fish and while it certainly catches its share of trophies, also works well on small browns and rainbows.

The fly has worked well for me on many occasions since that day either as a single fly or in a larger version used in tandem with a smaller nymph. The fly has also been very successful when tied as a larger pattern on 10's and 12's in lakes and large rivers fished as a dragonfly pattern or even swung downstream on a wet line and slowly retrieved.

I suspect my current version differs somewhat from Roy's original for which I apologise for still using his distinct name.

Materials and instructions (over page)

Materials

Hook	Tiemco 12-14 light wire hooks(3769,5262,9300)
Tail	Pheasant tail fibres
Abdomen	Black tying thread
Rib	Copper wire
Thorax	Dubbed hare's fur with plenty of guard fibres over lead wire
Wing case	Pheasant tail fibres or Christmas tinsel for flash back

Tying Instructions

- Tie in 3 or 4 tail fibres no more than 10mm extending from the bend
- Tie in copper rib at bend
- Use the tying thread to create cigar shaped body from bend of the hook to 2/3 of the way up the shank.
- Rib body with copper wire (three to four turns) and tie off.
- Tie in pheasant tail wing case so that the tippets are long enough to form the wing and also to be folded under to create legs.
- Wrap lead wire to form thorax and dub in hares fur.
- Fold wing case to the head and tie off but don't trim.
- Fold wing case tippets under the body and tie off.
- Cement head.

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



*To enjoy the outdoors suitable clothing is a must.
Hunting & Fishing's huge range of
outdoor clothing to suit all ages
is well worth a visit*

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 – Saturday 20 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, 8 Te Puni Street, Petone, 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 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 2025 - 31 MARCH 2026

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	Heather Miller	386 3049
Past President	Strato Cotsilinis	386 3740
Vice President	John Gamble	027 517 5825
Secretary	Rod Lawson	021 119 4115
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	Peter Irwin	021-499-582



WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB (INC).
PO Box 14006, Kilmile, Wellington 6241, New Zealand