

Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.



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The official newsletter
of the Wellington Flyfishers Club inc.
December 2025



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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 December 2025, 7.30pm

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

**Fishing for big Brook Trout
and Northern Pike in Labrador**

Presented by Paul Doscher

followed by end of year festive supper – partners invited

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Club Trip: 12 – 14 December - Tukituki
staying at Patangata lodge (Contact Strato)

Fly Tying: Monday 15 December - Cicada
for details see Fly of the Month...p12

On-Stream Day: Sunday 7 December - Hutt River
Phone Strato 386 3740 by the Wednesday prior

NB

There are no organised club activities in January.
Have a safe and enjoyable break and we start
again in February, see you then.



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

November feels like it is racing by and very soon it will be Christmas. It's arriving too soon!

Thank you to all who contributed items to the Club Auction at the November meeting. There was lots of good fishing stuff donated, some spirited and some may say mischievous bidding and a good sum of money raised.

Thanks to the awesome auctioneer, Pat McShane and the helpers. It was a good night.

The interclub flyting competition happened the following Monday. Hosted very well by the Hutt Club who want on to win the competition. Kapiti Club were second, and we noted that three of there team were former presidents of our Club. Thank you to Strato, Paul, Josef and an extra well done to Carmen who was our novice fly-tyer.

On the weekend of 7-9 November, I had the pleasure of attending the Women on the Fly weekend in Turangi. About 40 women (and about 20 mentors) all wanting to learn more about flyfishing. Half were complete beginners, and the other half were developing anglers.

There was lots of laughter, lots of spot prizes, some great food thanks to Marion Hall and Robyn Gray and team.

The December meeting is our Christmas gathering. Please invite your partners. There will be supper provided. Paul Doshier will be speaking to us.

The next club meeting after that will be Monday 2 February .

I hope you are doing better than I am and have all sorted your Christmas plans and that those plans include some fishing. We look forward to reading the stories in the February magazine.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Heather Miller

CAPITAL TROUT CENTRE – ITS HISTORY

The Capital Trout Centre is now in its 26th year and many of those that visit the Centre often ask how it originated.

During the 1990s the club decided it wanted to develop a fishing experience for young children, similar to that offered by the Turangi Hatchery.

Using Whitby Lakes as a venue, the club hosted an annual event whereby the trout were purchased from the Ngongotaha Hatchery and released into a netted enclosure which enabled the children with the help of club members to try and catch a 2 year old rainbow.

This attracted numerous children on the day, but without any booking system in place many children had to wait in line for their turn for some time, and some were not successful.

When the waters of Whitby Lake became toxic it was decided to discontinue event and to try and find another venue.

Discussions with Wellington City Council originally centred around the use of the lakes forming part of the Wellington water supply in Karori and which subsequently became part of The Zealandia complex.

Despite receiving Council approval for the use of the lakes, Zealandia was adamant that only native species would be allowed and the trout already in the lakes were subsequently eradicated.

The club however was determined to find an alternative and with the help of the Wellington City Council were given permission to create the ponds which became the Capital Trout Centre in behind the Council offices on Landfill Road. The main driving force in the project at that time was Chris Anastasiadis and with the help of club members, the Capital Trout Centre was opened in September 1999.

Originally this was programmed to be an Open Day every six weeks, but soon due to demand was made available for family outings such as birthday parties and children's groups such as cubs and scouts and school holiday programmes and groups which supported special needs children.

Based on the Fish & Game regulations that children under the age of 12, must have a licence which are free, the Centre was granted permission by Fish & Game to develop its own licence for this purpose and

introduced a booking system which allowed much better control of children numbers for each event.

Since that time well over 10,000 children have experienced the thrill of catching a trout and the smiles on their faces and excited cries of “I caught one” are what it’s all about.

The Centre has become the passion of Strato and Carmen Cotsilinis with the help of a dedicated group of club members who attend not only to the numerous events each year but also to the daily feeding of the trout and any maintenance required.

Once a year the ponds are emptied and a group of club members ensure that over a weekend, the Centre is made ready for the new season. The Centre does not operate over the winter but generally receives its shipment of 1,000 fish from the Ngongotaha Hatchery in late July.

During 2025 the Centre was offered some trout ova from Wellington Fish & Game to see if these could be raised and form part of the education programme for the children that attend the Centre and for school groups and other children based community groups.

The Centre could not operate without the significant support of Wellington Fish & Game and the donations (Koha) from Open Days and club members and the groups hosted in the administration building.

Wellington City Council has continued to be an excellent supporter providing the land and administration building.

To date, every child who has attended the Centre has caught a fish and we regularly hear stories from parents that their children still remember their experience and forms part of the child’s story telling for weeks after the event. For those that take the fish home (which is the vast majority), recipes are also provided for those that have the job of turning the experience into a meal for the table.

For those that wish any further information please contact Strato Cotsilinis (04) 386 3740.

WFF FACEBOOK PAGE

Checkout the latest news on the club facebook page

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

INTER-CLUB FLYTYING COMPETITION

The annual Inter-club Flytying Competition between Hutt Valley, Kapiti and Wellington angling clubs was held at the Hutt Valley Club's meeting rooms on 10th November 2025.

Each club has a team of four which includes three experienced flytyers and one novice flytyer.

The Wellington team was Paul Baker, Josef Beutrais, Strato Cotsilinis and novice Carmen Cotsilinis.

Each of the experienced flytyers was to tie one of the compulsory flies (dry fly, nymph and lure) together with their own flytyer's choice while the novice flytyer ties a compulsory popular nymph.

The Wellington team were well placed after the compulsory flies but in the flytyer's choice, Hutt Valley and Kapiti were superior with Hutt Valley coming out the overall winner.

Judge for the competition was Braedon de Lange who commented on the very high standard this year making judging very difficult.

Congratulations to Hutt Valley.

Next year it will be our turn to host the event which will probably be held in November 2026.



A FLY-FISHING TRIP WAS A SHORT EMAIL REQUEST!

Are you available for a fly-fishing trip soon?

Emails were exchanged between two members of the Wellington Fly Fishers Club. Phone calls to other possible anglers, but no one else available.

Three different rivers fished, fish caught in each river returning with some venison. Hey, what, when, how why?

The booking for accommodation at Carterton was quickly arranged, a list if items needed was distributed and possible fishing locations were identified.

Paul (from New Hampshire, USA) and Maurice (from Paraparaumu, New Zealand) met at the car park by the Waiohine River, onward to comfortable and clean accommodation for three nights fishing nearby streams and rivers.

On the way to the accommodation the car took control and self-drove down River Road to the Waiohine River, inspection for a later visit.

Next day we were down by Kokotau bridge seeking to fish the Rumahanga River upstream. Alas, the river was running high with a little colour.

Under the bridge was an angler, just leaving, who had fished downstream with no success.

As hopeful and optimistic we went downstream and were rewarded with a landed small 2lb rainbow trout.

Next morning down to River Road to fish the Waiohine River.

Maurice suggested Paul start in a very likely area while Maurice replaced his flies.

It was when Maurice had a mouth full on nylon and flies hanging down, there was a shout "Quick, get the camera!".

With nylon dangling around him some video and photos were quickly taken.



Paul into this nice rainbow

Only after the 3lb rainbow was safely returned, then Paul unwrapped the nylon tangled around Maurice. Walking upstream more hook ups resulted in lost fish. Back to the car about 11am in 24C heat.

Looking at Gladstone with no shade from the hot sun, we drove onto the Cliffs for lunch.

More fish lost again.



Lunch table at the Cliffs



The river at Cliffs.

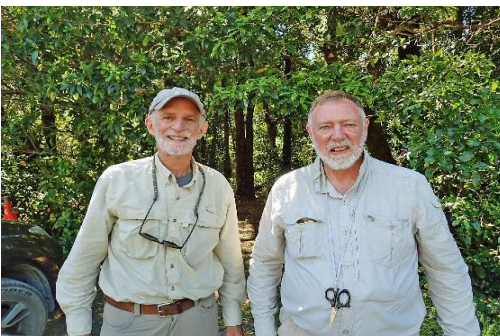
Next day a brown trout stream, which becomes dry later in the season from farm irrigation systems.

Here a mere 24 trout were sighted, at least 10 were spooked and one good trout was landed.

Paul with about 3lb brownie

Leaving there after lunch we stopped off at Kokotau bridge again and watched a local land a large eel - over a metre long and about 6-8 inches round with an angry face, as there was a large hook stuck in its mouth.

The heat of the day took us on a short drive up the Waiohine Gorge Road where we crossed the swing bridge and walked down the anglers track. Then home for some cold drinks.



By Paul Doscher & Maurice Broome.

It only took a short email request!

PS. The story of the venison has been stretched and is now considered beyond belief!

RANGITIKEI RIVER CLUB TRIP

The trip to the Rangitikei and River Valley Lodge was always going to be marginal due to the heavy rain forecast on Wednesday Night.

This proved correct as the river rose from 15 cumecs on Wednesday morning to 118 cumecs later that day. We were however told that the Rangitikei, especially in the area around the Lodge, recovers very quickly so Thursday we made the decision to go ahead with the club trip.

Reaching Taihape and crossing the bridge over the Hautapu, we were shocked to see the colour of the water as it was totally unfishable and the winding road to the Lodge was full of apprehension.

However to our surprise when we arrived, the river while running at 40 cumecs only had a little colour but it was evident that crossing the river at any stage in the weekend was going to be marginal.



Fishing the river at the Lodge Friday afternoon produced a beautiful 4lb brown on virtually the first cast of the afternoon

with a few small rainbows the only addition to the tally.

Friday night we had significant rainfall at the Lodge which sounded much worse than it really was due to the Perspex roof covering the outdoor eating area. We were pleasantly surprised the following morning when we found that it had made little effect on the river.

Saturday, the weather all day was a mixture of showers and some fine periods.

We decided to fish the Mangahane Bridge area but again, fishing was very difficult and it was only a 5lb rainbow hen full of colour late in the afternoon that gave us any joy plus a few small rainbows.



Back at the Lodge late afternoon another 3lb brown with a few small rainbows was all that came to the net.

Saturday evening was our usual meal provided by the Lodge staff from produce grown on site, which is always a highlight of the trip to that part of the country.



Sunday we decided to head for home with the original intention of fishing the Rangitikei on the way home. However the dirty water from the Hautapu and Moawhanga still dirtied the Rangitikei and we therefore headed for home.

The closure of the Transmission Gully Highway and the forced detour along the coast road meant arriving home took a little bit longer than normal but with some nice trout fillets ready to be smoked for the Club's December meeting, the trip on the whole had some limited success.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Fly tying is sponsored by [Fishscene](#)



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

Cicada

To see a large trout emerge from the depths of a big deep pool, in fast water and take a large dry fly off the surface is one of the greatest joys of summer fishing. The cicada and other terrestrial patterns are designed to do just that. Extra buoyancy can be achieved with foam.



Materials

Hook	TMC 5212 size 6 - 10
Thread	Black 6/0 or 3/0
Body	Spun deer hair or foam
Wing	Synthetic wing material
Thorax	Spun deer hair
Legs	Pheasant tail
Eyes	Burnt Nylon



Summer is here

Time to visit your favourite fishing area

*Stock up now with specials at
Hunting & Fishing*

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 – Sunday 7 December - 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>

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 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
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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



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