

Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.



TIGHT LINES

The official newsletter
of the Wellington Flyfishers Club inc.
February 2026



CONTENTS

Club Meeting.....	2
President’s Page.....	3
Wader Safety for Club Members - Sunday 15 March.....	4
WFF Facebook Page.....	4
Tukituki Club Trip December 2025	5
What a Difference a Day Makes.....	6
Fish & Game Reforms.....	7
Club Fishing Competition.....	7
Fly of The Month.....	8
Hunting & Fishing.....	9
On-Stream Day	10
Useful Links.....	10
Club Meeting Venue.....	10
Newsletter Contributions.....	10
Committee Meeting.....	10
Helpdesk.....	11
Website.....	11
Club Membership.....	11
Fees 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026.....	11
Receive the Newsletter via Email	12
Club Mission.....	12
Committee.....	12

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 2nd February 2026, 7.30pm

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

Our Guest Speaker will be David Barnes
from the
Outdoor Access Commission

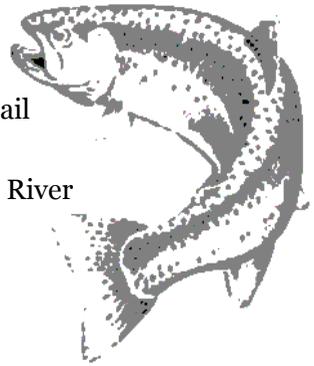
Updating us on their work and the range of services now available
from the Commission

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Club Trip: February 20 – 22 Manawatu

Fly Tying: Monday 16 February - Pheasant Tail
for details see Fly of the Month...p9

On-Stream Day: Sunday 15 February - Hutt River
Phone Strato 386 3740 by the Wednesday prior



ADVANCE NOTICE

March dates - Mark your Calendars

Club Fishing Competition: Saturday 14th March (see article in magazine)

Wader Safety for club members: Sunday 15th March (see article in magazine)

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Shaun Travernor and Errol Ritson.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you have managed to get in some fishing, somewhere during the holiday season.

As I sit here early on Wellington Anniversary Day wearing some winter clothes and fluffy slippers I wonder where summer has gone, again.

I am looking forward to reading some of your fishy stories in the magazine and hearing about some of them at the club meeting on Monday 2 February.

The speaker at the first meeting of the year will be from the Walking Access Commission.

Come along and hear about the work they do and how it might help you access some different walking and fishing spots.

I also want to draw your attention to the notice about our club championships and a session on wader safety.

Instructions about what to do are in the notice but I encourage you to think about your safety and confidence on the river. Do you know what to do if you fall over in deep water while wearing your waders? Do you know how to determine where to cross a river safely?

On Sunday 15 March at midday on the Ruamahanga River there will be a river safety session run for us by Glenn Beach of Kahikatea Outdoor Education Academy. You need to register your interest as numbers may be limited so, please keep reading your magazine and follow the instructions in the notice.

You could make a weekend of it and enter the Club champs on the Saturday and attend the wader safety session on the Sunday.

Thanks to Paul Baker for organising this session.

The committee is always looking for people to speak at Club meetings. Are there topics you would like to hear about? Do you know someone who might be willing to talk about fishing somewhere different? Please talk to a committee member about your suggestions.

See you in February and in the meantime, Tight Lines

Heather Miller

WADER SAFETY FOR CLUB MEMBERS - Sunday 15 March

Are you confident with crossing rivers? Do you know how to handle yourself if you get caught off-balance in a strong current wearing your lightweight waders? Are you always picking the safest and easiest places to cross a river?

The Club Committee invites members to attend a session on river safety on Sunday 15 March on the Ruamahanga River. We have engaged Glenn Beach 'Beachy' of the Kahikatea Outdoor Education Academy and Wellington Guided Trout Fishing-Home - Go Fish Kiwi Guided Trout Fishing New Zealand to run the riverside course for us

Glenn, is also a professional fishing guide and Grade 3 qualified raft guide and swift water rescue qualified guide

The safety session will be at mid-day Sunday, following the club fishing competition to be held on Saturday 14 March. Glenn has a campsite with toilet facility beside the river, which will be available on the Friday and Saturday nights for those wishing to stay overnight. We may also be able to arrange carpooling on the Sunday only.

We encourage members to take this opportunity to learn new skills. Even if you have had many years' experience fishing, you may not have tried swimming in your lightweight waders; and as we age, I know from experience, our stability on slippery river bottoms declines.

We will firm up details at the Club meeting on Monday 2 March. Please register your interest by email to pbakerema@gmail.com, with WFFC Wading in the header, and including your mobile phone number. Numbers will be capped, and there may be a nominal charge to help cover some of the costs.

WFF FACEBOOK PAGE

Checkout the latest news on the club facebook page

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



TUKITUKI CLUB TRIP DECEMBER 2025

The annual club trip to the Tukituki River, staying at the Patangata Lodge is always full of anticipation and this year was no different.

Reports of excellent fish numbers in great condition had also added to the anticipation.

Arriving at the Lodge however, we found all of the pools downstream of the Lodge were full of weed and it was only a visit to Shag Rock that we found significant numbers.

Even the rapids below Shag Rock, which are usually very productive, produced nothing this trip.

Saturday saw those that fished upstream of the Tamumu Bridge found a number of pools and runs holding excellent numbers of fish and although the landing percentage was not great, a few of the group added significant numbers to the group's total.

Saturday night was the group's normal visit to the Patangata Tavern where excellent meals were once again forthcoming and a variety of drinks added to the celebrations, especially for those that had been successful during the day.

Sunday morning again proved to be excellent upstream of the Tamumu Bridge with two anglers hooking into 30 fish for the morning, many of which didn't make it to the landing net,

Overall the seven anglers on the trip with over 120 fish hooked and over 60 well-conditioned rainbows landed.

Why some pools were completely barren, whereas others held significant numbers of large fish, was not totally clear but the fact that the productive pools also had no weed, may indicate that water temperature was the key and that some pools were somewhat colder than others.

Further fishing for the rest of the summer will depend entirely on whether there is enough rain to stop the level of the Tukituki and the Waipawa reducing further.

In the meantime the club trip produced many memories, which for some anglers will be special highlights.



WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES

Following the club's trip to the Tukituki in December, the last comments in the club report of the trip indicated that fishing the Tukituki this summer would depend entirely on whether Hawkes Bay gets some rain, as the rivers in December needed it.

Very prophetic words as early January produced the rain that we had hoped for and coincided with a trip to see old school friends in the Hawkes Bay.

Arriving at the Patangata Lodge two days after the rain I found the river quite cloudy and two hours of fishing round the Shag Rock area produced absolutely nothing.

Where were all the fish that were so apparent four weeks earlier?

The next morning I visited the Tamumu Bridge area which had been so productive during the club trip and found the river clear and in perfect condition.

It's generally accepted that rainbows do not like to feed in the dirty water so the previous day's results, while disappointing were perhaps not unexpected. The results the next morning certainly reinforced that supposition as there were fish feeding everywhere. Ten beautifully conditioned fish up to 6lb came to the net while a further number managed their escape.

Most of the fish immediately after being hooked, headed downstream with me in hot pursuit followed by a trudge back upstream after the battle was either won or lost.

The size and condition of the rainbows caught that morning are the best I've had in New Zealand for some years and hopefully the rest of the summer gives other club members some enjoyable moments.

Strato

FISH & GAME REFORMS

Last year, the Minister for Hunting & Fishing, James Meager indicated it was his intention to introduce Fish & Game reforms with legislation expected to be introduced this year.

The Minister has outlined some of the proposals which include a new standalone Fish & Game Act.

New Zealand Fish & Game have been working to ensure that they are ready to engage constructively when the bill is introduced and considered by the Environment Select Committee.

On the 21st January 2026, New Zealand Fish & Game as part of its email to licence holders outlined their understanding as to what the changes will entail and more will be known once the bill is tabled.

For more detail see New Zealand Fish & Game's announcement.

CLUB FISHING COMPETITION

The Committee has set Saturday 14 March as the date for the Club fishing competition, which will be held on the Ruamahanga River. This has always been a friendly event and provides an opportunity for club members to fish alongside our more experienced anglers as we pair up the experienced anglers with less experienced for each of the two sessions. If we get enough entries, we will provide for a handicap scoring method as well as scoring for the Club trophy.

The fishing isn't always easy but usually someone manages to score 4 or more fish in a session.

As per the article on the wader safety course, there is facility to camp at Beachy's place on the Friday and Saturday nights to make a weekend of it.

Please send an email to Paul Baker pbakerema@gmail.com registering your interest. Please put WFFC Comp in the header and include your mobile phone number. We will firm up details at the Club meeting on Monday 2 March.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Fly tying is sponsored by [Fishscene](#)



16th February 2026, 7.30pm - Tararua Tramping Club Locker Room
(Access through side door on north side of building)

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.

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 if extra weight is required)
Wing Case	Pheasant tail fibres
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).



BOATIES

Upgrade your lifejacket

***Trade in an old lifejacket before February 28
for a new discounted Hutchwilco jacket***

***Save lives
Save money***

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 15 February - 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>

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 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, Kibimle, Wellington 6241, New Zealand