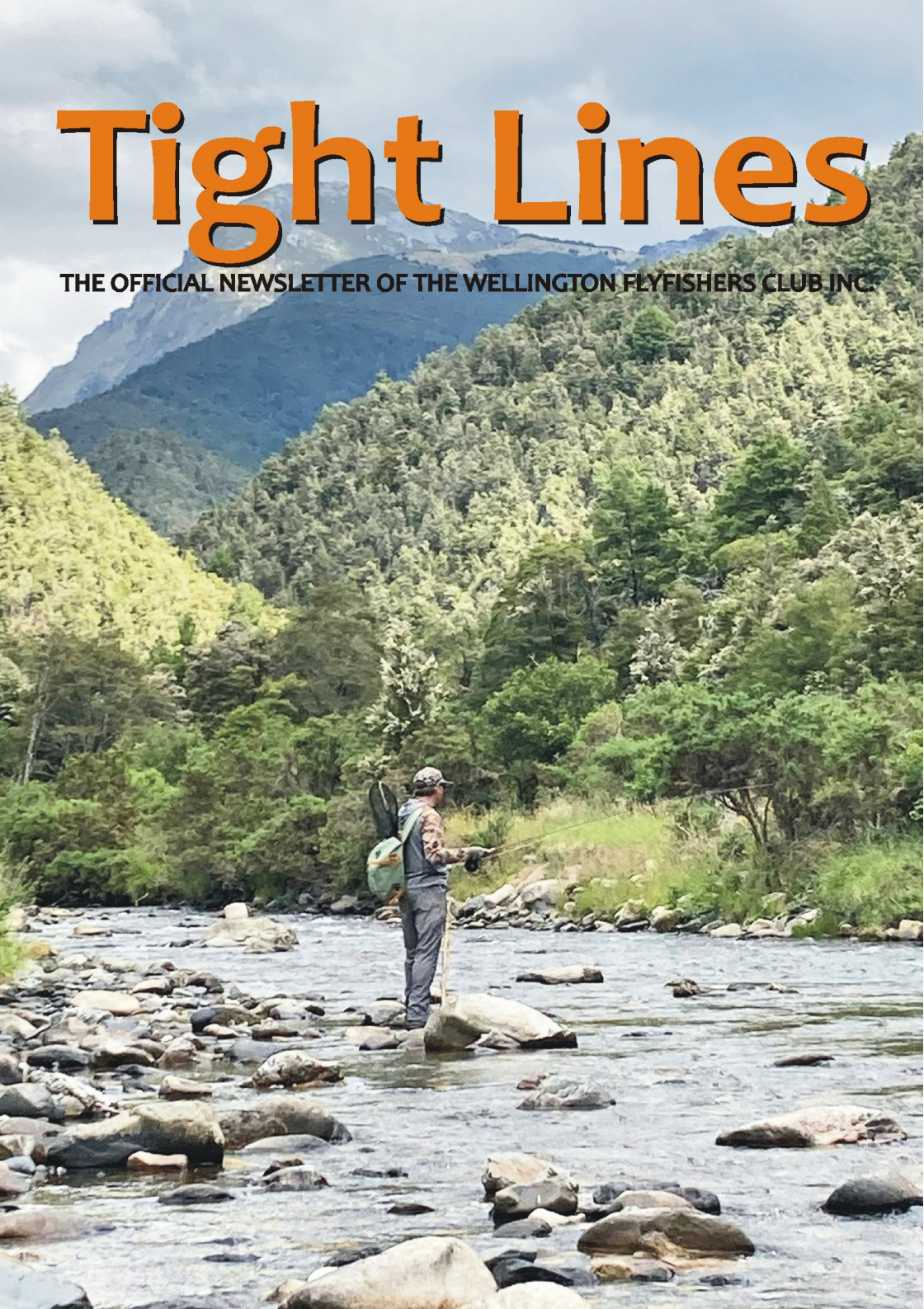


Tight Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.



TIGHT LINES

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



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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 2 March 2026, 7.30pm

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

**A presentation by
GEOFF NAYLOR and PAUL BAKER**
Geoff is a past member
of the Australian flyfishing team.

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Club Trip: March 20 to 22 - Rangitikei

Fly Tying: Monday 16 March - Red Setter
for details see Fly of the Month...p8

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



MARCH ACTIVITIES OF IMPORTANCE

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

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

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Shaun Travernor and Errol Ritson.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I hope you and your families have all survived the terrible weather without too much damage. I was disappointed to have to get out more winter clothes!

One of my English cousins sent a message asking what time of year would be best for them to come visit, November/December or February/ March. They want nice, settled weather for doing lots of walks. I am not confident I can provide a good answer. As the very strong winds raged outside, I had to say I would do some research and get back to them.

Looking at pictures of the flooded rivers, I think it will be interesting to see how quickly they recover.

If you have been fishing, please write an article or post something to the Clubs Facebook Page.

Some of you will have noticed that the little fish in the tank are not as little as they were. They are however too small to be released into the pond unless we want to save on fish food costs. Strato is going to build a 'cage' to enable them to be put into the pond so they can continue to grow.

The groups of children that have been at the pond have enjoyed watching them and have been asking questions.

Thank you to all who have been involved in feeding the fish both in the pond and in the tank but especially to Strato and Carmen who visit almost daily to make sure the fish are fed.

As I listen to the rain falling outside, I hope you get out fishing soon.

Tight Lines

Heather Miller

WFF FACEBOOK PAGE

Checkout the latest news on the club facebook page

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

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.

To register your interest send an email to Paul Baker pbakerema@gmail.com and cc Heather Miller h.miller@xtra.co.nz. 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.

ENTRIES FOR CLUB TROPHIES

Biggest Fish

Susanne Lang – 31/12/25

Hawkes Bay

7lb rainbow

Best Condition Factor

Strato Cotsilinis – 6/1/26

Tukituki-4¹/₄lb Rainbow-19”

CF 61.96

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.

To register your interest send an email to Paul Baker pbakerema@gmail.com and cc Heather Miller h.miller@xtra.co.nz. Please put 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. We will firm up details at the Club meeting on Monday 2 March.

REPORT ON CLUB NIGHT

FEBRUARY 2026

The first club meeting of the 2026 year was well attended by club members, who firstly listened intently to fishing stories of club members' exploits over the holiday period.

This was followed by guest speaker David Barnes from the Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa Outdoor Access Commission, previously known as the Walking Access Commission.

Freshwater anglers in New Zealand rely heavily on the ability to access our rivers and lakes even in situations where adjoining land is privately owned.

Legislation way back to 1840 ensured New Zealander's right of access along freshwater waterways previously known as the Queen's Chain. However with the increasing complexity of land ownership the intention of the original legislation became more and more difficult to be achieved.

More recent legislation therefore changed its name to Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa Outdoor Access Commission and enacted a number of mechanisms whereby access along waterways could be maintained.

David outlined some of the activities of the Commission and gave examples as to where they were able to negotiate access with private landowners in difficult situations.

Modern technology has enabled the Commission to develop highly detailed access maps available online showing the various types of access now available along rivers and lakes but in many cases access is still highly dependent on the goodwill of the adjoining landowners. For further information see <https://www.herengaanuku.govt.nz>

Wellington anglers are well aware of the difficulties of access when trying to fish the Wainuiomata River which has its own access issues due to the fact that for much of its length, the river bed is actually owned by private landowners.

Good to see such a good attendance at our first meeting of the year.

NOT ALWAYS RIGHT

Summertime is an ideal time to be fishing the Wainuiomata River and with the cicadas now chirping January, February, March are the ideal months.

In recent times I've mainly been fishing the Reserve area down the end of Coast Road and in particular downstream of the knoll.

This takes a bit of clambering through tall grass to get to the river but few other anglers fish that area.

I hadn't been out since Christmas so when a fine day presented itself mid-February I was at the river by 9am.

The reason why I fish down below the knoll is that the area below the bridge is well fished by other anglers and is usually not that productive by February.

While the weather was sunny, it was quite a cold morning and no cicadas singing in the stretch I'd chosen to fish. Furthermore no fish came to the nymph so I moved upstream of the knoll and fished the area around where the hut is up on the hill. One fish decided to attack the strike indicator but again no other action.

Having decided that fishing below the bridge was a waste of time, my next option was to go and fish above the bridge, which I'd not tried this season.

You still have to traverse past the area below the bridge and a quick flick as I made my way upstream produced a fish looking at the strike indicator. This was followed a couple of casts later by a young 1½lb brown taking the hare & copper bead head.

Over the next half hour a further four fish came to the fly all in the 1lb to 2lb range fished in the stretch I'd previously decided was not worth fishing.

Perhaps it was just confirming the adage that if you don't have the line in the water you don't catch anything. If it is in the water, you never know what might happen.

The recent changeable weather is quite unusual for this time of the year so when the opportunity arises to get onto the water, give it a go, you may be pleasantly surprised.

Strato

FLY OF THE MONTH

Fly tying is sponsored by [Fishscene](#)



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

Red Setter

With winter fishing fast approaching and with downstream lure fishing showing a resurgence, especially in the Turangi/Taupo area, the Red Setter is a “must have” fly.



This is another easy to tie essential pattern.

Created in the 1940's by Geoff Sanderson of Turangi, this pattern is still a great fish catcher.

Popular with Rainbows and Browns, this fly can be fished in rivers and at the river mouths. Even sea-run browns in the Hutt River during late summer will take it when fished with a floating line.

Materials

Thread	TMC 3796 size 2-10
Hook	Fibres from pheasant tail
Tail	Red fox squirrel or black squirrel
Body	Hot orange chenille
Hackle	Natural Brown or Ginger

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



The Lake Taupo spawning runs have started with good conditioned browns already making their way upstream.

Time to stock up on your flies, fly lines and nylon ready for your next trip.

Club discount applies

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 7 March - 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 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 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