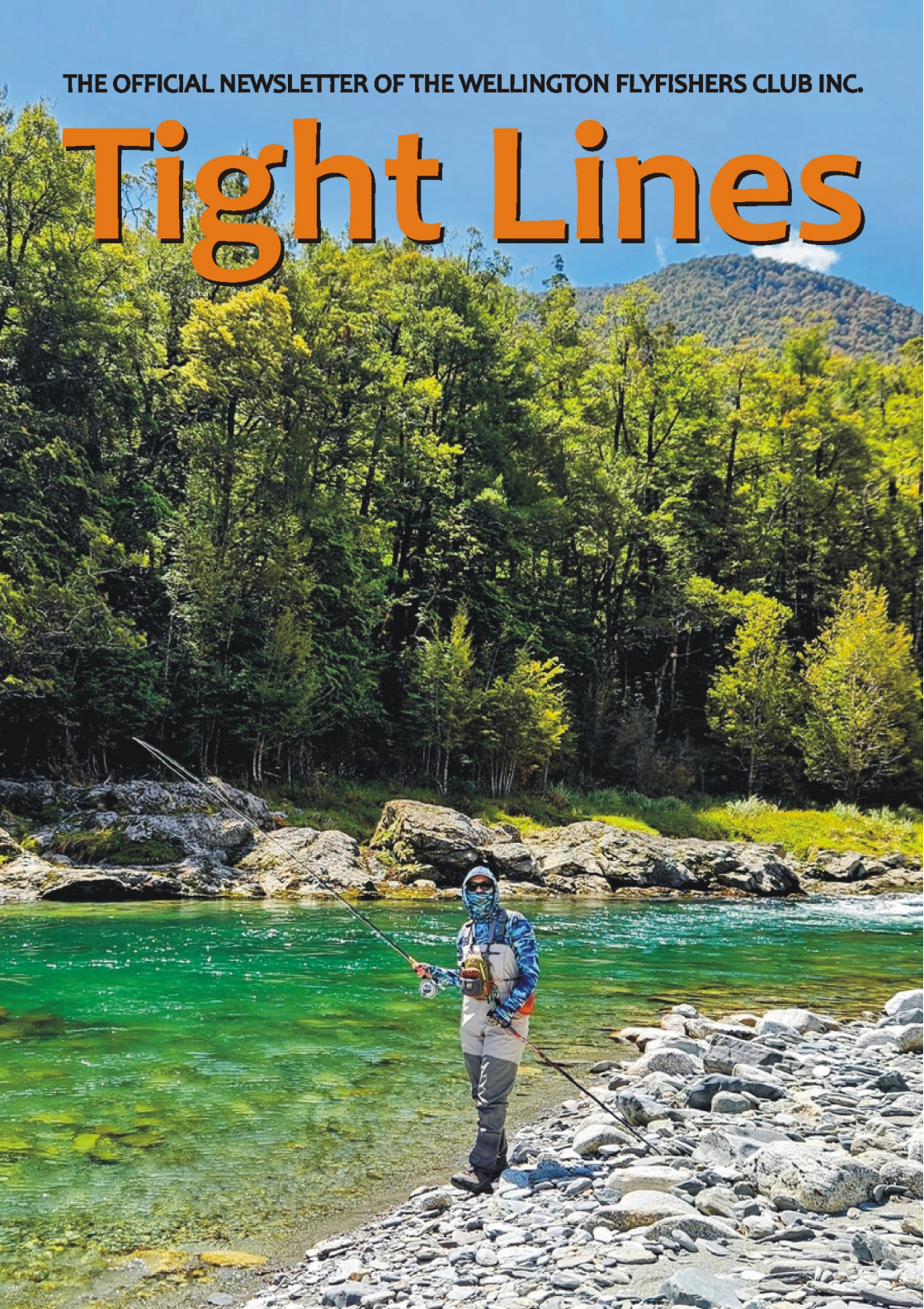
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.

Tight Lines



TIGHT LINES

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

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Cover: Brian Benson (Susi Lang fishing the Grey River November 2025). *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 5 October 2026 - 7.30 pm

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

FISHING IN BELIZE

Presented by Brian Benson and Warren Horne

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Club Trip: October 23-24-25 Tukituki.

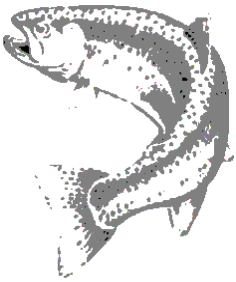
Fly Tying: Monday 19 October 7.30pm - Royal Wulff.
for details see Fly of the Month...p12

On-Stream Day: Sunday 11 October - Wainuiomata River.
Phone Strato 386 3740 by the Wednesday prior.

First Day Of New Season - 1 October.
Ensure you have your new licence.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Dean Stotter and Richard Latta.



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I'm not quite sure what happened to the month of September, but it has flown by.

Warren and I did however really enjoy the Rise Film festival night in early September.

October is fast approaching. Have you got your new fishing licence? Is your gear all sorted and ready for the new season? Have you asked another club member to join you in fishing the Wainuiomata River on opening day?

The Club held its annual auction at the September meeting. Many Club members went home with well-priced "new" gear. Thank you to all who contributed gear and all who purchased. Thanks also to the spirited bidders who livened up proceedings.

Thanks also to our auctioneer Graham Howie.

Another upcoming event is the 5th Women on the Fly weekend, 13-15 November in Turangi. This is a great event. More details elsewhere in the magazine. Unfortunately, I can't make this one so please talk to Julia Gallagher if you want to know more.

The next open day at the Capital Trout Centre is coming up. Sunday 4 October from 9am to 3pm. Helpers are always welcome. Helping children catch fish, gutting fish, writing certificates, weighing fish and cooking sausages are the opportunities available. It is fun watching young children catch their first trout.

The October meeting is Brian and Warren talking about fishing in Belize.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Strato (and Costa) a very Happy Birthday.

Tight Lines

Heather Miller

CAPITAL TROUT CENTRE

Open Day - Sunday 4th October.

Tickets/Registration forms are at Hunting & Fishing, Te Puni Street and at Capital Fishing Ghuznee Street

Assistance needed. Please phone Strato and indicate your interest if you can come and assist on the day.

INTER-CLUB FLYTYING COMPETITION – WELLINGTON, HUTT AND KAPITI

This year Wellington Flyfishers will be hosting the competition on our normal November club night (Monday 2nd November).

Anyone interested in taking part in the competition please contact Paul Baker email pbakerema@xtra.co.nz

Come along and watch, learn, meet members from the other clubs, enjoy supper and congratulate the winners.

WOTF NZ ANNUAL WORKSHOP

Below are the details of the Women on the Fly Workshop. This is a great weekend with a focus on getting women started with the basics so they can join a club and fish. More information is available here https://womenonthefly.nz/

The link to the Facebook page is below.

Dates: Location: Description:	13th – 15th November TALTAC, Turangi 5th Annual workshop
More info to come:	Join the http://www.facebook.com/WomenonTheFlyNZ/

TURANGI CLUB TRIP 18-20 SEPT

As a native of Queenstown down yonder in the deep south I am more accustomed to the smaller tussock clad rivers and streams of Central Otago and the meandering, shallower and braided type rivers of Southland. We'd hear stories of our northern brethren fishing a mighty body of water requiring anvil sized nymphs and the use of beach umbrella sized indicators to lure up supercharged rainbows. Legend has it that this river is at its best mid-winter and no matter if you have fisherman to your right or left, you'd still catch fish. None of this walking a kilometer between fish, here a fabled conveyor belt of spawning fish would pulsate past your depth charged rig on their way to continue the cycle of life. Super keen to see if reality reflects the myth I set out for Turangi early Friday morning all set to meet up with fellow clubbers Strato, Jakek and Phil Haslam that evening at the AFAC club bach.

I arrived in Turangi around midday and was surprised at the number of fisherman on the river below the state highway bridge, there must have been action going on. On a previous trip I had fished the Judges pool and liked the fact that it requires a bit of walking to and not too many people frequent it. Pulling out the largest nymph from my fly box I tied up a truck and trailer rig with a disco looking "slushie" fly at the end. In fact one of the design entries in WOW this year looks just like it. Anyway, a hot tip from a local angler said it's guaranteed to work. I fished the Judges pool from the jury box to the witness stand and didn't catch a thing, the only moment of note was when I snapped the mid section of my CD ICT rod striking on a snagged drift. People had warned me about the perils of smacking Taupo bomb sized nymph against the rod and creating weak points.

The boys had all had success that afternoon so the mood was jovial in the crib that night, so much so that we all trooped off at 9:30pm to fish the TT river mouth, where only the maestro Strato hooked on. The adage that 10% of the fishermen catch 90% of the fish rings so true. It was a bit chilly on the water but so beautiful and peaceful, punctuated, mind you, by the throaty growl of engine brakes from SH1 nearby.



The next morning I teamed up with Phil and targeted the Reed pool section of the Tongariro. It was “release” weekend so we were aware that an extra 30 cumecs was to be spilled into the river between 10am and 3pm. The fish must have sensed something was up because, neither the King of Swing nor I touched a fish all morning. Strato and Jarek headed off to the Hinemaiaia and the Waiotaka and went mad hauling in more fish than they have fingers. After reconvening for lunch at base we mixed it up a bit. Phil and Jarek went with Strato in his car back to the Reed pool carpark for the afternoon and I went to try my luck again at Judges which proved fruitful, yielding 3 fish with 2 landed. A rather troubling incident happened to the boys. Stratos' car was broken into in the carpark. Nothing was missing from inside but a lot of damage was done to the dash section as they tried to access the ignition wiring. It suggests that they were trying to hotwire it for a joy ride. In frustration they randomly slashed one of the tires as well. Nothing the insurance can't sort out but a very unpleasant episode for Strato to have experienced.

We celebrated Stratos’ looming 80th birthday that night with a very well salted steak and some cake. The Wall of Fame (cans and bottles lined up on the window frame) was somewhat shorter than usual, a sign of wisdom and maturity creeping in or maybe we are just a bunch of lightweights after all.



The stats at the end of the weekend sorted out the men from the boys with Jarek clocking in with a very impressive 20 fish caught, Strato with 11, Phil and Jeremy on 3. I did stay on an extra night and fished the TT on Monday after Strato received a hot tip from a friend saying the fish were running. The TT is much more like a southern river so I was back in my comfort zone and caught 10, landed 7, and kept 3.

Jeremy Crichton

Media release

23 September 2026

Fish & Game calls on anglers and game bird hunters to push for resource management fixes

Fish & Game New Zealand says the Government's new resource management legislation doesn't reflect the needs of people who fish and hunt game birds and needs to be changed.

The Government has replaced the Resource Management Act with two new laws: a Planning Act to enable development and regulate land use, and a Natural Environment Act to set a framework for the use, protection, and enhancement of the natural environment.

“As drafted, the bills do not recognise fishing and game bird hunting values, do not protect trout and salmon habitat, and do not guarantee recreation or access,” says Fish & Game Chief Executive Corina Jordan.

“They also do not carry over the recognition Fish & Game's role and management plans have under the current law, and they rely heavily on the National Policy Direction and Ministerial decisions still to come, rather than firm protections set out in the legislation itself.

“Without change, the habitats that support fishing and game bird hunting are less certain, and Fish & Game's ability to advocate for

anglers, game bird hunters, and for healthy habitats that support sports fish and game birds is significantly restricted.

"Fish & Game has broader concerns about the environmental impacts of the legislation but has concentrated on the interests of anglers and game bird hunters, the trout, salmon and game birds they value, and the rivers, lakes and wetlands those species depend on," says Jordan.

"Fish & Game put its case to decision makers, made a submission through the select committee process, and encouraged licence holders to make their own submissions. "On the matters most important to anglers and game bird hunters, we have not got the changes we needed."

Jordan said the National Policy Direction draft doesn't address the issues.

"Much of the detail that will determine how the new system works in practice sits in the National Policy Direction (NPD), and that has not yet been finalised. That draft direction has not currently resolved the issues Fish & Game raised, but consultation remains open, and anglers and game bird hunters will have an opportunity to have their say on it."

Fish & Game is encouraging licence holders to write to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing James Meager, contact their local MPs and ask them to support changes that recognise angling and game bird hunting values and protect the species and habitats these activities depend on, and give feedback on the National Policy Direction before feedback closes at on 16 October.

"This is an opportunity for anglers and game bird hunters from every region, and for the rural communities and others who care about these activities, to make their views known. The more the Minister and MPs hear directly from the people they represent, the better the chance they will make the changes needed."

Go to https://www.fishandgame.org.nz/environment/resource-management-reforms/

The key changes Fish & Game is seeking to the Acts

- Recognise angling and game bird hunting values, recreation and public access as goals the new system must actively provide for.
- Protect the habitat of trout and salmon, including by amending the definition of life-supporting capacity so it includes valued introduced species.
- Set firm environmental limits with fewer exceptions and embed environmental bottom lines in the legislation rather than relying on Ministerial discretion through the National Policy Direction.
- Define and protect wetlands, with clear provision for their identification, protection, maintenance and restoration.
- Require Fish & Game to be consulted on national instruments, plans and decision-making that affect the species and habitats it manages.
- Carry over recognition of Sports Fish and Game Management Plans, as required under the current RMA, into the new plans.
- Carry the minimum discharge standards in sections 70 and 107 of the RMA through into the Natural Environment Act

Key changes Fish & Game is seeking to the NPD

- recognise recreation and public enjoyment of the natural environment as a national priority
- protect and enhance public access to rivers, lakes and wetlands
- set freshwater health so it provides for trout, salmon and game birds, not indigenous species alone
- protect wetlands and make it easier to restore and create them

- make sure the housing, infrastructure and primary production directives do not come at the cost of the water and habitats that fishing and game bird hunting depend on

Caption Underwood Wetland

Media Contact Maggie Tait 0273 469 570

About Fish & Game New Zealand
Fish & Game manages trout, salmon, and game birds and helps New Zealanders to connect with nature and experience the many benefits fishing and hunting offers. We work to protect the environment that anglers and hunters have enjoyed as a tradition for over 150 years.

WFF FACEBOOK PAGE

Checkout the latest news on the club facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/WellingtonFlyfishersClub



REPORT ON SEPTEMBER FLYTYING NIGHT

There was a very pleasing turnout for the September flytying evening.



Twelve members attended and learned to tie a bead head hare & copper nymph.

There was a good exchange of assistance and banter from the more experienced flytyers and everyone enjoyed the chocolate bars offered by Ross Pritchard.



FLY OF THE MONTH

Fly tying is sponsored by Fishscene

Monday 19 October 2026, 7.30pm - Tararua Tramping Club Locker Room (Access through side door on north side of building)

ROYAL WULFF



The Royal Wulff is a must have in any fly box, especially deadly on Rainbows who find it hard to resist. Originated by master angler Lee Wulff around 1930 to imitate a beetle, it has stood the test of time virtually unchanged ever since.

It can be used almost anywhere.

Materials

Hook	TMC 9300 size 10-16
Thread	6/0 black or red
Wing	White calf body hair
Tail	Moose mane or similar
Body	Peacock herl separated by red floss or thread
Hackle	Brown

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

Hunting & Fishing
NEW ZEALAND

Waders Galore
Many brands and styles available

Fishfighter PVC waders - $99.99
Riverworks unbooted waders - $349.99
Desolve unbooted waders - $499.99
Desolve neoprene booted waders - $249.99
Desolve Boots - $299.99

Hunting & Fishing are arranging an evening with
Manic Tackle likely to be in October
More details once we have confirmed

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 11 October - 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, 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 2026 – 31 MARCH 2027

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
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	Julia Gallagher	021 0880 4115
Committee	Andrew Morrow	021 810 026



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