



Kapiti Fly Fishing ClubMarch 2021 Newsletter

This month's front cover: Photo taken at the new members session on the Otaki River, Photo taken by Leigh Johnson

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Club activities

Date	Event	Coordinator
Monday 22 March	Club night – Steve Bielby DoC Waikanae River Conservation Plan	Malcolm
Monday 12 April	Fly Tying workshop – Waikanae Boating Club	Gordon
Monday 26 April	Club night – Guest speaker to be confirmed	
April dates TBC	Whanganui and Whakapapa	Malcolm
Monday 24 May	Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Annual General Meeting	Michael

^{&#}x27;Club members will be notified by email confirming the dates of planned club trips.'

You are invited to the next KFFC Club Night on Monday 22
March when Steve Bielby from DoC will provide members with
an overview of the Waikanae River conservation plan.

Meeting starts at 7:30pm looking forward to seeing you there

Presidents report

Phew—- As I pen this the TV is on as the T New Zealand team, sailing the beautiful Te Rehutai, has won the America's Cup. The euphoria being felt around Aotearoa New Zealand and the wellbeing benefits for most of us are enormous which is one of the unsung things which sport, including trout fishing, brings us.

It has taken me back a few decades to the early days when I was Commodore of the Mana Cruising Club and Peter Blake and his red socks campaign brought the country together. Yachting was my passion in those times, and I found gliding along in my yacht "White Lie" helped me clear my mind and forget the day-to-day pressures. These days it is fishing that does this for me and it is a vital part of my life. it is "being out there" that is the most important both physically and mentally.

So, I welcome the good number of new members who have joined KFFC over this last year and I hope that you all get the same enjoyment that I get by simply being on the water and also that you forge some great friendships as I have done.

Gordon Baker and I hosted a new members on the water morning last Saturday and I don't think I have seen such and enthusiastic group. We focused on the real basics starting with setting up the various rigs for different situations and took it from there with Gordon finishing by demonstrating some basic rivercraft including approaching fish and mending. We will now put another session into the calendar for the end of winter which might allow us to finish by swinging streamers for whitebait chasing sea-runs... fun eh!

If members haven't yet received their current membership cards, then come along to club night on Monday and get yours. We are lucky to have DOC's Kapiti Community Ranger Steve Bielby presenting at Monday's club night. Steve is leading two local projects including the Waikanae Mountains to Sea project so if you are interested in our local rivers then it's a must attend session!

For all members, including our new ones remember we get some great support from a number of businesses. Please let them know you are a KFFC member, and they will look after you. One of the great things about purchasing in NZ is the after sales support available which I can attest to having had to return a couple of reels in recent years and have both returned all fixed and at nil cost.

- Hunting & Fishing Otaki Pop in and see Ben and his team and support your local busines, they can set you up with quality product.
- Sporting Life Turangi When in Turangi please pop in and see Graeme's great team, they know what's needed in the Taupo region, so you get the best product and advice.
- Taupo Rod & Tackle Matt and his team provided some great prizes during a Covid lockdown fly tying project we ran in conjunction with the Taupo Fishing Club.
- Feather Merchants Are sponsoring products for our monthly fly-tying sessions. If you are searching online go to the Flyshop, they have a great selection of fly-tying materials. See Gordon's section on fly tying for the online link.

The Waikanae Boating Club is proving to be a very good venue for the fly tying. Come join us next month and let Gordon teach you how to tie a killer Woolly Bugger!

Enough rambling from me, see you at club night.

Kia Kaha

Michael

Fly Casting Tuition by Gordon Baker

Club member Gordon Baker is available for one-on-one casting tuition. Gordon is a casting instructor with Flyfishers International (USA). He is available to help beginners get off to a good start and to assist more experienced members improve their distance casting skills. Although not yet an approved two-handed casting instructor Gordon is a keen learner willing to share new skills.

Email Gordon <u>kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com</u> or phone 0274946487 to arrange a suitable time for a lesson. There is no charge.

Mid-Week Fishing trips by Hugh

For those members who are lucky enough to be able to fish mid-week during the forthcoming season please confirm your desire to be included in the mid-week fishers email list to: hugh.driver.nz@gmail.com

The emails are of often sent out only giving very short notice to take advantage of the prevailing conditions and members availability, as an example the afternoon of day before the proposed trip.



Fly Pattern of the Month –Woolly Bugger by Gordon Baker





Although the original Woolly Bugger pattern was believed to have been created by Pennsylvania fly tier Russell Blessing as early as 1967 to resemble a hellgrammite, or dobsonfly nymph, its precise origin is unknown. But is clearly an evolution of the Woolly Worm fly, which itself is a variation — intentional or not — of the British palmer fly, which dates back to Walton and beyond.

The Woolly Bugger, depending on the specific material used and how it is fished can be assumed to resemble large nymphs, baitfish, leech, drowning terrestrial insects, clamworms, crayfish, shrimp, or crabs.

Hook TMC 5262 size 2-12

Thread Black 3/0 or 6/0

Tail Black, brown or olive marabou

Rib Gold or copper wire or oval tinsel

Hackle Colour optional but usually black, olive, or brown

Body Black, brown or olive chenille.

Please Note

Please note that the next flytying meeting will be at the Waikanae Boating Club at 7.30pm Monday 12th April. Please bring your club membership card. If you haven't received yours yet you may do so at either the club or fly tying meeting.

Please remember that the materials for our Fly Tying workshops are sponsred by the Flyshop where you can purchase your fly tying materials, their website is; https://www.flyshop.co.nz/



Effect of pollution on Lake Taupo Wildlife Illustrated by Rachel Canning

Trout snared by clothing thread a stark message.

Who would have thought chucking a piece of clothing in the lake would result in a trout's tongue being nearly cut in half?

The net result of pollution was posted on social media this week by Taupō Fishing Club president Shirley Fraser, who is keen to promote the message of keeping our waterways clean. Shirley caught the trout in Lake Taupō and could see the trout was in poor condition.

But she was horrified to find it was due to a piece of thread running through the trout's mouth and gills, nearly cutting the trout's tongue in half, and slicing through its body. "The trout would have been suffering and struggling to eat."

At first Shirley thought the piece of thread was fishing nylon and says it is the first time she has seen a fish damaged by pollution. Shirley googled the brand tag attached to the thread and concluded it was originally from clothing or an outdoor cushion.

Shirley says Taupō Fishing Club environmental co-ordinator Janet Oldfield has been actively encouraging members and anglers to remove rubbish from the side of fishing banks, along with the predator trapping work club members carry out at Mapara Stream.

Over the years, Tidy Taupō 's Carol Lamb has collected a container's worth of micro and small litter from the shore of Lake Taupō, including plastic threaded bird's nests. She says the photos taken by Shirley are important.

"They make the damage of rubbish real."

Department of Conservation fisheries team community ranger James Barnett said trout health is a serious issue, with anglers travelling from all around New Zealand and around the world to sample the quality of fishing in the Taupō District. "We were saddened to see the photographs of the unfortunate trout. This case underlines the importance of taking rubbish home or disposing of it safely in rubbish bins."

Would you be interested in a trip to Lake Rotoiti? by Ralph Lane



We are considering organising a fishing trip back to Lake Rotoiti, and the other lakes in the Rotorua Region. In the past we have booked a batch at Rotoiti for about 5 to 6 days and at this stage we are looking at late May.

Cost includes batch rental, food for evening meals which will be organised by our chef Chris. For the trip to be successful we do need to have access to a number of boats, otherwise there are a number of local rivers.

If we have enough members interested, we will set up a non-fundable deposit of \$200.00 once the batch has been booked. In the past our club members have experienced excellent fishing with a number of large Rainbow trout being landed, I would suggest you have a look at Chris photo of the monster he landed on a recent trip. More information is available by contact Ralph Lane or Chris Bryant.

You will need to secure your spot very quickly, please email Ralph at ralph.jill@xtra.co.nz.

Fly Fishing History- the Overlooked Venables by Al Simpson

For any who were hoping that this article would be about a forgotten or overlooked trout stream, a paradise for adventuresome fly fishers, you may be disappointed. The "Overlooked Venables" that I am referring to is Colonel Robert Venables, not a trout stream. He was an English gentleman who authored "The Experienced Angler", published in 1667.

Fly fishers with an interest in fly fishing history quickly recall Walton's "The Compleat Angler", and Dame Juliana Berners' "A Treatyse of Fysshyng Wyth an Angle". But after reading Venables's work, I feel that history has treated him poorly, and that he belongs in the pantheon of fly-fishing literacies, along with Walton and "the Dame."

The Treatyse

Let's begin with an examination of the two better known works, starting with "The Treatyse of Fysshynge Wyth an Angle". It is generally attributed to a nun, Dame Juliana Berners, the Benedictine prioress of Sopwell. She authored a similar work on hunting, which was published in the first book of St Alban's in 1486. The Treatyse was published in the second book of St Alban's in 1496. It was unsigned, which has led to speculation over the true authorship. Nonetheless, the fly-fishing world at large has fondly accepted "the Dame" as the author of the first English publication on the sport of angling.

The format used was followed by fly fishing authors for several centuries. It begins with a comparison of angling to the other "gentlemen sports". Angling of course ranks as superior to hunting, hawking, or fowling (trapping). After justification of the sport, it continues with detailed instructions on the making of the necessary tackle. This included a wooden rod, a horsetail fly line, hooks, sinkers, floats, and artificial flies.

Given its primal position in the fly-fishing literature, it may surprise you to learn that the Treatyse is only 23 pages long! And of these, just three are given to instructions on fishing. Only one page is devoted to trout fishing. It included the use of worms, minnows, living flies and artificial flies. There is one additional page providing the recipes for the now famous twelve artificial flies.

Excerpts:

The Dames instructions begin as follows - "Understand that there are six ways of angling. - The sixth is with an artificial fly for the trout and grayling. And for the first and principal point in angling, always keep yourself away from the water, from the sight of the fish, either far back on the land or else behind a bush, so that the fish may not see you. For if they do, they will not bite. Also take care that you do not shadow the water any more than you can help, for that is a thing which will soon frighten the fish. And if a fish is frightened, he will not bite for a long time afterward."

She continues -

"Here I will declare to you in what place of the water you must angle. You should angle in a pool or in standing water, in every place where it is at all deep. In a river, you must angle in every place where it is deep and clear at the bottom, as in gravel or clay without mud or weeds, and especially if there is a kind of whirling of water or covert- such as a hollow bank or great roots of trees or long weeds floating above in the water- where the fish can cover and hide themselves at certain times when they like."

"Now you must know what time of the day you should angle. From the beginning of May until it is September, the biting time is early in the morning; and in the afternoon from four o'clock until eight o'clock, but this is not so good as in the morning."

"Here you should know in what weather you must angle: as I said before, in a dark, lowering day when the wind blows softly. And in the summer season when it is burning hot, then it is useless. From September until April in a fair, sunny day, it is right good to angle."

"From April to September the trout leaps; then angle for him with an artificial fly appropriate to the month."

She then provides the recipes for twelve flies, two for March, April, May, and July, three for June, and one for August. All have feather wings, while the bodies are made of wool. Below is a picture of a fly tied in this fashion.



The Compleat Angler

It was over one hundred and fifty years before the next significant book on the sport of angling was published, "The Compleat Angler". It was authored by Isaak Walton, in 1653. It's a charming read, written as a dialogue between Piscator, the fisherman, and Viator, a non-fisherman. Their discussions are rather wide ranging, the common thread being a celebration of the bucolic life of the 17th century, English gentleman. It is replete with poems and songs. One of the pleasures is of course angling, and Piscator takes it upon himself to teach Viator how to fish.

According to Arnold Gingrich, an angling scholar, there are nearly 400 editions of "The Compleat Angler". For the purposes of my discussion, I am going to divide them into two groups. The first four editions published between 1653 and 1676, and all subsequent editions, which include the chapters written by Charles Cotton.

Walton was not actually a trout fisherman, much less a fly fisherman. He therefore invited Cotton to write the chapters pertaining to trout and fly fishing for the fifth edition. It is this edition, and all subsequent editions, that fly fishers are most familiar with. Cotton is credited with many original observations. But Venables wrote his book, "The Experienced Angler", in 1667. It was published after the first edition of "The Compleat Angler", but well before the renowned fifth edition. I hope to demonstrate that Venables added far more to the angling literature than did Cotton, and that many of Cotton's "original observations" were not so original.

Excerpts:

In the first edition of "The Compleat Angler", Walton begins his instructions with - "And having told you these observations concerning trout's, I shall next tell you how to catch them: which is usually with a worm, or a minnow, or with a fly, either natural or an artificial flie."

After catching several trout, Piscator gives the luckless Viator his rod, after which he observes -

"Though you have my fiddle, that is my very rod and tackling's with which you see I catch fish, yet you have not my fiddle stick, that is, skill to know how to carry your hand and line; and this must be taught you (for you are to remember I told you Angling is an art) either by practice, or a long observation, or both."

Not being a trout fisherman, Walton credits the following instructions to a Mr. Thomas Barker. His first instruction emphasizes a light or fine presentation of the fly.

"Let your rod be light and gentle, – if you can attain to angle with one haire; you will have more rises and catch more fish."

He continues with - "Cast to have the wind on your back, and sun (if it shines) to be before you, and to fish down the streame, and carry the point or tip of the rod downward; by which meanes the shadow of yourselfe, and rod too will be the least offensive to the fish, for the sight of any shadow amazes the fish, and spoils your sport, of which you must take a great care."

Next, he discusses how to make an artificial fly, and instructs Viator to "match the hatch."

"I confess, no direction can be given to make a man of a dull capacity able to make a flye well; and yet I know, this, with a little practice, will help an ingenuous Angler in a good degree."

"An ingenuous Angler may walk by the river and mark what fly falls on the river that day, and catch one of them, – and having always hooks ready hung with him and a bag of hackles, silk, wool – and if he hit to make his flie right, and have the luck to hit also where there is store of trout's, and a right wind, he shall catch such store of them, as will encourage him to grow more and more in love with the Art of flie-making."

He then concludes with some final instructions on fly fishing - "You are to take notice that the fish lies, or swims nearer the bottom in winter than in summer, and also nearer the bottom in any cold day. And let me again tell you, that you keep as far from the water as you can possibly, whether you fish with a flie or worm, and fish down the stream; and when you fish with a flie, if it be possible, let no part of your line touch the water, but your flie only. And now, Scholer, my direction for fly-fishing is ended with this showre."

A bit later he adds two more insightful comments - "You are to know, there is night as well as dayfishing for a trout, and that then the best are out of their holds, and the manner of taking them is on top of the water with a great lob or garden worm."

"As affirmed by Sir Francis Bacon, that waters may be the medium of sounds; and it shall be a rule for me to make as little noise as I can when I am fishing."

Summary of literature, prior to Venables –

So, let's summarize the angling literature, specifically angling for trout with an artificial fly, as of 1653. Fly fishing is but one of six methods, and only used sometimes in April through September, if and when the "trout are leaping". They are to be fished with stealth, avoiding direct sight, shadow, and sound. The tackle should be as fine as possible, down to one horsehair for best results. If possible, imitate the flies for which the trout are leaping. The method of fishing is what we today call Tenkara. This consists of a long rod (13-15 feet) with a short line attached to the tip, cast downstream, with sun in front and wind behind. The trout will be found in deep water, along banks, and around downed trees. In the summer, fish early and late, and in winter, fish when warmest. And finally, the "big boys" come out at night.

The Experienced Angler

Now let's look at what Venables contributed to the literature in his book, "The Experienced Angler."

He is the first to depart from the Dame's instructions to match the fly with the month and appreciates that at least some of the flies are aquatic insects. He also understands that the flies are specific to certain streams or water types.

Excerpts:

"But I must here beg leave to dissent from the opinion of such who assign a certain fly to each month, whereas I am certain, scarce any one sort of fly continues its colour and virtue one month; and generally, all flies last a much shorter time, except the stone fly, which is bred of the water cricket, creeps out of the river, and getting under the stones by the water side, turns to a fly."

"Besides the season of the year may much vary the time of their coming in; a forward Spring brings them in sooner, and a late Spring the later."

"Further also I have observed that several rivers and soils produce several sorts of flies peculiar to them; yet some sorts are common to all these sorts of rivers and soils, but they are few, and differ somewhat in colour from those bred elsewhere in other soils."

He continues with a fairly long discussion of "matching the hatch", and recognizes that it takes a bit of time for trout to adjust to a change in fly hatches -

"You may also observe that the fish never rise eagerly and freely at any sort of fly, until that kind come to the water's side; for though I have often, at the first coming in of some flies, which I judged they liked best got several of them, yet I could never find that they did much, if at all value them, until those sorts of flies began to flock to the rivers sides, and were to be found on the trees and bushes there in great numbers."

"When you come first to the river in the morning, with your rod beat upon the bushes or boughs which hang over the water, and by their falling upon the water you will see what sorts of flies are there in the greatest numbers."

"The first fish you take, cut up his belly, and then you may find his food in it, and thereby discover what bait the fish at that instant takes best."

"Sometimes they change their fly, though not very usual, twice or thrice in one day; but ordinarily they do not seek another sort of fly till they have for some days even glutted themselves with a former kind, which is commonly when these flies die and go out."

He then begins a discussion that continues to this day - "But the angler, as before directed, having found the fly which the fish at present affect, let him make one as like it as possibly he can, in COLOR, SHAPE, and PROPORTION."

And provides further direction on tying a fly -

"When you try how to fit your colour to the fly, wet your fur, hair, wool, or otherwise you will fail in your work; for though when they are dry, they exactly suit the colour of the fly, yet the water will alter most colours, and make them lighter or darker."

Next is presentation, and for the first time he documents that flies can be fished subsurface, in the film, as well as dry.

"The fore-mentioned fish will sometimes take the fly much better at the top of the water and at another time much better a little under the superficies of the water."

And here another first, fishing upstream -

"And here I meet with two different opinions and practices, some will always cast their fly and bait up the water, and so they say nothing occurs to the fish's sight but the line; others fish down the river, and so suppose, the rod and line being long, the quantity of water takes away, or at least lessens the fish's sight; but others affirm, that rod and line, and perhaps yourself, are seen also."

He continues with where trout are found and how they feed -

"The trout is found in small purling brooks, or rivers that are very swift, behind a stone, a log or some small bank, and there he lieth watching for what comes down the stream, and suddenly catches it up."

And he observes what we might consider the precursors of "the San Juan Shuffle" -

"When shepherds or countrymen wash their sheep, though while they are washing, the fish will bite exceedingly well." And "When cattle in summer come into the fords, their dung draws the fish to the lower end of the ford, and you will have sport."

He emphasizes a natural, life-like presentation of the fly, here describing "dibbing" –

You must keep your artificial fly in continual motion, though the day be dark, the water muddy, and the wind blow, or else the fish will discern and refuse it."

And continues, reflecting further upon the importance of size and colour -

"If you angle in a river that is mudded by rain, you must use a larger bodied fly than ordinary, which argues, that in clear rivers the fly must be smaller; and this not being observed by some, hinders their sport, and they impute their want of success to their want of the right fly, when perhaps they have it, but made too large."

"If the day be clear, then a light-coloured fly, with slender body and wings. In dark weather, as well as dark waters, your fly must be dark."

He concurs with the Dame and Walton regarding the best months and time of day to fish, but then adds –

"Fish rise best at the fly, after a shower that has not mudded the water, yet has beaten the gnats and flies into the rivers." And "Also after the river is cleared from a flood, they rise exceedingly well; they now covet the fly, having wanted it a time."

Some more sage advice -

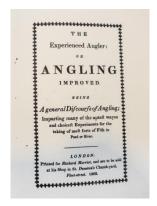
"When you angle for the trout, you need not make above three or four trials in one place, either with fly or ground-bait, for he will then either take it, or make an offer, or not stir at all, and so you lose time to stay there any longer."

And lastly, how to play a good fish -

"When you have hooked a good fish, have an especial care to keep your rod bent, lest he run to the line, and break your hook, or his hold."

In conclusion -

With the information now at hand, I invite you to read the fifth or any subsequent edition of Walton and Cotton's "The Compleat Angler", and Robert Venable's "The Experienced Angler". I think that you will concur that while Walton and Cotton are superior literary authors. But our "overlooked" author/angler, Robert Venables, contributed far more to our understanding of trout behaviour, the life cycle and role of aquatic flies, the making of effective imitative flies, and how to fish them.



Editor's note: I would like to remind members that the club has a small library of books on fly fishing that members are welcome to loan, check them out at our next club meeting.

No Economic Benefits with Trout farming but Disastrous Consequences by Tony Orman

Commercial farming of trout, currently not allowed, would be an economic disaster says a Nelson fly fisherman Colin Taylor.

In August in 2018, a petition calling for commercial trout farming was presented to Parliament by former Golden Bay salmon farmer Clive Barker who said it would provide jobs and ease pressure on fish stocks. In August, Parliament's primary production select committee recommended the proposal be given "serious consideration". It noted that there is a ban on importing trout.

Taylor said Parliament's Primary Production Committee had made an "appalling decision" in recommending Government give serious consideration to commercialising trout farming.

Angling sources said the general trout fishing public were given little opportunity to present views although the select committee did hear submissions by the Department of Conservation, Fish and Game and Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI).

Reports indicate Barker's salmon farming venture at Golden Bay in the 1970s was based on ocean ranching. Ocean ranching is a type of farming in which juvenile fish are released into the ocean

to be harvested on their expected return after three to five years. The returning adult fish failed to materialise.

Taylor said the recreational sports trout fishery industry was worth well over \$1 billion a year, with both international and New Zealanders travelling into regions and injecting money into regional economies for accommodation, guides, helicopter hire and other expenses.

Clive Barker's petition, first presented to Parliament in May 2018, argued that the legalisation of commercial trout farming would provide employment in rural areas, provide a secure food source, and relieve pressure on depleting fish stocks. He told the select committee that the ban on trout farming was not justified by science or his experience farming salmon.

Taylor said recent information from Professor Brian Jones, a former Principal Fish Pathologist in Western Australia, currently adjunct professor at Murdoch University, Perth about trout farming showed "very real dangers" of commercialising trout flesh by way of fish farming.

If trout are commercialised, then it follows that the current import ban in New Zealand would go under WTO [World Trade Organisation] rules. The international wholesale value of frozen trout is \$250 to \$500 US a tonne, out of Asia, achieved by industrial scale production, minimal wages, and free land.

The Department of Conservation (DoC) in its submission also warned about the inevitable importation of foreign farmed trout should trout farming be permitted.

"If legislation was changed to allow the commercial farming and sale of trout, the current import prohibition would also need to be revoked to meet the expectations of international trading partners," said DoC.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), China was already producing around 350,000 to 380,000 tonnes of farmed rainbow trout annually back in 2017 and has been exponentially increasing production year by year.

As with other 'cheap' Chinese products which now dominate a variety of NZ's markets, forcing former local manufacturers out of business, there is little doubt that China, assisted by profit-driven importers, would be quick to realise the revenue to be earned by exporting their farmed trout to New Zealand. Local trout farmers will be able to compete against the low prices offered for trout flesh products from Asian trout farms - currently running as low as \$250 per tonne.

Professor Jones, Western Australian fish pathologist said, "As soon as the border opens to imports, trout farming is dead."

Taylor said the billion-dollar estimated value of the recreational fishery was based on past estimates. Twenty-two years ago, a November 1998 issue of DoC's "Target Taupo" stated "the New Zealand economy reaped around \$750 million annually from activity associated with the freshwater fisheries."

"Taking into account increased earnings/inflation/business expansion etc over the past two decades that 'around \$750 million annually figure would have easily doubled by now to \$1.5 billion."

In 1991 - 30 years ago - Cawthron Institute's assessed the value of trout angling as up to a quarter of a billion dollars. Ten years ago, the Department of Conservation publicly stated the Taupo fishery alone was worth \$90 million annually to the local economy.

"Taking into account inflation, business expansion, this decades old value estimate for Taupo would be much higher now and probably easily doubled," Taylor said. "Recreational freshwater sports fishing - directly and indirectly thousands of jobs - many in rural regions where unemployment is high."

He cited fishing lodges, motels, hotels, motor camps, fishing guides, fisheries officers in DoC and Fish & Game, rental vehicles and rented RVs, sports shops and other retailers selling fishing equipment, NZ Manufacturing industries producing fishing equipment, airlines, and other transport related industries such as helicopter companies, ferries, plus Cafes and restaurants in popular fishing regions like Lake Taupo and Queenstown.

"Clearly, the key 'economic' question that needs to be asked is why should New Zealand put at risk, for almost certainly financially doomed trout farming projects, a sports fishing 'industry' conservatively estimated to be worth more than \$1 billion dollars annually to the national economy and employing thousands of people, directly and indirectly, in numerous servicing and supporting businesses, especially in high unemployment rural areas?"

Taylor said disease in fish farming was inevitable as fish farmers with marginal, uncertain economics, crammed fish into pens.

Professor Jones said, "The Australian prawn industry was devastated financially when the border was opened up to imported diseased prawns from Asia." "With imports of course, we see the import of disease.

Sounds scary? Look at what happened in Australia with WSSV [White Spot Syndrome] in prawns. It was imported in frozen product, used as bait and got into the farms on the Logan River."

"There should be absolutely no doubt about the potential for a nationwide catastrophe, should one of a large number of trout diseases enter our wild trout fisheries – emanating from trout farms or imported trout flesh wastes," he said. "It has not been eradicated. The cost of the outbreak to Australia and Queensland has for both been in the tens of millions (of dollars."

Trout farming in the US had numerous examples of disease escaping from farms into wild trout populations and spreading long distances.

The parasitic disease *Myxobolus cerebralis*, according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, wiped out 95-percent of the wild rainbow trout population in Montana's upper Madison River over a five-year period - with "disastrous rainbow trout losses" also in Colorado's South Platte, Cache la Poudre, Gunnison, Rio Grande, and Colorado rivers. It is believed responsible for the decimation of trout populations in some of America's most renowned trout streams, especially in the Rocky Mountain West.

Three major agencies - DoC, Fish and Game and the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) - made submissions against Barker's petition.

"After all, no-one should want to embark on an expensive, time-consuming, labour intensive project that is almost certainly doomed to economic failure and which endangers income from the current highly-successful and lucrative, sports trout fishing model," said Taylor.

Placing a dollar value on trout flesh was also a threat with added incentive to poaching and black markets.

Ecologist Rex Gibson and NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers secretary said precedents were there with poaching in venison, paua and crayfish rife because of commercialisation. Conservation Department staff in its submission, said trout poaching was a constant, continuing problem in the Taupo region.

The final word to Nelson's Colin Taylor. "After all, why kill the goose that lays the golden egg?"

Editor's note: Fish& Game have publicly stated that they are opposed to any form of trout farming in New Zealand and the present Government of the Day have supported Fish & Game, a number of Iwi have openly challenged the Governments position on trout farming. As a Fish & Game licence holder we need to be aware of this threat to our sport and its future impact.

Angler's alluring catch gives Council salmon to talk about by Chloe Ranford



Alex Kole, landed a quinnat or chinook salmon after help from a passing MDC reserves ranger

A council ranger has been rewarded with a case of beer after helping an angler reel in a large salmon in Marlborough.

Retiree and fisherman Alex Kole thought his second cast on the morning of February 12 had become tangled in the Wairau River, north of Renwick, when "zing, across the river it went."

"I thought, 'I know what this is,' but I was using a six-pound trout line. I knew it I pulled too hard the fish would be history," Kole said.

It took him 35 minutes to coax the salmon into a groyne – a rock wall built by the Marlborough District Council to protect the riverbank from eroding – on his side of the stream, when he heard a car.

"I yelled out to the guy, who happened to be a [council reserves] ranger, to pop into the boot of my car and get my landing net because I'd just caught a salmon and I needed a hand to land it."

Two minutes later, about 10am, reserves ranger Ross Laybourn towed a 6.35-kilogram quinnat, or chinook, salmon from the water.

"I had this odd feeling that it was going to be a good day when I woke up that morning, and it was. Everything went right," Kole said.

"It was such a thrill ... Most salmon are caught after 20 to 40 hours of dedicated fishing. It's especially rare to catch one in the river here.

Kole had left home expecting to reel in a trout, and was even sporting his "lucky trout hat", but was not surprised his favourite silver and blue Abu Garcia lure had captured the eye of a salmon.

"The salmon had just come from the sea, where there are silver-coloured herrings and other bait fish, which it would have fed on.



The salmon, caught off Pauls Rd, weighed 6.35 kilograms

Salmon travelled up the Wairau River from the river's mouth or the Wairau Diversion between February and April to spawn their eggs. Kole said salmon liked to rest on the riverbed. His lure had been "fluttering along" the river's bottom when he caught the salmon.

He smoked it and thanked Laybourn with a case of beer. Two days later, Kole returned to the same spot and caught two more salmon – one he released, and another he cut into cutlets.

The "positive" incident was detailed at a council committee meeting earlier this month. The salmon was described as "large."

Councillor Cynthia Brook asked staff to tell her where it was landed. Laybourn could not be reached for comment.

Salmon fishing on the Wairau River was allowed downstream of the State Highway 63 Wash Bridge with a NZ Fish and Game licence.

New members on the water workshop by Michael Murphy

Wow, what superb weather for our first new members on the water morning.

Eight KFFC members arrived and after the obligatory chat we took our vehicles to the river edge and split into two groups with Gordon leading one and me the other.



After checking gear and explaining the key rigs for nymphing, dry droppers and streamers we headed over to a small side stream where Gordon took us through the basic short line approach which was interesting as with the tide coming in the water was flowing upriver!

After a demo on the need to get the drift right and the use of mending to achieve it we then walked upriver to get some basic rivercraft knowledge.

Man, the time went quickly as all of a sudden it was time to stop. It was such fun to be involved with such an enthusiastic group who wanted to know more that we pledged to run another at the end of winter.

For me, the morning was summed up by a quote from Michael C, who wasn't a new member but had pretty much only fished at Taupo "I wished there had been a session like this when I started fishing". sorry Michael if I didn't quote verbatim but it stuck in my mind.

Thanks to Gordon for his amazing patience and skills, it was a fun morning.





5 Best Trout Fishing Spots in the World by Ross Purnell

Whether I'm at a fishing lodge, a boat ramp parking lot, a riverside campfire, or an airport terminal in a far-flung foreign nation, when I meet fellow fly fishers for the first time, they invariably get around to asking, "Where is the best trout fishing in the world?"

As the editor of Fly Fisherman magazine, I have had the opportunity to fly fish in nearly all of America's trout states, Canada, and every continent except Antarctica (and I've caught trout dang close to there!). It makes sense when a traveling angler goes fishing for information, we all do it, because it's one of the best ways to shorten our learning curve.

It's a common question, but I always hesitate before I give my reply because the word "best" is so incredibly subjective. What do you mean by "the best?"

Is that number of fish caught, pounds of fish caught, or merely the top size? For you, is this strictly a numbers game? If so, "the best" fishing is likely in a small lake filled with pellet-fed triploid rainbow trout.

Or is the best fly fishing for you the most challenging? I've had days on the Henry's Fork and the Letort where I've had my ass handed to me ... but I wouldn't exactly describe it as "the best." The real answer has to be somewhere in the middle where the fishing is exciting, visually appealing, and a high level of competency is adequately rewarded with the kind of trout you'll remember on your deathbed.

It also helps if you're in a place where you and your companions can get some solitude. I've done my share of combat fishing behind shopping malls, under freeway overpasses, and even had to que up in a line of floatplanes in Alaska, but while these experiences have their time and place — and a special kind of charm — the best places are always a little more off the beaten path.

1. Kamchatka



If you want to catch huge numbers of native trout on skittering mouse imitations, Kamchatka is the undisputed champion.

Kamchatka has the best trout fishing on planet Earth, but only if you enjoy watching giant rainbows destroy your mouse pattern in a hundred different ways. I guess that's not for everyone. If you want to be stealthy and fool around with 14-foot leaders and tiny nymphs, it's probably not the place for you.

When I fished in Kamchatka I floated the Two Yurt River with <u>The Best of Kamchatka</u>, and we had days where I landed 50 rainbows per day between 19 and 23 inches, and that's seriously underselling the fishing because for every trout landed, there were likely two other heart-stopping and violent mouse attacks that didn't result in a hook-up. It seemed the native rainbow trout were conspiring to kill as many mice as possible, but less intent on actually swallowing them. The result was a week of high-flying surface attacks that really made you appreciate the spectacle of nature. For the complete story, see "Kamchatka: Unpolluted, undiluted, coast-to-coast wilderness trout fishing, <u>click here.</u>

And it's not like I just had one lucky week of exceptional fishing. I'm in close and constant contact with writers, photographers, and professional guides who fish top Kamchatka rivers like the Ozernaya, Zhuponova, Sedanka, and the Savan. The fishing is consistently excellent through the season because these rivers are mostly spring fed, the habitat is in pristine condition, and they are absolutely loaded with rainbows, grayling, char and salmon. It's like Alaska was 200 years ago.

The only downsides are that it's a little uncivilized (true wilderness), and there's very little sight-fishing. This bring me to my next choice:

2. New Zealand



Simon Dickie surveys the clear waters of the North Island, New Zealand

It was a hard choice to position this island paradise in second place because it contains far and away the most beautiful locations, I've ever trout fished. The volcanic North Island has remote streams in a lush, temperate rainforest. The South Island was pushed up from the ocean floor by plate tectonics, and the snow-capped peaks of the West Coast provided spectacular backdrops for small, clear streams with ridiculously large trout.

The best fishing in New Zealand is remote locations you can hike or helicopter to (don't expect good fishing near the road). You can backpack and take advantage of New Zealand's extensive hut system and live on \$10 a day, or you can return each night to a world-class lodge, or 5-star hotels and restaurants. Quite the opposite of Kamchatka, New Zealand likely has the best combination of civilization and wild trout fishing on the planet. It's the best place to go as a couple because there's so much to see and do there. The winery tours and tastings alone are worth the visit, and if you've got the time and a good pair of legs, it's the best DIY trout stream fishing anywhere.

The fishing is fascinating, visual, and highly technical. The trout aren't normally picky about what fly they'll accept; you don't have to use a #22 Trico on 6X tippet like you do on some "technical" U.S. tailwaters. But because of the nature of many of the streams and the large, experienced trout, you do have to be extremely stealthy with your wading and you're casting. The trout feed very well if they are undisturbed, but if they sense your presence with just a small unnatural ripple in the water, a misstep on the cobbles, or just a glimpse of fly line overhead, they are gone.

Nearly all of the fishing for large trout is visual — the guide spots the trout from a vantage point, and your casting needs to be on point. There aren't many trout on these mountains streams, so you don't get many chances. My best day ever on the North Island was at Poronui Lodge with guide Dave Wood on a remote mountain stream on Mauri land. The stream hadn't been fished in three months. We walked 3 or 4 miles of stream from our drop-off to our pickup location and saw 13 rainbow trout. I landed 12 of them. I had a similar high point on the South Island with guide Ed Halson. He had his eye on one big brown trout we hoped to catch, and we did. It was 10+ pounds. We saw four other trout that day, and caught them all, bringing our total to 5 fish. Halson said it was his best day ever on that stream. I tell you this not to brag, but to help set realistic expectations. In Kamchatka a five-fish day is a horrible disappointment, in New Zealand where you are hunting/stalking single fish, you're there for the aesthetics and the quality of the experience.

3. Rio Grande, Argentina



Typical brown trout on the Rio Grande range from 12 to 20 pounds

I lumped Kamchatka and New Zealand into two huge geographic regions as because within them, there are so many fine rivers of comparable quality that it's hard to pick out just one river. However, in Argentina there is one river that's obviously exceptional. The Rio Grande on the island of Tierra del Fuego is no ordinary trout stream. Sheep ranchers in the late 1930s stocked German brown trout in tributaries of the Rio Grande, but they never dreamed that some of them might make it to the ocean to feed, and that many decades later, it would develop into the world's finest river for sea-run brown trout. When Outdoor Life writer Joe Brooks first visited the river in the 1950s, he wrote of catching two of these sea-runs, one was 18 pounds which at the time was unheard of.

The Rio Grande is one of those rare special streams that seems to get better as time goes on. The run is now estimated to be as large as 70,000 trout, and most of them are in 102 named pools and three large estancias in January, February, and early March.

On a typical day of fishing, you and your partner will have an entire section of river with many pools all to yourself, and you'll each hook three to six fish ranging from 12 to 20 pounds. Most of those fish will come at first and last light, leaving plenty of time in the afternoon for wine, roast mutton, and napping. Not bad for an average day.

Brown trout of 30 pounds or more are caught from the Rio Grande every single season, and that's the reason people travel thousands of miles to fish here and why the Rio Grande is #3 on this list. Brown trout are forever tied up with the genesis of fly fishing, and they are our ambassadors to the world. No other river has such consistently excellent fishing for brown trout of this size.

4. Montana



The Yellowstone River is the longest free-flowing, undammed river in the contiguous United States, and the third-longest in the world

There is great fishing through all of our Rocky Mountain states, but one thing separates Montana from all others: Article IX, section 3 of the 1972 Montana Constitution gives the streambeds in that state to the public for recreational use.

In 1984 the Montana Supreme Court in *Montana Coalition for Stream Access, Inc. v. Curran* reaffirmed the law. While fly fishers in other states like Utah and Colorado are fighting valiantly for their own public access (and should be applauded) the fact remains that Montana has the better public access to more miles of quality trout streams that any other state.

With a wide range of opportunities from floatable tailwaters (the Missouri, Bighorn, Beaverhead), large free-flowing trout streams (the Yellowstone), spring creeks, mountain streams, and highly structured streams like Rock Creek, the Madison, or the Big Hole, it's easy to see that Montana is head and shoulders above any other state in the lower 48 states.

Of course, Alaska has no need of a similar provision, because most trout streams there are already located on public lands. Yes, the fishing is excellent in Alaska — and it needs to be protected from developments like Pebble Mine. But if you're going that far, for that type of experience, you may as well go to Kamchatka (see #1). It's only four hours from Alaska, and there are far fewer people.

5. Home waters

While fishing famous waters like the Yellowstone or Madison warms the soul, and big fish anywhere are always thrilling, the truth is that "the best" trout stream is the one you know well. It's your home water, the stream where you know each stone and bend, where you can anticipate the hatches by the bloom of flowers along the pathway, and where each pool holds memories of fish lost or landed and old fishing friends.



Waikanae river

No amount of and exploration can ever replace or replicate that level of intimacy. It's like your first true love . . . there can be no other to replace it. The whole point of exploring is to experience that feeling of discovery — that same felling of discovery you felt when you truly "figured" out your home waters. And while you might find bigger and better trout in your journeys, you may never repeat that feeling you had when you first truly "knew" a place and knew it well.

Caveat: I didn't list any lakes in this ranking, merely because I prefer rivers over lakes. Like I said, it's subjective.

The dishonest caddis by Chris Hunt

It was our last day in Patagonia, and it might have been the best day, at least as far as the weather went. Furiously blue skies. Not a breath of the wind that had punished us the day before. Clouds? What clouds?

Some days, you just feel it, you know.

As we clambered out of the trucks on the banks of the Rio Chimehuin four our ninth straight day of fishing, we felt it. Caddis swarms hovered over streamside willows, and the river boiled with risers. As we donned waders and waited for the guides to get the boats squared away, we watched as foot-long trout erupted from the river in pursuit of the flitting bugs, sometimes catching them, sometimes not

A dry-fly day.

Now, there are a lot of dry-fly days in Argentina. In fact, the go-to rig our guides almost always set us up with to start was a size 6 Chernobyl equipped with a dropper—a trusted Perdigon nymph, or something buggy and dependable. It's a big-fish rig, and that's what Patagonia is all about, right?

But on this day, with fish clearly keyed in on the caddis, the guy calling the shots for the day, Andres—one of the many stellar guides from Patagonia River Guides—didn't hesitate to match

the hatch. I pulled out my Idaho trout box, and Andres pointed to a size 12 Elk-hair Caddis with an olive-green body.

"That one," he said. "Use that one."

I stuck a nice, 14-inch rainbow in the fast water before Andres had even pulled the anchor in. Damn. It was going to be one of *those* days.

And off we went, bouncing down the Chimehuin on what might have been the perfect day for a float. Caddis were everywhere. Fish were everywhere, too. Tight against the bank. In the soft water behind rocks and willows. In the rapids. Everywhere. The biggest fish might have been 14 inches, but the action was lively.

And, oh what fun we had.

But then something troubling began to tickle the back of my brain ... a little, "Psst. Hey, buddy. Don't you remember?"

Remember what?

And then I heard the voice of Tom Rosenbauer, the legendary angler and 40-year Orvis employee. Suddenly, I was transported from perhaps the most picture-perfect day in Patagonia to the cramped quarters of the loft at Trout Hunter on the Henry's Fork one snowy October night the year before. My friend Todd Tanner had asked me to come up and sit in on the School of Trout sessions he was holding at the lodge, and Tom was giving his lecture to Todd's students, with the help of a slide presentation. He clicked to a new slide, and there was a photograph of your average adult caddis.

"The caddis is the most dishonest fly ever," Rosenbauer said. The room went deathly quiet. I remember turning my head and giving Tom the proverbial side-eye.

"What?" I asked under my breath. "A dishonest fly?"

Tom didn't leave me hanging. And the explanation was brilliant.

Here's the gist. Adult caddisflies spend precious little time on the water—usually only when they dip and dance during the egg-laying process. Most of the time, adult caddisflies are well above the surface of the water, fly about largely out of reach or resting in the branches of overhanging vegetation. That's why, during a prolific hatch, you'll often see smaller trout leaping completely out of the water trying to grab airborne bugs.

"That's too much work for a big trout," I remember Tom saying. "You don't see 20-inch trout expending that much energy chasing caddisflies. It's just not worth it."

Instead, Tom said, bigger fish tend to look for easier meals—bites of protein that don't require the output of much energy. Generally speaking, trout are a lot like other fishy predators. If they can, they'll wait for meals to come to them. And caddis ... well, healthy, adult caddisflies are just too unpredictable. Or, as Tom put it, just too dishonest.

But when caddis actually hatch from the water, often it takes them some time to free themselves of their pupal shuck. Sometimes, the flies get stuck in the surface film as the shuck weighs them down. This "cripple" version of the fly ... well, that's at the top of the big-fish dinner wish list,

Rosenbauer explained. The fly is stuck in the surface film. It's not going to fly off or dance and dip and dive or do anything "dishonest." It's there for the taking. An easy meal.

I opened my eyes again in the back of the drift boat on that perfect Patagonian day. I reeled my line in and took a look at my generally average caddis fly. I took out my nippers and trimmed the hackle along the bottom of the fly. Then I trimmed off about half of the elk hair bunched near the head and thinned out the dubbing near the bend in the hook. I dropped the fly in the river and noticed that it floated quite a bit lower in the water—not like an adult, but like a caddis caught in the surface film. It's tail end was actually *in* the water, not on it.

I gave the altered fly a dusting of desiccant and started casting. Andres pointed out a nice slick of soft water just behind an overhanging willow branch—the target was about the size of a basketball hoop. It wasn't a tough cast—maybe 20 feet. I dropped the rebuilt fly right behind the willow, and almost immediately, the fly disappeared.

"Set!" Andres shouted. I lifted the rod and came tight to much larger trout—a brown trout that pushed 18 inches.

Everything was different about that fish. The fly was obviously different. The take wasn't the splashy, panicky take of a foot-long trout worried that it's dinner might escape. Instead, it was a patient sip. The subtle, confident gulp of a trout that knew exactly what it wanted a delivered meal courtesy of the angling version of Grub Hub.

And all it took was a pair of nippers and the memory of a good lesson learned one wintry Idaho night from a fly-fishing icon. Lessons are lessons for a reason. If you can remember them, you can fool trout. Anywhere.

Wanted!



The Kapiti Fly Fishing Club will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday 24 May, at this meeting you will be electing our new Management Committee.

Would you be interested in joining the team and provide your ideas and input?

If so, we would be interested in hearing from you, please contact Michael, Peter, or Malcolm.

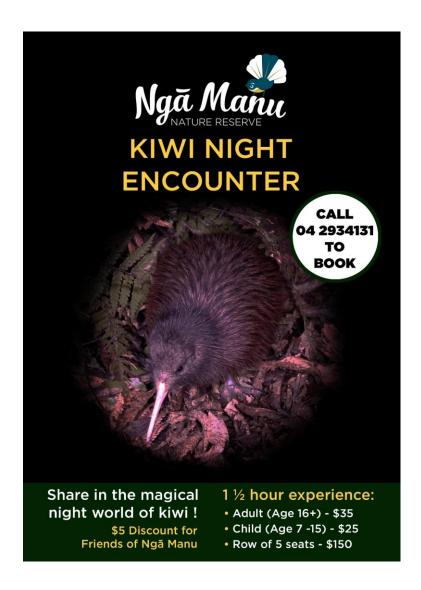
Members Profiles

Introducing Nick Weldon

Members Name:	
Nick Weldon	
Where do you live:	Waikanae Beach
How long have you been Fly-fishing?	55 years
When did you start your fishing journey?	When I was 10 years old, I caught a tiny trout on a worm in a ditch behind my sister's home near Winchester, UK. It wasn't just the poor tiddler that was hooked from then on!
Other interest:	Golf, Family, Coastguard
First trout caught:	The first real trout was a seatrout caught on a tributary of the river Spey in Scotland. A team of two wet flies cast around a large boulder in the river did the trick. Goodness knows what the fly was but it fairly like a Thunder and Lightning.
Most enjoyable time fishing:	In Northern Ireland, when I caught my very first salmon on the fly after nearly 30 years of trying! You have no idea how happy that made me and the group of us immediately proceeded to the local pub where we absolutely trashed ourselves!
A favourite place to fish:	Small stream. I particularly like the Poutu stream near Turangi. It is very overgrown with brambles now, but I persist and nearly always have the full length of the stream (up to the waterfall) to myself.
Largest trout caught	9 lbs 7 oz. A bit of a slab to be honest but it looked good in a picture!
Mentoring members?	Delighted to pass on my limited knowledge, particularly of river craft.
Availability for fishing trips:	Yes, and midweek as well. Boy, its great being retired!!!
Preferred style of fishing:	Dry fly and upstream nymph with as little weight as possible.
Why you joined KFFC	To be with likeminded fisherfolk, share tall stories, laugh a lot and, especially, to learn more about how to fish in New Zealand.
Contact details:	027 4481818 nandcweldon@xtra.co.nz

Introducing Wayne Cameron

Members Name:	
Wayne Cameron	
Where do you live:	Paraparaumu Beach
How long have you been Fly-fishing?	60+ years
When did you start your fishing journey?	In the mid 1950's searching for trout in the Big Kuri river, Hampden
Other interests:	Declining with age!! Mostly outdoors related.
First trout caught:	As above, I had some success in the 50's!! Later on, as a young adult I landed my first obliging trout on a Twilight Beauty in the Pomahaka river. Once landed I thanked it for its patience and released it to live another day.
Most enjoyable time fishing:	On back country rivers with good mates.
A favourite place to fish:	Any river that runs off the Volcanic Plateau, Otago, or Canterbury
Largest trout caught	Can't recall the weight but one evening while fishing Otamangakau I did land one rainbow at 30" and another in the same spot the following night measuring 31". I have never caught anything over the 8lb mark but a number in the 6 – 7 lb.
Mentoring members?	Available
Availability for fishing trips:	Generally available
Preferred style of fishing:	Fly. But I would like to land more on the Dry Fly.
Why you joined KFFC	One ALWAYS learns more when belonging to a club. I started off with the Otago club (fished in the Waipahi Gold Medal and learned how to tie flies) in the early '70's, became a member of Wellington club in the 80's and finally joined KFFC sometime after 2010.
Contact details:	0272999349 wayneandval.cameron@xtra.co.nz



If you have never seen a Kiwi in its natural environment (near natural) then I would recommend the Kiwi Night Encounter at Nga Manu, you will need to book as it is limited to 10 people each night.

Newsletter copy to be received by Second Monday of each month, your contribution is welcome just send it to:

malcolm1@xtra.co.nz

Purpose:

To promote the art and sport of Fly

Fishing.

To respect the ownership of land

adjoining waterways.

To promote the protection of fish

and wildlife habitat.

To promote friendship and goodwill between members.

To promote and encourage the exchange of information between

members.

Secretary: Peter Haakman 04 904 1056

Contacts

President:

Email: phaakman@icloud.com

Michael Murphy027 591 8734

Email: mnkmurf@gmail.com.

Treasurer Ashley Francis

Email: ashleyfrancis.nz@gmail.com

Vice Tane Moleta

President Email: tane.moleta@gmail.com

Club meetings

You are invited to attend our club meetings that are held on the **Fourth**

Monday of each month.

President Malcolm Francis: ph. 06 364 2101

Email: malcolm1@xtra.co.nz

The venue is the Turf Pavilion Sport

Our **meetings start at 7:30pm** with fellowship followed by speakers of

Grounds, Scaife Street,

Paraparaumu,

Nick Weldon

Email: nandcweldon@xtra.co.nz

Leon Smith

Email: leonsmithplumbingltd@gmail.com

Steve Taylor

Email: staylorbuilder@gmail.com

Kras Angelov

Gordon Baker

Email: krasimir.angelov@gmail.com

Club Committee meetings are held on the first Monday of each month and the meetings are held at various member's homes and start at

7:30pm.

activities.

Club Coach

Committee:

Email: kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please remember that the club has two Five Weight 8'6" fly rods that members are welcome to use, just

contact Malcolm Francis

Newsletter

Malcolm Francis: ph. 06 364 2101

Email: malcolm1@xtra.co.nz