



Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

January 2026 Issue

Next Meeting

26 January

BBQ at Otaihanga Domain

This month's cover photo: Lake Waikaremoana, before the rain.....

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Please note: when reading an article if you see words underlined like this [Woolly Buggers](#) place your mouse on the words and click Ctrl and click your mouse at the same time it will open a link to another document.

Next Club Meeting 26 January

BBQ 5.00pm at Otaihanga Domain

A reminder that our first Club meeting for 2026 is set for next Monday, 26 January. We have a social event planned - a Club BBQ, at the Otaihanga Domain, Otaihanga, from 5pm to approximately 8.00pm. Look for the KFFC Flags flying to find us in the Domain. There is plenty of space for parking.

There will be a BBQ for us to use and any other volunteers are welcome to help with cooking. We will provide some Waikanae Butcher pork sausages, caramelised onions, bread, sauce, salad, and soft drinks. Please feel free to bring your own choice of something to BBQ (steak/chops/chicken etc.) and/or your drinks.

We will have some rods set up so you can try them out, and to see how accurate your casting might be, we will also have some targets. Bring your own gear if you like and we will help with casting if necessary.

Club trips and Events

It is essential that members contact the trip co-ordinator as soon as they think they might be interested, otherwise the trip may well be cancelled, as several were this year.

We would welcome members organising their own trips and opening them up to the club if the accommodation and location can handle it.

We are also looking for members to offer to act as coordinators for any of the trips that currently don't have one as below. Just let someone on the committee know.

Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Trip/Event Schedule as at 18 January 2026					
Month	Target	Location	Date From	Date to	Trip Coordinator
Jan-26	Fly Tying course	Raumati - Te Ara Korowai	25/01/2026 - 1pm		Gordon Baker
Feb-26	Fly Tying course	Raumati - Te Ara Korowai	1/02/2026 - 1pm		Gordon Baker
Feb-26	Still thinking about	Maybe Rangitikei at Awastone	Problem is weed in so many venues	Suggestions Welcome	
Mar-26	TBA	Ruamahanga?	20 March - TBC	22 March - TBC	TBA
Apr-26	Tukituki - Waipawa	Patangata Lodge booked	24-Apr	26-Apr	Graham Evans
May-26	Rotorua District	Unit 5/25 Robinson Avenue, Holdens Bay	Late May TBA	TBA	Wayne Butson
Jun-26	Tongariro, Tauranga-Taupo	AFAC Turangi	19 June - TBC	21 June - TBC	Wayne Naylor
Jul-26	Tongariro, Tauranga-Taupo	AFAC Turangi	17 July - TBC	19 July - TBC	TBA
Aug-26	Tongariro, Tauranga-Taupo	AFAC Turangi	21 Aug - TBC	23 Aug - TBC	TBA



Presidents report

I am starting to write this at the Mahia Camp Ground after 2 weeks caravanning around East Cape. As most of you would know, this aint trout country. So I've been in the briny, not catching fish. For at least 20- hours of standing with rod in hand, I've landed 3 undersized snapper and a 3lb black snapper in Ohiwa harbour (where I did get a feed of mussels in less than waist deep water) and a gurnard in Tokomaru Bay, the latter being the only fish killed. But the joys of camping and meeting lots of different people, we've been given snapper for 2 meals, kingfish for 2 and blue mao mao for a lunch.

The weather has been fantastic and the seas warm and flat – beautiful swimming conditions.

We are on our way home and the weather is said to be about to break. To find out whether we get to Lake Waikaremoana or just to the Tukituki on the way, read on!

Gordon Baker will again run two fly-tying sessions for club members on successive Sundays - January 25 and February 1. See the details in the newsletter.

The club BBQ will be held at the Otaihanga Domain instead of our 'normal' meeting on Monday 26th January, starting at 5.00pm. Again for full details, see P2 of this newsletter.

It's also getting close to the end of the Club's financial year and AGM. How about joining the committee and help make the club stronger and more focused on what you want out of it.

Here's wishing you all some very happy moments in pursuit of your fly fishing experiences in 2026, and please use the club, its members and resources to help you in any way it can to enhance your learning and enjoyment of the sport. That's what we are here for.

Tight Lines



Welcome to new members

Daniel Ford (Youth)

Josh Banner (Youth)

Lisa Ford and family (Lea, Felix and Zita)

Late Night Musings

The following essay is almost certainly influenced by a (perhaps not so great) great-great-great uncle, whose most famous poem, "A Ballad of Soporific Absorption", begins with a familiar phrase; "I'm not as drunk as you think I am."

(J.C Squire. 1884-1958. Knighted not only for his literary expertise but also for his enthusiastic espousal of the Port and Stilton diet)

It's called it a "Kids Fishout" but it was at least as much fun for the oldsters as the youngsters.

I was only free on the Sunday and was given the role of photographer in the morning and intermediate fisho in the afternoon. So I snuck around photographing all the different rigs our expert fishos were using to ensure a respectable catch rate so that when it was my turn I could demonstrate the sort of expertise that was on show in the morning session.

Fly rods were in evidence, plus the spinning option, complete with floats for the uninitiated, alongside nets worthy of kingfish capture.

BUT...

For some reason the fish weren't obliging in the way that was expected. Perhaps the journey from the nirvana of north to the butt end of the south gave them pause for thought. Whilst they showed a vigorous response to handfuls of fish pellets, nothing that was offered by way of a vegan option was taken.

I sympathised. A couple of days earlier I'd been performing in Logan Brown event and, along with my colleagues, was treated to lunch as well as a significant amount of liquid refreshment of the vinous kind. The main courses were Hapuka, Lamb or Cauliflower. No-one at our table went for the cauli.

As the day progressed our experts could be seen huddling in corners comparing strategies. Evidently the clouds were too low, the novices (that'd be me) were scaring the fish, a drain was blocked, and the wind was in the wrong direction. We set to and did our best to raise the cloud cover by blowing plenty of hot air from both ends. Having taken on board the overheard intel I decided it was time to put it into practice. I rigged up a 7 wt rod with a 9 wt line and a heavily weighted budgie on the end.

It didn't take long before my student was casting like a pro. The only thing he wasn't immediately perfect at was the direction. The half a dozen experts and their acolytes were a wee bit grumpy when his line, budgie and all, had to be disentangled from the lines he'd covered.

Sometimes valour is not as effective as discretion, and as I'd spotted a much larger lake just around the corner, I decided my budding world champion deserved a bigger target.

Strangely, he didn't seem to be that interested and wandered over to where the occasional weed affected rod bend was in evidence.

Undeterred, I gave myself a good warm-up, false casting for a minute or so until I had at least 15 meters of fly line outside the rod tip. Nothing.

I retrieved the fly and an impressive amount of bank-side vegetation from the budgie. This time I reverted to the time honoured Tongariro technique; chuck as much line downstream as possible, pull it tight then load the rod on the backcast. This should be worthy of a few beers in the pub I thought.

And it was. Fish on!

I yelled at the assembled company that I needed some kid to help me land this monster and my acolyte decided to investigate the veracity of my bellowed shout.

Fish successfully landed, the experts gathered around to admire its vivid colouration only to be interrupted by said spotty youth advancing with a large rock. This was one fish that didn't get away. Given that I'll be spending most of the summer harvesting fat rainbows along with the occasional brown from Taupo and Rotorua I figured his family would enjoy the results of the largest fish caught that day and will forever be singing my praises.

If any members have yet experience the excitement and the camaraderie of a fishout day I can thoroughly recommend it.

Gregory Squire



WoTF - Coming events in Wellington Region

Introducing... our Wellington Region Women on the Fly NZ Summer Sunday Fly Fishing Sessions for 2026 - open to all female anglers

Save the dates for all four sessions:

Sunday 8 February - Basic Casting : Picking up and laying down your line; maintaining tension; controlling loops; extending line.

Sunday 8 March - Introduction to Fly Fishing Gear : Rods, reels, lines, leaders, flies, rigs, and knots.

Sunday 12 April - Onstream Day, Ōtaki River : Presentation; setting up a drift; mending; line management.

Sunday 10 May - More Advanced Casting : Achieving distance; double haul casting.

Subscribe to Women on the Fly NZ Private Group facebook page at www.facebook.com/WomenonTheFlyNZ/ for more information and to register for each event.

or contact Cheryl 021 040 2211 or Gordon 027 494 6487.

WoTF NZ's key goals are to:

1. Be New Zealand's best-connected **Community** for women who fly fish.
2. **Partner** with other groups to host events.

3. Be a **Voice** for women who fly fish.

Please talk to myself or steering group members, Gordon Baker 027 494 6487, Greg du Bern 021 458 755 or Cheryl Naylor 021 040 2211 if you have any questions.

Website www.womenonthefly.nz

Leigh Johnson

leigh.johnson@womenonthefly.nz

Return to Paradise

I hadn't been to Waikaremoana since 2018 and then Covid struck. It is my favourite lake fishing in the country. Such a wonderful place.

Well, even though the weather forecast was rubbish, we arrived at Home Bay. Lake Waikaremoana on Weds 14th. The DOC campsites are excellent, and we had a site right beside the lake. Sitting there a bit later in the early evening, watching as I always do, there was a lovely brown cruising no more than 5 metres from the caravan and 1.5m off the rocks.

Of course I had the rod set up! But by the time I had it, the fish had cruised beyond the open bank area. But 5 minutes later here it was coming back. I pitched out a kilwell No1 and was delighted to see the fish lift and the white of its mouth as it took.

A good solid fish and it bored straight out into the lake. Pressure on and it turned. Gradually got some line back but it didn't feel right. I'd seen a 3cm thick wire cable heading out into the lake to hold the netting retaining wall, and yes, the fish had gone out into the lake under this cable. A short time later, the fish pulled hard around the wire and the knot broke. Fighting a fish is OK. Fighting a 3cm wire cable is not!

The following morning I drove around to Mokau landing. Only 1 camper there. Rain on and off. I fished blind through the shallows in front of the bay to no avail, then headed around to the next bay.

Nothing in the shallows. But as I got to the corner where the deep water was against the bank I missed seeing a fish right at my feet and pulled the fly out for another cast from right in front of it. Over the few minutes I stood there and saw 3 more, but none were in the right place to get my fly to them. Needless to say, that although I stayed for another 20 minutes waiting and watching, none returned.

Im told that there is a comp for the Hawkes Bay anglers in the next weekend, and as usual, there have been a lot of boats going out trolling. It's the main way that they fish up here. But the edge fishing is far more interesting in my opinion.



Waikaremoana in heavy rain, taken from the caravan

I spent a few more hours walking, watching and casting, to no avail that afternoon along from Home Bay. It poured overnight but then cleared early morning and I headed back to that bay. I went a bit further to where the water was deeper. Visibility wasn't easy and so I waded about knee deep.

And where was the first brown I saw? 2 metres in front of me. Of course, he saw me at the same time, and although I froze, he stoged off in a huff.

I hooked and landed a small rainbow blind casting, and then moved on shore, which wasn't easy walking, with toitoi and bush making casting very difficult. Roll casting was the only way, or bow and arrow occasionally as I couldn't see more than 3m out with the cloud cover. Some sun would sure have helped. In these situations it pays to move very slowly, as no matter how diligently you look, the browns are so well camouflaged that often you only see them when they are right at your feet.

And of course that happened. I'd had to step into knee-deep water to get around a tree, and there was a brown 2m in front to me. I froze. It cruised past no more than 1/2 m from me, quite unperturbed. By the time he had passed me by a couple of metres, I pitched the fly out, but he didn't see it and then I lost him with the rotten light and I certainly couldn't follow with the awful bank.

Back onto the bank. And this time I saw the next one. Cruising so slowly, enough time to pitch the fly and have it settle on the sandy bottom 2m out. When it was 1/2m from it, a wee tweak of the fly, the brown surged forward, opened its mouth, and tighten! Nice fish, but not in great condition, so didn't take any line. Just a lot of head shaking and reluctance to get into the net.



Between Showers

It was great to be back and I would love the opportunity to head down into the south-west arm again, where my favourite water is.

The drive out from the lake was, as always, a bit challenging, and then we headed south, arriving late in the afternoon at Patangata. We parked the caravan and met the Aussie's who were there for 10 days.

The next morning, I had about 1.5 hours on the Waipawa as I had to be back at the caravan by 9am. Landed a couple of nice rainbows, but the fish sure were spooky, even in the higher flow.

Graham

Fly Tying Sessions with Gordon Baker

Gordon Baker will again run two fly-tying sessions for club members at Te Aro Kurawai in Raumati. Dates will have to be confirmed but should be successive Sundays - January 25 and February 1.

Each session is four hours from 1pm. There will be a focus on patterns for summer. Other patterns could be included. All materials will be provided.

There will also be tools for anyone looking to get started.

These sessions are also excellent for experienced fly-tyers who might want a bit of help, or even practice!

Please contact Gordon if you are interested.

Kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com

phone: 0274946487

Taking the Plunge - A Beginner's First Trip

I When I first joined the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club, I'll admit I was nervous. Despite attending the Women on the Fly workshop in Turangi in November, the thought of heading out with experienced anglers had me teetering on the fence. But thanks to Hugh's encouragement and patient explanations about what to expect, I decided to take the plunge—quite literally.

Last Wednesday, I joined Hugh, Graham, Wayne, Ruth, and Hamish for a day on the water in the Manawatu. We started at Oringi Bend, then made our way around to the Gravel Extraction site, and finished up at Honey House. The locations were beautiful, and the company was even better.

As a complete beginner, I knew I'd need help, and the group delivered in spades. Graham and the others were incredibly patient as they helped me set up my gear, untangled my numerous casting mishaps (note to self: practice, practice, practice!), and offered constant encouragement. There's something humbling about watching your line create abstract art in the air when it's supposed to be gracefully landing on the water, but everyone just smiled and helped me try again. Graham gave up a lot of own fishing time to help me.

The highlight of my day? Netting my first fish—even though Graham was the one who caught it. Then came an even bigger thrill: I hooked my first fish! Granted, Graham had cast the line, but hey, I'm counting it as progress. One day, I'll cast AND hook AND land one all by myself. But first, I need to master the art of keeping my line from resembling a bird's nest.

The support and encouragement from everyone on Wednesday was genuinely heartwarming. This club isn't just about fishing; it's about welcoming newcomers and helping them fall in love with the sport. If you're on the fence like I was, I can't encourage you enough to give it a go. Yes, you'll make mistakes. Yes, you might feel a bit out of your depth at first. But the group truly wants you to learn

and enjoy—and that makes all the difference.

The next day, I invited a friend over for dinner to cook up one of Wayne's fish (thanks Wayne). I am no goddess in the kitchen, let alone make a trout dish that is worthy the catch! It wasn't until we sat down that I realised it was Thanksgiving Day, (even though it's not really a NZ thing we celebrate). But it was fitting. It really did feel like a day to be grateful for new experiences, patient teachers, and a welcoming community that's helping this beginner find her way, one tangled cast at a time.

See you on the water!

Anja





Interested in joining a trip? Reach out to any club member—we'd love to have you along.

The New Sporting Life Turangi

Fishing outfitters to the world famous Tongariro River. Whether you're walking, tramping, mountain biking, rafting, hunting, fishing, boating or just enjoying the great outdoors, Sporting Life is there to make it more enjoyable.

We're New Zealand agents for:

- Simms waders and accessories
- Redington fly rods reels and waders
- Magnum neoprene waders
- Kilwell fly rods
- Lampson fly reels
- Manic Tackle flies
- Rio fly Lines
- Primal fly rods
- OPST
- Category 3 flies
- Sage fly rods and fly reels
- Patagonia waders and wading boots
- Airflo fly rods and fly lines
- Scientific Anglers fly lines
- Manic Tackle flies
- Umpqua fly tying materials
- Scott fly rods
- Echo fly rods
- Loon Outdoors

Phone: 07 386 8996

Address: Turangi Mall, Town Centre Turangi

[Visit website](#)

Flyshop

The Flyshop for all your Fly Fishing needs
Their Spring Sale is now on – lots of great bargains

308 Forest Drive,
Methven, 7730

[Visit website](#)

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 kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com 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 if you wish to be included in the mid-week fishers email list to:

hugh.driver.nz@gmail.com

The emails are 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.

If you are interested in participating on any mid-week fishing trips, please email Hugh Driver with your contact details and you will be added to the email list.

Directory

Newsletter content with [built-in links will open](#) to other documents by Editor

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 access to all rivers, streams and lakes.

To promote friendship and goodwill between members.

To promote and encourage the exchange of information between members.

To promote sustainable fishing practices in order to protect this lifestyle and the sport for future generations.

To develop the knowledge and skills of our members, and

To encourage friendship and goodwill amongst all members whether current, past or prospective.

Club meetings

You are invited to attend our club meetings that are held on the **Fourth Monday** of each month.

The venue is the Ocean Road Community Centre, 45 Ocean Road, Paraparaumu, 5023

Our **meetings start at 6:30pm** with fellowship followed by speakers or activities.

Club Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month and the meetings are held at the Waikanae Boating Club and start at 7:30pm.

Contacts

President: Graham Evans
Email: graham@breakerbay.co.nz.

Secretary: Cheryl Naylor
Email: cherylmnaylor11@gmail.com

Treasurer Peter Butt
Email: peterbutt10@gmail.com

Vice President Wayne Butson
Email: Waynebutson@gmil.com

Past President Wayne Butson

Committee: Email: Waynebutson@gmil.com

Mike Noon
Email: mike.noon@outlook.com

Leigh Johnson
Email: leigh.johnson@womenonthefly.nz

Greg du Bern
Email: gregorydb92@gmail.com

Club Coach Robert Brace
Email: robertbracenz@gmail.com

Newsletter

Gordon Baker:
Email: kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com

Gordon Baker

Malcolm Francis: ph. 027 384 6596
Email: malcolm1@xtra.co.nz

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

Join the: [Kapiti Fly Fishing Club - Members & Friends Facebook Group](#)