



Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Newsletter
February 2026 Issue

Next Meeting
Monday 23 February 6.30pm
Marc Griffiths of
silverwaterfly.fishing

This month's cover photo: Mike Noon's smoked trout – perfection!
See article in this newsletter

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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 23 February - Marc Griffiths

Marc is the Principal Science Advisor at MPI with responsibility for saltwater fisheries. He regularly fishes the Otaki and has spent many days perfecting his own style of flies that catch fish.

He is writing a book and has his own website: <https://silverwaterfly.fishing/> where detailed tying instructions for his ‘best’ flies are shown. He brings his scientific approach to his research, reviewing gear and giving instructions on casting. The introduction says:

“As long as I can remember I’ve been crazy about fish and fishing.

When I was a boy my goal was always to catch as many fish as I could, as long as I was using a fishing rod. As I grew older I chose whenever possible to catch fish on a fly.

These days I like casting dry flies to sighted backcountry trout, fishing streamers and swinging dry flies on moving water with Spey gear, casting flies to fish on salt water sand flats, or casting poppers into workups”.

Marc will be a fascinating speaker, and one you really need to come and hear. And I fully recommend his website as somewhere you can spend many hours getting great information.

Presidents report

What a different summer we are having here in Kapiti. We have missed the disastrous flooding (so far!) that has affected other parts of the country and our rivers have remained fishable most of the time, even if they have been high occasionally. But as I write this, the northern parts are again being hammered, but it sure is another grey day here with who-knows-what to follow.

A few trips have been managed to the river and lake, and they have been in good condition. The water temperature is a bit of a problem this month, so be aware that the fish could be stressed and not recover unless handled very carefully,

We are now coming up to the AGM in May. That means we will be looking for new committee members and also a new secretary. Cheryl has been fantastic and was keen to stay, but she has some more study to do this coming year and so feels she can't commit as she would like.

And I would like to step down as president. A couple of years and someone else should take over. I will stay on the committee though if you will have me.

So please give it some thought and be prepared perhaps to step up. Let one of the committee know if you would like to join the team. Bring your ideas on how to make it better.

The BBQ in January was a great night with several new members attending. We must be doing some things right as we are getting new members.

Gordon has run two very successful fly-tying days – see report in this newsletter. He has 2 more organised for later in the year

But our trips are not attracting members. What are we doing wrong? Are they badly timed? Going to the wrong places? The January Ota trip was cancelled – no-one was interested. The last Patangata trip only elicited 1 other club member plus one from the Wellington club. A trip to one of the best waters in the country!

We have now booked the AFAC house in Turangi for June and August trips. It was booked out all July on weekends. But we have managed to book Pip Martin's house at Hatepe for the first weekend in August. The Rotorua trip in May and Patangata on the Tukituki over Anzac weekend are both booked also.

It would be really good to have these trips full. Experienced members can help you and the meals and evenings are great company. So please make an effort to come. Let the trip organiser know of your interest – the sooner the better.

Enjoy the articles in this newsletter. If you have been on a trip, we would love to have your thoughts. Content from our members is always the best!

Tight Lines



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 15 February 2026					
Month	Target	Location	Date From	Date to	Trip Coordinator
Feb-26	Still thinking about	Not much of month left!		Suggestions Welcome - Ring Graham	I suspect the rain might put a trip out of the question
Mar-26	TBA	Ruamahanga?	20 March - TBC	22 March - TBC	Graham Evans
Apr-26	Tukituki - Waipawa	Patangata Lodge booked	24 Apr - Anzac w/end - Monday a holiday	27-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 - confirmed	19-Jun	21-Jun	Graham Evans (pro tem)
Jul-26	No trip so far				
Aug-26	Hatepe	Pip Martin's place booked	31-Jul	2-Aug	Wayne Naylor
Aug-26	Tongariro, Tauranga-Taupo	AFAC Turangi - Confirmed	21-Aug	23-Aug	Graham Evans (pro tem)
Neither AFAC nor Pip Martin's houses available in July					
Graham wont necessarily be running all trips, but get in touch with him if interested					





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

On 8 February we ran a Basic Casting workshop which focused on picking up and laying down your line; maintaining tension; controlling loops; extending line.

Save the dates for all of the next 3 sessions:

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

Welcome to new members

Mary Martin,

Nick McKnight,

Ryan McKnight

Felicity Jones

Fly Tying Sessions with Gordon Baker

There was a great turnout to each of the recent Sunday fly tying sessions run by Gordon Baker at Te Ara Korowai in Raumati. Eight attended the first one - including six novices! The second session attracted five, with four more beginners.

Most fly tying efforts were focused on easy to tie useful patterns like, Hare & Copper, Pheasant Tail, Gold Bead Prince, Woolly Bugger and Parachute Adams.



Gordon will again run two more fly-tying sessions for club members at Te Aro Kurawai in Raumati. Dates will have to be confirmed but should be successive Sundays in late July/August

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

The Big O

I'm not sure that many of you know about the Big fish lake, think its too hard, don't know enough, a boat or canoe is essential, whatever, as we had to cancel the club trip in January due to lack of interest.

I had a day on Lake Otamangakau on 30 January (the lake closes for all of February for the water temperature problem). It was a day with a little wind to keep the surface ruffled and the fish sure were active. I had my worst day on a lake for a long time with the first 5 fish busting me. I moved up in leader weight but still I lost them. Yes they weren't small and I had to put pressure on to try to keep them out of the weed, but never this bad. Eventually I moved to 10lb (perhaps this is where I should have started, but it looks like a hawser compared to the 6lb and 7.5lb I had been using).

One of the 5 was a fish that took off. Paul had to get out of the way – quite a dance!-as it went past the boat. And it kept going – all 40m of the fly line then 10, 20, 50, 100m of backing in a straight line, then nothing! Almost certainly foul hooked in the dorsal or tail, but wow!

The stronger leader helped and my best was a beautiful 6lb rainbow.

Nearly all day we used basically a Taupo river rig – big indicator on the leader about 2m from the end of the fly line, then another 3m to one or two flies. I fished with one fly all day, Paul used 2. The fly we used nearly all day was 'Trout Candy', see below – tied on a size 10 or 12, because it works! I did try my damsel from the fly tying comp, to no avail, probably too long and perhaps brown might be better, and my green beetle, also a dud.

The method is simple and not very demanding and you don't even need to be a long caster – 6-8m from the boat was all that was needed. Cast - making sure the fly is straight out from the indicator, watch the indicator as it sinks, leave it perhaps 30 seconds or so, then a very slow tweak retrieve or 5, do it again.

Graham



Trout Candy



Paul with a 5lb brown in great condition

Recommended Reading

I was lucky to meet, and fish with, Dr Robin Coupland at a Fish & Game NZ event in November 2025.

I highly recommend his book 'Dry Flies & Wet Socks'. It is a beautiful read from a man dedicated to his professional career as chief surgeon for International Red Cross, and as a dry fly aficionado who can spot fish a mile away.

The Seven Sharp item can be viewed on TVNZ+, (search Seven Sharp episode for 5 February). It starts at 11:53 seconds. It is available until Saturday 7 March.

You can purchase Robin's book here: <https://share.google/8QE51yAPTVPnE7qC>

Leigh Johnson

Taking a Fish for the Table

Many anglers like to take a fish for the table; but there are also many who fish for the joy of fishing and who never wish to take a fish, they always catch and release.

For those of us who enjoy the rewards of trout fishing by sometimes taking a fish for the table, please read on. Note: sometimes you must take a fish as if it is bleeding following capture, it will not survive upon release. If you do not wish to eat it yourself, I am sure you will have friends who will appreciate the gift of a trout.

Not all waters are the same! The Taupo fishery strongly encourages anglers to take fish as the system is very robust and even though it is a wild fishery there is a strong risk of too many fish being recruited each year leading to lower fish sizes and condition factors as the food resource is limited. Taking fish in the Taupo area improves the fishery. So, the Taupo fishery is always a great place to take some trout for the table.

Other freshwater fisheries are under pressure with low trout numbers and recruitment, so here some judgement and conscience is needed as to whether you wish to take a trout for the table.

So, you have decided that you would like to take a trout for the table on your next fishing trip! First choice is then the water you wish to fish, is it suitable to harvest from? If it is then the planning starts.

You need to have a chilly bin with ice or slicker packs with you in the car before you head out because keeping the fish you catch chilled will improve its table eating quality. If the fish gets hot it is ruined for eating, the flesh goes mushy and smelly.

You have your chilly bin ready in the car and head out. Next is what fish to keep if you catch one. Old or large fish (large head size an indicator) and skinny long or poorly conditioned fish do not eat well. Fish spawning in say the Taupo region that are strongly coloured as they have been in the river for a time, do not eat well and present as oily and strongly flavoured. Fish that have spawned (spent fish) often have tasteless white flesh. You want to choose carefully which fish to take. A well-conditioned, fat and fresh (shiny silver is the indicator) and a medium size is always best. A good eating fish will often have pink to orange flesh a bit like a salmon.

You have caught a good table fish and have it at the bank. Firstly, dispatch it quickly and humanely with a strong blow to the top of the head from a priest or rock. Next if you tear one gill plate on one side of the fish it will bleed out a bit and this improves the eating quality. You then need to keep the fish cool and get it to your iced chilly bin as soon as possible. That means if you are still fishing you need to keep it out of the sun. Placing the fish covered in some wet grass on the bank or in the river in the water in a shady spot. Make sure if you do this that the water is cool. It is important to get the fish

chilled as soon as you can so taking a fish first cast when you will not be back at the car till at days end is not a good idea. Let that first one go and have faith that you will catch another closer to home time.

You are now back at the car, lay the fish out flat on the ice and it will chill and set stiff. A slurry of ice and water is best.

If you have done all of this, you have respected the fish you have taken, and it will reward you by being excellent eating. Enjoy your catch, however you like to prepare it, but it is always best if eaten within a day or two.

Mike Noon

One Way to Smoke a Trout (well how I do it anyway)

You have a suitable trout for smoking. Firstly, fillet it leaving the rib bones and fins behind. You should have two fillets with only the pin bones left. These can be removed now or later after smoking, it is much easier to remove them after smoking as they come out easily.

Place the fillets in a flat dish and sprinkle liberally with at least four teaspoons of non-iodized sea salt. Then rub at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cup of soft brown sugar. Use plenty (be generous) with the salt and sugar depending on the size of the fish. It seems like a lot, but most will still be left in the dish when you remove the fillets. The salt will draw moisture from the fish so a liquid forms. Refrigerate at least 6 hours and up to 24 hours, turn the fillets a few times to let the sugar and salt do their work working into the fillets. The fish is cured in this process and will firm up. Next thoroughly dry off the fish with handy towel.

Now you need to get your smoker ready. Every time you use your smoker, I have a basic Kilwell stainless steel box type, some juices and of course saw dust crusts on the tray of the smoker. You must scrape this all out, I use a BBQ tool. Next light the two full meths burners with the smoker lid off to allow any residues still left on the smoker tray to burn and smoke off. When the smoker is not smoking anymore add your wood chips. Less is more and I use a light even coating across the pan of the smoker. Use around $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cup evenly spread. The amount depends on the size of your smoker. I prefer to use Manuka woodchips, but Pohutakawa or a mix of the two is also good. Put the fillets on the smoker tray and put the lid on. In about 20 mins the meths will run out in the pans and the fish will be cooked and a deep golden/amber colour. Ready to eat hot then or cold later.

What can go wrong when you smoke fish? Firstly, you need to have the smoker clean and any old residue from the last smoking. Next be careful to not use too much woodchips as too much will darkly colour the fish and give it a strong acrid flavour. Finally, you need to have allowed time for the salt and sugar brine to remove moisture from the fish and dry the fillets off before smoking. If the fish is too wet or you have not removed the sugar from the fillet it will drip onto the tray when the smoking happens and burn. This gives a strong unpleasant bitter flavour to the fish and is I think the most common mistake people make when smoking fish.

Get it all right and the fish will be firm, smoky, and sweet in flavour.

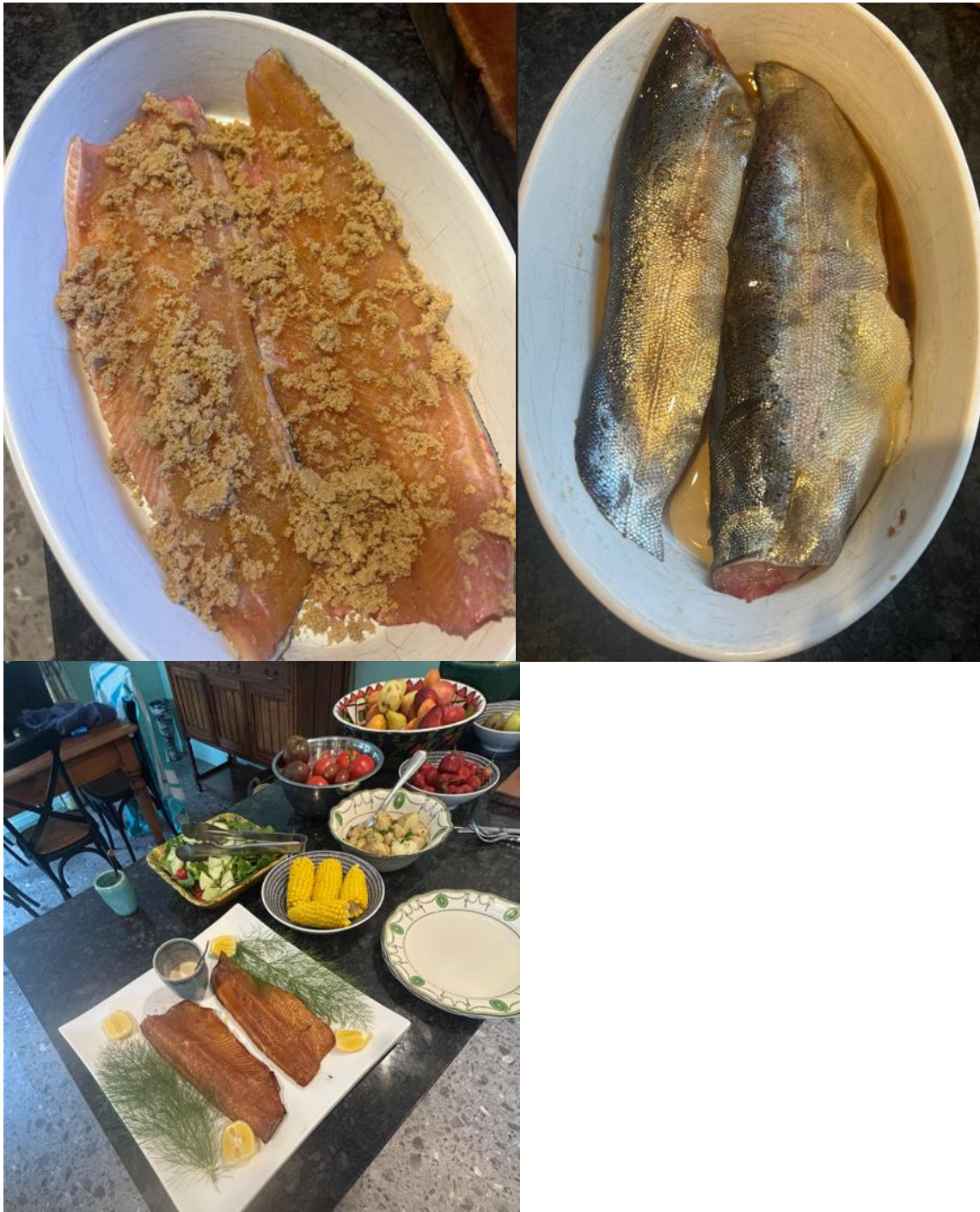
Finally, if you want to make it taste even more special here is a dressing sauce. Take $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sour cream, add a heaped teaspoon of creamed horseradish sauce, a good squeeze of lemon and a teaspoon of honey, mix it all together. It goes beautifully with the smokey trout, a green salad, and new potatoes, Enjoy!

Mike Noon

Mike is a self-confessed foodie and a home chef. He cooks a lot and especially cares for seafood/fish he takes/catches.

He smoked a fish from the recent Manawatu trip and commented that it smoked so well with a much lighter in texture than a Taupo winter fish spawning and he was keen to explore the difference of eating characteristics between spawning and non-spawning fish. This fish today was 'delicious' served with fresh salads and garden veg, all from his own garden.

His thought was - are non-spawning river fish less oily than Taupo spawning fish, made sense to him.



See also the cover page of the 2 smoked fillets.

“Just Beautiful Water. Beautiful” – A day on the Manawatu

5am alarm. 6am depart Wellington. 7am arrive at Mike’s place after a forced detour off Transmission gully. He was sitting on his chilly bin next to 2 Subaru Outbacks and a boat. Clearly a man who liked his fishing. We commiserated over the windy summer making it difficult to get our boats out while driving on to pick up The President.

He was also set to go so we filled up the boot and then headed off to Woodville for a coffee and a 2nd breakfast. On the way Graham fielded a call from ‘Beachy’, top fishing guide who entertained us a few months ago at a club meeting. Check him out at <https://www.gofishkiwi.com/> if you missed him. He’d just come out of the upper reaches of the Waiohine with a client. “Typical office guy who wasn’t impressed by having to scramble over massive boulders to get through the 5 gorges. Asleep by 8pm”

Armed with one of his secret spots on the Manawatu we grabbed coffees and scones and headed off.

It turns out we wouldn’t have needed his advice as Graham seemed to know the river like the back of his hand. Spot no 1 was near Kumeroa school and as we parked up Graham said “just beautiful water, beautiful.”

It looked pretty good to us too. Graham explained where the big ones would be and where the little ones hung out and we set too with a vengeance. I was pretty rusty, having only fished from my kayak over the summer and did all the usual things part-timers do. Too much weight for the first run and then not enough for the next one. At least I was getting plenty of practice tying knots after my flies found new homes in the snags and the willows. Graham had walked downstream and once Mike and I had given the water a good thrashing he came up and picked up the first fish of the day, a very nice rainbow. A bit of advice from him and soon Mike was into a fish which was given a long distance release and then I picked up a feisty little rainbow under the willows. Mike followed suit with in identical youngster and, as we had spotted someone ahead of us, we decided to move on to the next spot.

A foam line meandered past a small stream. A big pool on the corner and above, a lovely looking run.

“Just beautiful water. Beautiful.” said Graham.

I fished the foam line without touching anything before joining the others. There was a young lad fishing above us so Mike and I got a lesson on how best to mend our lines. Then the boy came down to join us, keen to benefit from Graham’s expertise.

Mike had moved into the pool to cool off and picked up a lovely little brown. We admired it for a moment before letting it swim away.

Then it was off to spot number 3. This was bigger water but still easily wadeable.

“Just beautiful water. Beautiful” said Graham.

“See that rock?. There’ll be six fish lined up behind it. See that logjam? There’ll be at least one big fish in the fast water above it. Below the logjam there’s a deep pool. Lots of fish. Perfect for a long leader ‘Czech nymph’ style.”

I chose the pool and Mike walked up to the logjam.

I was still figuring out how to get the right weight of nymph for the water I was fishing, but over the next 2 hours I caught 4 lovely rainbows and lost 6 flies.

At some point I looked upstream and could see Mike looking pretty active. There were lots of bees around and I wondered if he was being swarmed.

A bit later he wandered down. He'd hooked into a fish 'worthy of the Tongariro' which had given him a lot of exercise before his 5lb tippet surrendered to the inevitable in the fast water.

Graham reappeared with a very good rainbow that he gifted to Mike for his smoker. He'd caught a couple more and we all agreed that the day had come to a very satisfactory conclusion. On the way out we stopped to look down on another pool.

"Just beautiful water. Beautiful." said Graham.

He and I gave it a quick once-over but nothing moved, so we packed up and headed home.

Greg Squire

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.

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- 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

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Newsletter Gordon Baker:
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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](#)