



Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

April 2026 Issue

Next Meeting

Monday 27 April 6.30pm

Leaders/Knots/Set-up

This month's cover photo: Ann O'Grady see article inside

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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 27 April – Anzac Day

Our April meeting will be an informal gathering where some of the more experienced members can help you with those ‘knotty’ problems.

Why did the leader break

What knot is best for what purpose?

What does X mean in leaders

What is the best way to set up an indicator?

Micro rings are so small – how do I use them?

Are tapered leaders best?

How long should my leader be?

What is a Washing Line rig?

Etc

Anything you wanted to know – someone there will have an answer, and someone else perhaps a different answer.

Member looking for Gear

One of our newer members, Ben Bridge and his son Zac are looking to buy gear.

He is looking for rods and reels suitable for beginner/intermediate and fishing on Taupo rivers. He would look at any other fly-fishing gear that was available. Zac, is approaching 165cm and is looking for some waders and boots.

Please email Ben directly if you have something he might be interested in. His email is: bridge.benjamin@gmail.com

President's report

Hasn't it been a pretty bad summer weather wise? As I write this, yes it's officially Autumn, but boy is it actually Autumn as well. The leaves are turning, the rivers are high, way too high in many cases, and the fishing is difficult.

Last month's meeting was well attended and Didymo Dave gave us a really interesting talk about Gold Clams and other nasties that are and could change our waterways – not for the best. See the summary of what he said in this newsletter, and also there is a video of his talk which is even better!!

Our AGM is coming up in May and we still need a new secretary, president and committee member/s. Please step up and make a difference.

We have had a couple of successful trips, but the trip that Wayne Butson has organised to go to the Rotorua lakes 9-16 May has unfortunately been cancelled due to lack of interest.

On my way back from the top of the Island (Doubtless Bay) I stopped for petrol by Hamilton Airport and met Tim Anderson, an ex-policeman I had fished against when I fished competitively back some 15 – 25 years ago. He is still actively competing, whereas I gave it away in 2011/12 I think. He is a member of one of the NZ teams that was to compete in the Oceania tournament on the Whanganui at Taumarunui and Lake Kuratau this weekend 18/19/20 April. Even then, the rivers were high and dirty and it looked as if the comp of 5 sessions would all be held on Lake Kuratau. But even this lake would be dirty and all the practise would be to naught. But the best fishermen/women should still do well even in atrocious conditions.

I see from the FB page (Sport Fly Fishing New Zealand) that the comp is under way, so good luck to the NZ teams.

The Patangata trip is to be next weekend. Lets hope that the weather improves and the rivers are down from their current high, basically unfishable levels. I will let those coming re transport and likelihood of cancellation in the next couple of days

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 17 April 2026					
Month	Target	Location	Date From	Date to	Trip Coordinator
Apr-26	Tukituki - Waipawa	Patangata Lodge booked	24 Apr - Anzac w/end - Monday a holiday	CANCELLED	
May-26	Rotorua District	Unit 5/25 Robinson Avenue, Holdens Bay		CANCELLED	
May/June	Whanganui, Whakapapa	Taumarunui Campground or BnB?	TBA if any interest shown		Graham Evans
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)

The Patangata trip has been cancelled due to the very heavy rain in Hawkes Bay over the last days. According to Mark Hyett, the member of the HB club that looks after the lodge, it will take a good 2 ½ to 3 weeks to clear

The Rotorua trip was cancelled due to lack of interest.

Welcome to new members

Please welcome Manuel & Dinah Bautista





WoTF – Recent and Coming Events

Here are some pictures of the session held at Otaki in February to learn about Basic Casting with Gordon Baker imparting his skills - again.



A further session was to be held in April, an onstream Day on the Ōtaki River - Presentation; setting up a drift; mending; line management. However river conditions were not conducive and the event was postponed to the coming **Sunday, 26 April** – see below

Wellington - coming events

Save the dates for the next two sessions:

* **Sunday 26th April** (New date)- Onstream Day, Ōtaki River : Presentation; setting up a drift; mending; line management.

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

Dunedin Collaboration Opens Doors for Women

A recent collaboration between [Women on the Fly NZ](#) and the [Otago Anglers Association](#) saw 23 women take their first step into fly fishing in Dunedin on 29th March. From beginner learning to new connections and upcoming mentoring sessions, the event is a great example of how clubs can help remove barriers for women entering the sport.

The club has also given each attendee a club membership and has since run mentoring and skills activities to support their next steps. Congratulations to the club for providing Dunedin women with a welcoming introduction and a genuine pathway into fly fishing.

Read more here:

<https://womenonthefly.nz/opening-the-door-to-fly-fishing-for-women-in-dunedin/>

Join the [Women on the Fly NZ Private Facebook Group](#) 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.



Below – photos from the Dunedin Collaboration





Mark Barrett demonstrating casting

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

February Meeting – Marc Griffiths

Fisheries scientist and enthusiastic local angler Marc Griffiths was the guest speaker at the February club meeting. Marc talked about his experiences fishing locally on the Otaki River and further afield - particularly the Tongariro.

Since arriving from South Africa Marc has accumulated a vast amount of fly fishing experience and an impressive understanding of modern fly fishing gear. Marc talked in detail about the flies he has designed and developed, the gear he uses, and his presentation techniques. Marc talked in depth about his experiences and preferences for two-handed rods and Euro Nymph methods and the flies he uses with them. It was a very interesting and informative talk that was appreciated by all who attended.

Gordon Baker

See Marc's website – <https://www.silverwaterfly.fishing/> - full of really interesting stuff about trout, flies and Marc's love of fishing generally

March Meeting – Didymo Dave – Why Check, Clean, Dry Matters More Than Ever

This was a meeting you didn't want to miss. If you did, then you can see it on <https://youtu.be/8Oqp-VLusMM>

At the club meeting on 23rd March, we had Didymo Dave along. For many, this was a first time hearing him, and he brought a mix of humour, straight talk, and a message that landed clearly.

Dave has a way of making a serious topic feel accessible. There were plenty of laughs along the way, but the key points came through strongly.

The focus was on didymo — what it is, how easily it spreads, and how little it takes for it to be moved between waterways without anyone realising. It's not about big mistakes, but the small, everyday oversights. Damp boots. A net that hasn't quite dried. Gear moving from one river to another too quickly.

He also spoke about the increasing concern around **golden clams**, an emerging freshwater pest that has the potential to spread quickly and cause significant disruption to river systems. The point was clear — this is not a future problem, it's already here, and it reinforces just how important it is to get the basics right now.

One of the strongest messages was that once these organisms are established in a river system, there's no simple fix. There isn't a second chance. That shifts the emphasis firmly onto prevention, and onto anglers as the people most often moving between waterways.

The **Check, Clean, Dry** message came through clearly — not as a slogan, but as a habit. Something to be done properly and consistently. Not just a quick rinse, but making sure gear is genuinely cleaned and dried before moving on.

There was also an emphasis on normalising this behaviour. Not making a big deal of it, but simply making it part of how we fish, and quietly encouraging others to do the same. That collective approach is what makes the difference.

Underlying it all was a simple but powerful idea — this work is not just for now, but for the future. For the children and tamariki who will come after us, and for the rivers we want them to experience as we have.

Dave's style makes the message easy to take on board without feeling heavy-handed, while still making it clear what's at stake.

A big thank you to Dave for the work he continues to do in this space, and for bringing both clarity and energy to a message that really matters.

-Leigh Johnson (with help from friends)

And here's a great follow-up story

Dogs joining the battle against golden clams

The dogs working for Waikato University to protect whitebait and now adding their skills to the fight against invasive golden clams.

Lilli and Cino are trained to sniff out Inanga nests in the vegetation alongside waterways so the eggs of these native fish can be protected and allowed to hatch into whitebait.

In the down-season they are turning their skills to identifying boats and vehicles that could be contaminated from areas where the golden clam is already established, in order to stop their spread.

Radio NZ's Kathryn Ryan talks to trainer, Lucy Tannahill.

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Click on the link below to listen to Kathryn talking to trainer, Lucy Tannahill.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetoon/audio/2019030245/dogs-joining-the-battle-against-golden-clams>

The Motueka River - Nelson

A spot prize fell my way at the 2024 November Tūrangi WOTF weekend.

Wonderful! However it was redeemable only in Nelson.

The prize was a day on a Nelson river with Tony Entwistle, a respected trout fishing guide. Tony was actually supposed to be in retirement but hadn't managed to quit his generous support of fly fishers of all stages, keen to improve their skills. I decided that the rivers in Nelson weren't about to come to me so I thought about it and thought about it and finally decided to head off down south. The morning ferry crossing seemed to be a sign of good things to come with hundreds of dolphins surrounding the ferry.

Tony picked me up from Richmond at 8am and we headed off to the Motueka River. My brother in law who is going through some trying chemo came too. Having low energy levels he sat under a large shady tree by the river just enjoying being there.

Tony brought a pair of spare waders and boots for me which fitted perfectly. (I haven't got around to that big spend yet). My rig was checked, found lacking and rectified with a long leader, fine tippet and small nymph. Then came my first test. "Let's see you cast". Tony quickly came to the same conclusion as Gordon of the Kapiti Club. "I think you need some practise". I was finding it very difficult to leave my old habits behind but after a while Tony judged it safe enough to suggest I cast at him! Yes, cast at him!

He stepped back, put two fingers up in front of his face and said you *WILL* land your fly between my fingers. I thought I might quite possibly add a ring to his nose but to my utter amazement I landed the fly between his fingers. I still can't believe it.

Then it was down to the water. The Motueka was quite low and clear with no wind. A riffle which stretched right across the river seemed the perfect place to start. Actually we stayed there and I fished in that same riffle all day. Tony saw trout after trout but I struggled to pinpoint their positions and aimed my fly where Tony pointed. I found there were so many things to remember. I would remember one thing and forget the rest.

I think I went through a period of exasperating Tony but eventually it all came together. I brought in a lovely brown trout 3 or 4 lbs Tony reckoned, and then another smaller was released. Another 3 or 4 got off.



My thanks to Tony for this generous spot prize, his patience, and encouragement. I will keep learning
Ann O'Grady

Read another [great story about Tony Entwistle \(Fly Fishing with Tony\)](#) by Jill Holdgate.

Day Trip – the Ruamahanga River

We headed out to the Ruamahanga River for a day chasing trout, getting picked up at 7 and arriving around 8:30. There was a bit of a nervous but excited feel as we got our gear sorted and made our way down to the river.

The start of the day was pretty slow. We were using dry droppers, and even though the trout were taking the nymphs, we just couldn't quite get it right and only managed one small trout before lunch. It took a while to get used to fishing running water since we hadn't done much of it before.

After lunch, we moved to a new spot and things started to click. We began reading the water better and ended up landing a few more trout, which made it a lot more enjoyable.

By the end of the day, we'd learnt a lot and felt way more confident fishing in moving water. Overall, it turned into a really fun and rewarding day out.

David Halls



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

How to Read a River

Sportfish (a UK fishing retailer) has just released this video of Howard Croston, a long-time member and often captain of the English Fly Fishing Team and double World Fly Fishing Champion, showing how to read freestone rivers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfWmk8QbD2k>

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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- Lampson fly reels
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- 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.

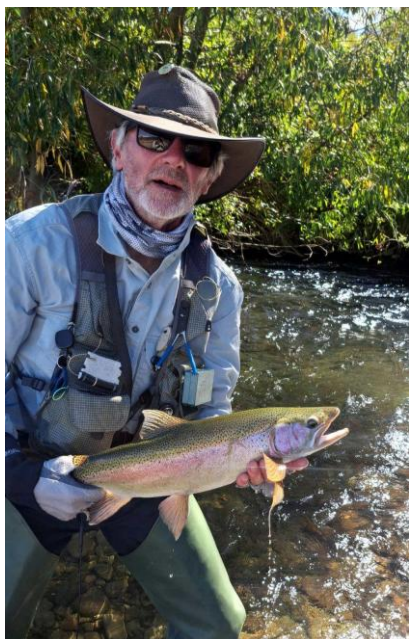
Mid-Week Fishing trips by Hugh

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.



Hugh Driver with a Hakatamea rainbow while visiting Leigh Johnson in March

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
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Treasurer Peter Butt
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Club Coach Robert Brace
Email: robertbracenz@gmail.com

Newsletter Gordon Baker:
Email: kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com

Gordon Baker Graham Evans
Email: graham@breakerbay.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](#)