



## **Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Newsletter**

**March 2026 Issue**

**Next Meeting**

**Monday 23 March 6.30pm**

**Didymo Dave**

This month's cover photo: Our very own Cheryl Naylor, with her first Lake Otamangakau (the Big O) rainbow,

And what a beauty (Im talking of Cheryl of course....!)

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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 March – Didymo Dave.

Come along and hear what Dave has to say. It is a very important message. But no doubt there are a lot of other aspects that he could cover off as the intro below shows:

*Didymo Dave... aka Dave Cade. would qualify as the most unlikely hero you could ever imagine as most of his good works go unrecognised and unrewarded. His generous unselfish public-spirited character and wide range of activities... makes everyone feel more hopeful about the future of our precious natural environment.*

*He is the epitome of a one-man band demonstrating as a prime example of “walk the talk” – that if you believe in something and roll your sleeves up and get stuck in and persevere, then dreams can come true.*

*In 2020 he received the Minister for Primary Industries’ Biosecurity Award for his efforts to stop the spread of freshwater pests, but now he has graduated to higher status in the King’s Birthday Honours list, receiving a Kings Service Medal (KSM) in the 2024 Honours List for services to conservation and biosecurity awareness.*

*Dave is perhaps best known for his work at regional and national levels supporting the Check, Clean, Dry campaign in the fight against freshwater pests*

*The local Council previously acknowledged and recognised his efforts, even though he did not work for them, by replacing his clapped-out old wagon about five years ago with a new vehicle – fuel provided by Harcourts, maintained and serviced by Turangi Auto Centre. Nobody was quite sure how he was paid or who he worked for as he just helped out everywhere. Possibly to avoid any negative criticism over the free-to-use vehicle, the Taupo Council appointed him as their Ambassador inspecting tourist campsites and spreading goodwill – a difficult occupational hazard with so many “freedom campers” flouting the rules. He has flourished in that role and the public promoted him as Toe Paw’s Champion.*

*Some of the ‘other’ things he has done are as wide and varied such as .... collecting zillions of cans to sell to support the kids at Starship Hospital, cutting weeds back that were blocking the “Welcome to Turangi” sign, remaking and distributing rat traps, digging drains on the Hinemaiaia anglers access road to reduce constant flooding, removing noxious weeds and wind-fall trees, picking up rubbish such as discarded nylon traces along the river bank (now being moulded into a giant trout as a reminder gimmick), educating tourist anglers of the biosecurity threats, so many occasions helping local kids in trouble with the authorities and putting them on the right track again by training them on pest trap lines, coaching them with casting lessons, etc. The list never ends...*

(the above is an extract from the Tongariro River Motel website)

## President's report

Another month has passed, so quickly. Maybe it's an age thing, then again maybe it's just not enough fishing! That's as good an excuse as I can find.

We didn't run our trip in February as the rivers, as had been predicted, were too high. But in retrospect, where did that rain go? Certainly not on our garden here in Otaki as it's very dry and we are now watering, hoping to revive some plants that we had neglected.

The upper half of the North Island certainly has had it's fill, as has down south. A couple of our members are on caravan/campervan trips in the South Island, and they were struggling to find clear water, at least they were when I last spoke to them. They can note that the editor is still waiting for a report of their travels/fishing exploits for the newsletter.

This month's speaker is Didymo Dave, who is going to reinforce that vigilance is always required to keep this dreadful scourge out of the north island. Several of our members have recent experience of the south island rivers and didymo greatly reduced the fishing opportunity.

We have a couple of trips coming up. The Ruamahanga day trip next Saturday 21 March is looking like it will be hard to find enough river to put everybody. Just kidding! I will be organising where we will meet and transport this week.

The April trip to Patangata over the long (Anzac) weekend is also attracting a lot of interest, so will be a really enjoyable club trip – assuming of course that the fishing 'gods' grant us clear water and great weather.

On the other hand, the trip that Wayne Butson has organised to go to the Rotorua lakes 9-16 May has only 1 other member who has registered interest at the moment. If no one else expresses interest by 28 April, the trip may well be cancelled.

Read about a couple of other trips in the newsletter.

Remember that 31 March is the end of the club's financial year and so we will be having our AGM at the May meeting. We will be looking for a new secretary and committee members, as well as someone to take up the presidency as I reckon 2 years is the right time for me to step down. Please think about how you can help the club and make it so much better.

Tight lines

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Graham', with a horizontal line underneath.

## 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.

<b>Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Trip/Event Schedule as at 17 March 2026</b>					
<b>Month</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date From</b>	<b>Date to</b>	<b>Trip Coordinator</b>
Mar-26	Ruamahanga	Gladstone	21 March - day trip	21-Mar	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	9-May	16-May	Wayne Butson
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)

## Welcome to new members

None this month – we will have to do better!





## WoTF - Coming events in Wellington Region

On Sunday 8 February 2026, 8 women gathered at Haruātai Park in Otaki to learn about Basic Casting. Gordon, who is the KFFC and Women on the Fly NZ Coach, generously began at the beginning. He taught us how to set up our rods, and explained and demonstrated the basics of casting. With enthusiasm, we all held Gordon's wise words in our heads, took a leap and had a go. Some women were absolute beginners, and within half an hour, had the confidence that only comes from trying, trying again, and - trying again. Gordon took time to work with each person individually, offering tips and next steps to practise.

Of course, we also enjoyed the friendship aspect of getting together, and enthusiastically made new friends – and potential future fishing buddies!

Then at the next session in March, 8 women met at the Otaki Bridge club where Gordon again gave the attendees a very useful, practical guide to Trout 101. What gear do you need? What about a rod and reel? What are the differences? What is a leader? What do trout eat? How do you join the leader to the main line and tie the fly on? Good basic stuff that one needs to know to be able to start of the fascinating journey that is trout fly fishing.

Again a very well structured class, based on the fly fishing courses that Gordon runs for the Club, and will be doing so again later this year.

Save the dates for the next two sessions:

\* **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.

WoTF is hosting an event with the Otago Anglers Association in Dunedin on 29th March. Read more about here on the [Otago Daily Times](#)

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.

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](http://www.womenonthefly.nz)

Leigh Johnson

[leigh.johnson@womenonthefly.nz](mailto:leigh.johnson@womenonthefly.nz)

## Trip Report - Whakapapa River

13/14 March 2026.

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March I met my brother in the Central North Island for a trip to fish the Whakapapa River with access near Owhango. Our initial plan was to camp near the river but on checking the forecast we decided to stay at Mahoe Motel, just South of Taumarunui.

The Whakapapa near Owhango is a pristine head water fishery with a steep gradient and classic riffle pocket water, interspersed with deep pools. The river bottom consists of slippery 10-pin bowling ball sized rocks/ boulders and there are very few safe crossing points due to volume and flow of water. We were confined to picking our way up edges and walking around bluffed areas. The day was hot (for mid-March), and I was glad for a wide brimmed hat and sunblock. I scared fish all day as I struggled to overcome multiple currents and pockets while my brother managed a lovely bright silver Rainbow of approx. 3 1/2-4 pounds which is typical for this area. He released this to fight another day.

By 4pm we had fished all the available water and with clouds gathering before forecast rain checked into our accommodation for the evening. Following a quick dinner, we fished the Whanganui River at the end of Mahoe Road. This area is a total contrast to the upper river, with wide shallower riffles and runs, open grass and areas lined with willows on the far bank. My approach to this water is to swing wee wets covering the water methodically while looking for features and/ or rising fish to cover. I landed a few smaller rainbows while my brother managed another lovely rainbow- spotted rising just on dusk in the head of a pool.

The next morning dawned wet with a local farmer reporting 4 inches of rain overnight. A quick check from the Owhango Bridge confirmed that the Whakapapa was high and coloured- not really a safe place to be fishing. Plan B was hatched- drive to the Tongariro which was running at approx. 40 cumecs- also high from rain. We felt it could be safely fished despite being coffee coloured. Our plan was to swing big wet flies into the edges, and we picked the Lower Bridge Pool for this. After approx. 1 hour my swing was interrupted with a big thud. A lovely, conditioned Brown had hit my fly and a short stubborn fight, ensued. This fish was destined for the table- my brother loves trout and had promised to take a fish home for his family. Please see his recipe for curried trout below. Approx. 30 minutes later a smaller but feisty rainbow also hit my fly- great to confirm that our plan for the high and discoloured water was the right one. This was returned to grow larger.

All in all, we had a great trip, fishing a variety of water and conditions, with some success.

Some of the flies used were size 16 GB Hare and Copper (on a dropper under a Cicada) Copper bodied wee wet and large articulated "Intruder Style" brown/yellow tube fly for high/ dirty Tongariro.

Please see photos of the successful flies, Tongariro Brown, releasing a Rainbow, upper Whakapapa - pocket water, and prepped fish- it had lovely salmon coloured flesh.

Kevin Holwill



### Curry trout.

1/2 red onion

1 carrot

1/2 cup button mushrooms.

2 trout fillets. Boned out, and skinned, cut into 2cm cubes.

1/2 packet tikka masala curry paste.

3-4 tablespoons olive oil.

Salt and pepper as required.

Rough cut and pan fry veg. keeping rustic as this is a bushman's recipe.

Add diced trout and curry paste. Cook until just done.

Serve hot with rice or chunky grilled toast.



## Plonking and stripping on the Big O

We'd been looking forward to this trip for a while and Wayne Butson had done a fantastic job organising accommodation at the Tongariro Holiday Camp.

Greg and Donna gave us a great deal and, as we'd been there a few times before, put us as far away as possible from the tourists so our stentorian snores could be explained away as frogs croaking in the neighbouring pond.

Saturday morning, and I was first out of the block, towing a wooden dinghy my son had built some 20 years ago and arriving at Graham Evan's place at 7.30am, precisely 30 minutes late.

We proceeded to load up the Outback with his gear, including a drogue of epic proportions he'd used in his competition days, designed to slow our progress down the lake, so we could plonk and strip to our hearts content.

"Keep it he said. It's perfect for your boat"

I expressed my thanks for such a useful gift and we set off up the road.

I'd been on the lake a few times over the years and driving down to the boat ramp always brings back memories of previous days; days where the fishing gods gave us a glimpse of how spectacular it could be and days when the waters seemed devoid of anything but weed.

Boat launched and with the breeze coming from the southwest, we opted for the western shoreline, an area Graham had recently enjoyed a great day from the shore. Today, nothing came to our flies so we set the drogue and drifted towards the island. A boat was anchored up and their description of their day didn't give us a lot of encouragement but as we drifted past Graham hooked 2 fish. They were only tiddlers but at least we were on the board. And that was how the day progressed. We explored the western side and then over towards the outlet canal before working our way to the main bay opposite the boat ramp. A few more toddlers jumped into our nets and I hooked and lost a bigger fish.



Lake O - looking towards the North. It looked threatening, but didn't turn out that way at all

At around 6.30pm we decided we'd done enough for one day. "One more cast" said Graham and promptly hooked into the best fish of the day, a lovely 4.5lb rainbow.



Back at the camp we finished unpacking and over a very nice taco dinner Wayne had supplied we compared notes. It didn't take long.

Colin Thomson, a good friend of Wayne's had joined the trip and had some fantastic stories to share about his days on the railways with Wayne adding extravagant commentary and the evening continued in a similar vein.

Tacos eaten and dishes done we decided that tomorrow would be much better and headed to our cabins.

Sunday morning began cool and overcast. We decided it wasn't a bad thing and set up our boats for a long day on the water.



Colin had brought his inflatable kick-raft which was lashed to the bow of Wayne's boat for the short journey to the boat ramp.



Lake O – Colin in his strider, with Mt Tongariro behind, with the white patch being Ketetahi hot springs

The lake looked stunning and we launched with high hopes.

Graham suggested we start near the weed beds adjacent to the ramp and on his 2nd cast caught another beautiful 4.5lb rainbow, followed by a smaller fish on his 3rd cast. I'd been sorting out my gear but set to with a vengeance. Fish were rising all around us, mostly out of casting distance but we figured it was only a matter of time.



It was certainly just a matter of time, an awful lot of it!

We drifted along weed beds, anchored up below the inlet, then drifted along the opposite shoreline without any further success. Lunch devoured, we fired up the outboard and headed to the channel above the outlet.

Here, we did start catching fish, small ones, and one that I optimistically described as ‘a beautiful fat 2 pounder’.

Graham laughed and then said, “Well I could take a photo if you want”. I decided not to bother and it happily swam away to spread the word about our presence.

As we motored back to the ramp Graham said it was one of the hardest days he’d ever experienced on the lake. It certainly hadn’t been productive but I’d benefitted greatly from his boating and fishing expertise in beautiful, peaceful surroundings and vowed to up my casting game tomorrow.

Back at the camp we compared notes over meatballs in a mushroom sauce with a side of courgettes from Graham’s garden.

Like us, Wayne had caught 2 fish in the first half hour and then not much for the rest of the day.

Colin had been stealthily sneaking around the weed beds and had seen plenty of fish swimming past to admire his flippers but without any landed it was a long row back to the ramp.

Monday morning started much the same, initially overcast and cool with light breezes and when we arrived at the ramp we were delighted to find Wayne and Cheryl Naylor setting up for a day on the water. They’d been invited to share a boat with another keen couple who’s boat looked tailor-made for the lake and, like us, were full of expectation.





Just as well this played out behind me!!

Out on the water we drifted around weed beds off the ramp and along the inlet area for a couple of hours with only a couple of toddlers for our efforts so we headed over to where Cheryl and Wayne were fishing. As we got close we saw a rod suddenly bend and they were into a very nice brown. Successfully landed, it must have weighed in above 7lb.

Here is Cheryl's report.

*"It was our first time fishing Lake O, it was a beautiful day and there were fish rising everywhere!! Our friends that we went with caught a beautiful brown, and two fab rainbows - one was 10lb, and the other was 8lb!! We thoroughly enjoyed our day, and our exciting catches!" -Wayne's best!*



Graham and I had to be home early evening so we gave it a couple more hours before heading back to the ramp for a final flick. Graham said, "Come on Greg. We have to get you into a fish" and set the boat perfectly for me to cast along the weed bed.

15 minutes later he said “one more cast” and I immediately hooked a feisty 6 incher.  
Job done!

Wayne and Colin had booked an extra day and reported that, although things picked up in the afternoon, nothing big had come to the net.

Although it would have been nice had one of us landed a 10 pounder, I don't think we really minded too much. 3 days of being surrounded by the stunning backdrop of Mt Tongariro on the gentle waters of Lake O, in the company of erudite, companionable and generous friends.

We don't know how lucky we are.

Gregory Squire

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

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
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*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](#)**