



Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

January 2021 Newsletter

This month's front cover: Do I have one of these in my fly box? Photo taken by Leon Smith.

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Club activities

Date	Event	Coordinator
Monday 25 January	Club Night – BBQ Otaihanga Domain	Michael
Monday 8 February	Fly-Tying Workshop – Kapiti Community Centre	Gordon
Monday 22 February	Club Night - Jack Kós the Brown Trout Story	Leon
TBC	Lower Ruamahanga	Michael
March dates TBC	Whanganui and Whakapapa	Malcolm
TBC	Titahi Bay Onepoto – Saltwater Fly-fishing	

You are invited to the next KFFC Club Night on Monday 25 January- Family BBQ and Fun and Games at the Otaihanga Domain you are welcome to bring along family members.

Meeting starts at 6:30pm looking forward to seeing you there

Presidents report

Happy New Year to all members.

Well, here we are well into 2021 already and with summer well and truly here I hope that you have all enjoyed Christmas and that you have made it out into our fabulous waterways and a few cunning trout have come to the net.



So far, I have had a couple of unsuccessful sessions on my local, not surprisingly so after I read the Fish & Game fish counts which Malcolm published in the December newsletter.

I also spent a few days in Turangi fishing with Leon, which included a long and unsuccessful day at lake Otamangakau and another on a mountain stream where I at least hooked a good fish which after a good battle took my leader around a big rock and busted me off.

Not an unhappy chappie as at least I hooked one.

So, if you are like me just keep on and success will come and do not forget there is a lot of experience and help around the club.

As an example, I know that a number of new, and prospective members, have taken up Gordon's One- on One castings session so thank you Gordon for doing this (Just need to sharpen my technique now). We are lucky to have such amazing members who are prepared to offer their time and advice.

Talking of this, we will be having the Club AGM in May, which seems far away now but will be here in a flash. Whilst we have a great committee a number of us have probably spent more years than we should have on the committee and it would be great if we can get some new ideas and enthusiasm to keep the present momentum growing.

Membership has increased considerably this year so if you think you might be interested then give me a call. This is by far the best way to get to know everyone. We are, after all, just a fishing club so running it is a lot of fun and not too onerous and most of it is about making events happen with backup in the treasury and secretarial roles.

There you go.... the challenge is now out!

We have a number of new female members who have joined our club over the past few months, which is great. Look forward to see you at our club nights, remember you are more than welcome to participate in our 'on the water' club trips and show us how to catch trout. If you wish we can set up a "ladies only" contact group if you want, just let me know.

Talking events, our club picnic is on at the Otaihangā domain this Monday 25th. Bring the Whānau along, meet fellow members and have some fun.

Enough from me

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 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 your desire 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.



Fly Pattern of the Month – Prince Nymph by Gordon Baker



Prince Nymph

- Hook: 1xl to 2xl Nymph Sizes 10 - 16.
Bead: Brass or Tungsten Gold bead.
Weight: Round Lead Wire.
Thread: 6/0 (or similar) Black or Red
Tail: Brown Goose Biots.
Rib: Gold Ultra-Wire or Gold Oval Tinsel.
Body: Strung Peacock Herl.
Wing: White Goose Biots.
Hackle: Brown (or similar) hackle fibres.

Originated in the 1930's by Minnesota brothers Don and Dick Olson and popularized shortly thereafter by western angler Doug Prince for whom it was subsequently named; the Prince Nymph (a.k.a. the Forked Tail Nymph) has long proven not only one of trout angling's most widely and easily recognized fly patterns, but arguably one the deadliest ever created too! An exceptionally effective and much beloved subsurface favourite, and one that no successful trout angler's fly box should ever be without.

Generally regarded as a stonefly imitation this pattern can be used throughout the year. Try it on the Tongariro River in summer – small indicator, 3.5m 4x leader and size 12 Gold Bead Prince.

On Monday 8 February we will be holding our first Fly Tying Workshop at the Kapiti Community Centre – look forward to seeing you there.

The reward for tying your own flies! By Michael Murphy



This monster was caught by Leon at lake Otamangakau over Christmas on a Woolly Bugger Damselfly pattern he designed and tied after attending the Clubs 2020 fly tying sessions- Come join us.

Fishing the Tauranga-Taupo River by Kyle Adams

Introduction

Located roughly 10 minutes north of Turangi on SH1, the Tauranga Taupo river is a very popular and highly valued fishery among anglers. Due to the high quality of fishing found here the Tauranga Taupo plays a crucial part of the overall angling experience the Taupo fishery offers. Much like Lake Taupo's other tributaries, the river is most well-known for its autumn and winter runs of spawning fish from the lake. At this time of year angling relies heavily on the naturally occurring events, for the great fishing they bring, which makes up the greatest part of the angling opportunities on offer.

The Tauranga Taupo river is a really fun river to fish with many great qualities that offer good angling all year round. The nature of the rivers medium size, depth, and more gentle flows makes it a very manageable river for anglers of all abilities and lighter flies can be used to great effect which makes for less demanding experience on the water when compared to the big water of the Tongariro.

During winter fishing is typically hot and cold. Results will often depend on fish numbers that hold in the river at any one time. River flows and water colour also have a great effect on fishing productivity. Weather watching and looking at forecasts is a great tool to help with figuring out the best timing of these occasions.

Conditions after a flood or fresh provide the best fishing as the river is falling combined with flows that are still a little higher than normal and the water still holding some nice green colour. A change

in weather along with a lowered barometer triggers fish to run hard, moving swiftly into and up the river in great numbers safely under the cover of the dark night sky and a swollen dirty river.

This is when mayhem breaks out in the wee hours of the morning as eager anglers race to reach the water before daybreak in the dark with the use of a head lamp. As the classic saying goes, the early bird gets the worm which, is very true in this case. This is the prime time to fish as by now pools are typically loaded with trout. Due to being fresh out the lake and the rivers the discoloured water fish are very receptive to the fly and things can get hectic at times with fish being hooked and pulled out of the water left, right and centre.

On the other hand, fishing can also be tough due to less favourable conditions and a few other compacting factors. During normal flows, the river runs clear and as a result of the rivers medium size and lack of good cover trout are spooked easily, becoming skittery after the impacts of angling pressure which makes them difficult to catch and tempt to the fly.

The Tauranga Taupo is a great option for a full day on the water. Fishing water is accessed easily via a well-worn anglers access track which runs up on the true left side of the river and opens up plenty of water. There is well over a day's worth of fishing from the car park above the main road bridge up to the winter limit at the Ranger's Pool, expect to walk 13kms+.

Nymphing, single hand Spey, Czech nymphing and a wet lining are well suited techniques for fishing in winter and a great fishing approach is to nymph your way upriver, followed by swinging flies back down with the single hand Spey set up. This is a fun way to cover water by mixing up the fishing techniques and will often surprise you as to how many fish you've missed fishing to on your way up.

Outside of the winter season the river also provides good angling opportunities. In spring, good numbers of rainbow trout hold throughout the river's habitat, providing great fishing. Brown trout numbers naturally increase during summer as they make their migratory move after a period in the lake and back into the river system again, adding a quality of brown trout to the fishing opportunities.



The months of spring through to summer are great times to fish as this river receives very little angling pressure compared to winter. Great dry fly fishing can be found which includes stream born insect hatches along with many terrestrial insects like beetles. By mid-summer terrestrial insect activity is at its height, this normally sees prolific numbers of deafening cicadas on the wing and passion vine hoppers everywhere. Trout really key into this additional insect activity at this time of year and tend to lose their inhibitions while in a feeding frenzy.

This provides exciting fishing, with one-on-one close encounters with the fish. From December 1st the upper river opens offering a semi back country experience, accessed from the end of the angler's access track, by walking, and wading upriver. Sight fishing dominates the experience here, Trout can be found feeding regularly from the surface during the summer months, which provide typically warm, and very pleasant conditions.

The winter runs of spawning fish are impressive and traditionally the river sees some the biggest, and best conditioned fish to come out the lake. The sight fishing element and dry fly fishing on offer is a great quality and adds a really nice touch and along with the rivers more favourable and easily managed size makes it hard to resist, and so close to Turangi. This is a great fishing experience to be had. We recommend you put the Tauranga Taupo high on your list to hit next time you're fly fishing in the Taupo region.

How to get the Best of your day Fly Fishing the Tauranga Taupo River

Over the winter season trout hold throughout the river although the pools provide the most productive and reliable water. In general, it pays to be on the water early for the best shot at catching fish which have settled overnight from angling attention of the previous day. This is particularly important during less favourable conditions of a low and clear river.

It is a good idea to fish your feet first, then progressively fish your way over to the far bank. The tails of pools can be challenging to fish, due to the slow-moving water and its slick surface fish are often spooked easily. Focus on the more turbulent water found in middle and heads of pools and holding lies hard against the bank, or a fallen tree will often produce fish when the going gets tough.

With indicator nymphing mending is crucial for achieving a drag free drift which ensures the flies are down in the fish zone. The cast and drift will need to be set up nicely and well maintained by mending the line as needed. Wet lining and single hand Spey is most productive before the sun has hit the water however higher flows, with colour in the water, are the deadliest conditions for these methods.

Czech nymphing is very reliable and productive in most conditions. For best results, a subtle change to the leader and fly choice is required to best suit conditions of the day. During spring, and particularly summer, a more subtle approach is required for nymphing and dry fly fishing, with a 9ft #5 rod being all that is required.

Kyle's insider tips

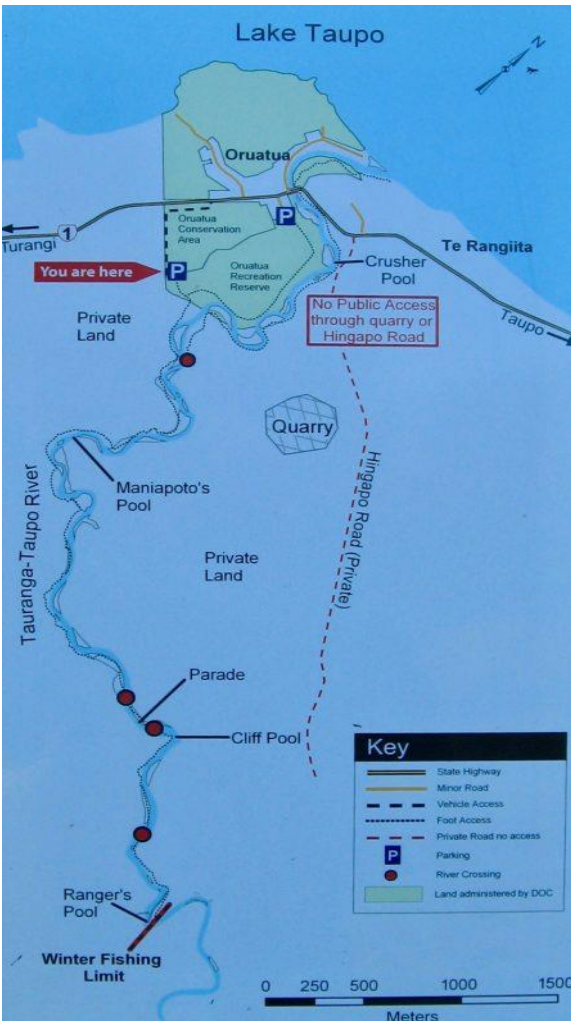
When indicator nymphing a cheeky and effective way to lengthen or create the perfect drag free drift is to "walk the dog". This technique covers water easily with the flies right in the fish zone for much, much longer. This is achieved by simply walking down river horizontal to the indicator and at the same speed as the drift. Deadly as one cast covers a huge amount of water, drifts are easy to maintain and there is less spooking of fish due to reduced casts.

Be sure to fish the heavy seams of the pools thoroughly, hard against that far bank or fallen tree with your flies sunk well down. There is always more there than meets the eye!

When nymphing indicator performance is a big deal. To get the best from your indicator, keep indicator size realistic as a big, budgie sized indicator just makes for hard work, A dense medium

sized well treated indicator is ideal. Tip: Used a fine-toothed comb to brush floatant into the indicator.

River access overview



There are really only two points of access, both to different sections of the lower river. Basically, head just north of Kiko Rd and a couple of hundred metres before the Challenge service station is a right-hand gravel road heading down to the carpark.

It's very easy to spot from the main road, especially after rain as it will be jam packed full of cars.

The second point of access is directly on the other side of the Challenge service station. Turn right onto Tuki St and head to the end, park your car and make your way towards the river.

This is downstream of the main carpark and quite often you can have this section to yourself. You can also hang a right a Heuheu Parade and work your way down to the river mouth, but we'll cover that off in a future article.

If you really want to head off grid, then the very upper river is accessible off Kiko Rd but this is unmarked and with a lot of private land around it pays to have some local knowledge about how to get in there. It's steep and gorgy so only a day out for the really fit and committed.

Lower river

Environment: Very low gradient.

Features: Long connecting, gentle pools.

Characteristics: Sweeping, slow moving, and moderately deep pools, with a predominantly sand, and gravel riverbed and very few rocks.

Middle reaches

Environment: Medium gradient, surrounded by Pine forests. A more remote feel. Once you get above the Ranger's Pool winter limit it quickly becomes smaller, more gorgy water.

Features: Scrubby, cut banks, with some willow trees. Relatively stable, and featured water. River bed is dominated by a sand and gravel bottom, with very few rocks.

Characteristics: Meandering riverbed, that consists of many pools and the occasional run. Pools typically alternate, from long straight pools to classic corner pools, which are relatively deep, with moderate to gentle flows.

Methods for fly fishing on Tauranga Taupo river

Nymphing

This is the most reliable and productive method and is a great way to cover all aspects of the river and imitate the food source easily.

Depending on the water, either cast upstream or straight across and allow the flies to sink quickly and drift back towards you, past your body and finishing below. Staying in touch with the line is also very important and this is achieved by keeping any excess line on the water below the rod tip to minimum. This will ensure a positive strike and hook up when the indicator does eventually go under. For best results, the distance between indicator and flies will need to be adjusted regularly to suit water depth, and speed.

A double nymph rig is the ideal set up and very effective way to cover water. Match the lightest fly you can get away with to the situation, and where needed change out the heavy fly to best suit the water depth and speed. A variety of weighted nymphs are essential for covering all basis.

Pools can be more challenging at times due to greater depth, varying currents, and density of the water. For best results, increase the distance from the indicator to the heavy fly, making sure it's no less than a rod length. If this still is insufficient, then increase the weight of the bomb fly.

A heavier fly is generally needed to get down quickly which is crucial for beating the heavy currents, ensuring the flies reach the fish. Concentrate on setting up a good drift well ahead of your intended target as this gives plenty of time for the flies to sink down into the zone. A tell tail sign of achieving an effective drift is when the strike indicator is standing up right as this indicates the leader has straightened completely and the flies are near the bottom. When the indicator bob's up and down, this means the flies are on the bottom. Look for these cue's because you're right in the zone and just about to get the eat.

Dry fly

Suitable for covering all water, the evening rise is a reliable time to fish depending on insect hatches. In general, a dead drifted fly works, although during a caddis hatch a skated caddis on the water surface is deadly. During summer fish can be sight fished to, with terrestrial patterns like cicadas and passion vine hoppers. The Tauranga Taupo is notorious for rising fish that seem

impossible to hook, these are generally passion vine hopper feeders and it pays to have a few different patterns and sizes on hand to break the code of the day.

Wet fly's and single-handed Spey

Swinging flies across and down is a very popular and reliable method for covering most water, even more so when the river is carrying a lot of colour or for getting those brown trout to eat. Position yourself in the river, ideally no more than thigh deep, and facing the intended target cast across the river.

A u-shaped belly will form in the line naturally by the current below the rod tip downstream of you, now all you need to do is make sure you keep in contact with line throughout the swing, and hey presto, you're fishing! Once the fly line has straightened out directly below it's time to strip the line in and repeat. If a piece of water demands your fly to sink immediately to reach a specific tricky lie this can be achieved by introducing slack line into the system with a simple mend or just slipping extra line on the water.

Czech nymphing

Productive all year round suits most water, great for covering the fast flowing and broken water, deadly in winter on spawning fish. Using an upstream approach, systematically cover the water working through heads of pools and the fast currents found hard against and along the far bank of the river. These are very productive lies, and this is a technique that covers them very effectively.

This article was published on the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers website and supported by Manic Tackle Project.

Conservation Minister Kiritapu Allan makes announcement at Waikanae Estuary by Kapiti Mayor K Gurunathan



K Gurunathan with Terisa Ngobi, left, Kiritapu Allan and Penny Gaylor

Last week, Conservation Minister Kiritapu Allan visited the Waikanae Estuary to make a nationwide announcement. A \$32 million contestable fund to support conservation volunteers working with private landowners and established conservation groups. The minister's choice of the Waikanae

River site to make this announcement signals the Government's support of a Treaty partnership approach to the conservation movement.

During her speech she mentioned the policy work crafted by Dr Mahina-a-rangi Baker that underpinned iwi approach to conservation as a holistic philosophical, spiritual, cultural, environmental, and economic world view.

Last week's January 14 funding opportunity comes on top of the minister's announcement in November of an \$8.5m funding for the Waikanae River under the Government's Jobs for Nature programme. A programme designed to create jobs to overcome the economic impact of Covid-19.

The minister said Kapiti's application for the fund was the first she approved because it ticked all the boxes, especially the involvement of iwi leadership. A key reason for the rapid approval of the Kāpiti application goes back to the groundwork already established through a partnership around the restoration of the Waikanae River.

In 2019, under the previous Conservation Minister Eugene Sage, the Waikanae River was chosen as one of 14 rivers across the country for the Mountains to the Sea restoration programme managed by DoC.

To understand minister Sage's decision, we need to look at two other earlier developments. Firstly, in early 2019, my office approached minister Sage for a meeting to discuss conflicting issues related to the Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve and the seasonal whitebaiting season that saw some claim a right for vehicle access through the scientific reserve.

The delegation to her office included Marina-a-rangi Baker from Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai, Robin Gunston, chair of Waikanae Estuary Care Group, and former mayor Jenny Rowan from the Wellington Conservancy.

Our appeal to the minister was for a combined approach to look at the estuary as part of the whole river ecology. DoC staff had told the minister that no funding had been allocated.

The second related development is the role played by Chris Turver and his group of whitebaiters who, in claiming a right to drive to their fishing spots at the estuary through the reserve, launched a campaign criticising DoC and its management of the scientific reserve.

Mr Turver claimed the reserve was degraded and could no longer claim a position as one of NZ's top environmental assets. Whether one accepts the rationale, that this 'degradation' justified vehicle access for whitebaiters, is an oxymoron argument or not is a separate matter. What must be acknowledged is that Mr Turver ran a highly publicised campaign that included support from a few local iwi members.

With the blessing of the minister, a first workshop was organised for all the stakeholders led by the estuary care group and funded by the mayoral office. It was supported by local iwi, DoC, GWRC, KCDC and included a number of representatives from environmental groups and river users like the whitebaiters.

Local iwi provided a Māori framework for understanding our relationship with the Waikanae River which has been largely accepted as a way forward.

Hard work by all the parties has seen the development of the Mountains to the Sea programme and the creation of a Treaty House approach which guarantees mana whenua leadership in the restoration of the river.

Minister Sage followed up on her moral support with financial grunt with her announcement that Waikanae River was one of 14 chosen for restoration funding. The November announcement of the Waikanae Jobs for Nature \$8.5m funding has now turbo-charged the Waikanae Mountains to the Sea project.

Over the four years of this funding 92 fulltime jobs would be created with one-third of these to help train up mostly young Māori youth. This would see 80,000 plants over 20 hectares of riparian planting, 25km of fencing, weed control over 10,000 hectares, goat control over 5000 hectares, and predator control over 2000 hectares.

This significant investment in the restoration of the Waikanae River must not be seen in isolation. The river is a critical lifeblood of the district. It supplies portable water to two-thirds of Kapiti's 56,000 population. It's the lifeline to the businesses operating out of Raumati, Paraparaumu and Waikanae.

By protecting, restoring, and enhancing the river's catchment and its biodiversity we are doing the same to our lives and our economic development.

The Waikanae River is not just what's visible to the eyes in the form of the main river and its streams. It's also connected to the flow underground and its aquifers. The river also extends through the man-made reticulation. A network of hundreds of miles delivers the river to our households and businesses.

Your early morning cuppa and your shower are just two instances of this intimate relationship. The Māori whakatuaki or proverb captures this: "Ko au te awa. Ko te awa ko au". Meaning, I am the river, and the river is me.

The Magic of Soft Hackles by Louis Cahill



Soft Hackles are the sharks of the fly box.

Like the shark, the soft hackle is one of the oldest of its ilk, and like those ancient predators, it has evolved very little from its inception. Like the shark, it is a deadly design that could not be improved upon. Take, for example, the Kebari flies used by Tenkara anglers for hundreds of years. Basically, Soft Hackles with a reverse hackle. So effective, that traditional Tenkara anglers only fish one

pattern. Many modern fly anglers overlook traditional Soft Hackle patterns that are as effective today as ever.



Kebari flies

There are two primary reasons for the effectiveness of the soft hackle. For starters, it's the ultimate impressionistic pattern. It looks like almost everything on the aquatic menu. A fish who is looking for something specific is very likely to see it in a soft hackle. The second reason is there's just no wrong way to fish one. If you struggle with getting a drag free drift, a soft hackle is a very forgiving pattern. As long as it is in the water, it will produce fish.

Fishing Soft Hackles

As I said, there is no wrong way to fish these flies, but there are some proven tactics you can employ. For starters, dead drifting the fly as a nymph is never a bad plan. The Soft Hackle is as effective in this role as any pattern. That said, the dead drift does not take advantage of some of the pattern's unique properties.

Perhaps the most common and most productive presentation for a Soft Hackle is the swing. The hackle tends to trap an air bubble making the fly a natural emerger pattern. There are tying techniques, which I will go into, that enhance this effect. When fished deep and swung to the surface, the glowing air bubble inside the hackle is more than any trout can resist. One of my favourite ways to rig this pattern is to drop it about sixteen inches behind a Woolly Buzzer with some weight in front of the Buzzer. Drift the team deep through a run then lift them to the surface or quarter them down and across and let them swing and hold on.

When fishing from a boat, it's very effective to cast a Soft Hackle straight across the current and retrieve it slowly, about four inches at a strip. A hand-twist retrieve works well. This is also effective when teamed with a Buzzer. Even more fun, drop the Soft Hackle behind an Elk Haired Caddis and inch them back across the current. You'll get some explosive takes on the dry. This team works very well with a drift and swing presentation as well.

The Soft Hackle is always a good choice in a dry dropper team. Read more ([HERE](#))

Tying Soft Hackles

Much like fishing Soft Hackles, it's hard to tie one wrong. At least in terms of colour and material. There are many options, but the anatomy of the Soft Hackle remains much the same. A body, a dubbing ball, and a hackle. Some variations include a tail, a bead head or even dumbbell eyes, but in form as well as function they are very similar. There is no wrong choice for colour. Black,

brown, and grey are classics but bright colours like chartreuse, red and orange can really turn fish on at times. My favourite is tied all in gold with an orange head.

The hackle is the defining characteristic of the pattern. It should be, obviously, a soft material. Game feathers like partridge are the common choice but Hen hackles works well as do mallard and guinea in larger sizes. These soft hackles allow the fly to sink and, when the fly is swung, they lay back over the body trapping the air bubble that makes the fly so deadly.

Traditionally, the dubbing ball was made from peacock. The iridescent nature of the peacock adds brightness which suggests an air bubble even when one is not present. Though I seldom use peacock for my dubbing balls I use materials with some inherent flash for the same reason. I also use a dubbing loop when tying the dubbing ball. The shaggier ball helps trap air. When the fly is swung, the result is a nicely tapered body that glows from within like the transparent shuck of an emerging insect.

There are endless choices for the body material. Pheasant tail is a great choice and available in many colours. Dubbed bodies work well, especially when ribbed with wire, and rabbit is one of my favourites. Thread bodies are easy and effective. The slim profile of a thread body and sparse hackle is very effective. Peacock bodies are a classic choice too and one of few exceptions to the use of a dubbing ball.

I encourage you to experiment with colours and materials and sizes. The only rules I will offer are these. Keep the proportions much the same as you would when tying nymphs. Choose hackle feathers with barbules about one- and one-half times the length of your hook gap and no longer than the shank. Don't go crazy with the amount of hackle you use. Two turns is usually plenty. Sparse is better. Otherwise, have fun with it.

It's easy to fall into the idea that you have to have the latest hot pattern to catch fish. As anglers, we are always looking for innovation. We always want a leg up on the fish as well as other anglers. Most of those hot new patterns catch fish, but don't forget about the patterns that have proven themselves on streams around the world for hundreds of years.

Here's a few variations.



The UV dubbing in this fly gives it a little something extra



This case caddis pattern catches fish everywhere



This fly uses a bead



Hares Ear pattern



Attractor pattern like this can turn a fish on



This classic peacock body pattern is a Coachman without the wings



Pheasant tail with chartreuse thorax

Soft Hackles catch fish from trout to tarpon. If I could only have one pattern in my box it would likely be a Soft Hackle. Tie some up and watch the magic happen.

Sick or swim? Every Wellington river poorly rated for safe swimming this summer by Kate Green

Wellington rivers could spell trouble for swimmers this week, with every popular spot in the region ranked as either unsuitable for swimming, or at least requiring caution. Toxic algae blooms and elevated levels of E. Coli are prompting warnings from Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA), which provides updates on 125 spots in the Wellington region.

On Tuesday morning (19/01/2021), [according to LAWA](#), 16 of 20 popular river spots in the region were unsuitable for swimming, and caution was advised for the remaining four due to large amounts of E. Coli bacteria and toxic algae blooms.

According to freshwater ecologist Dr Tara McAllister, summer provided perfect conditions for swimmers, but also for toxic algae blooms. “It often comes about when rivers are low, and temperatures are high,” she said.

Temperature increases due to climate change meant this would be the new normal. With more frequent algae blooms, “we need a system-wide, holistic approach.”

LAWA’s rating were based on a range of factors, but most prominently, the levels of E. Coli bacteria. A special warning was issued during algae blooms.



Greater Wellington Regional Council staff assessing toxic algae cover in the Hutt River

Toxic algae and E. Coli both cause gastrointestinal illness and infections, with symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhoea. Caution was advised when water quality was mostly suitable for swimming, but young children, elderly, or those with compromised health might be at risk.

Regional council senior environmental scientist Dr Evan Harrison said low ratings across the board were due to the heavy rain earlier this week, which caused runoff from surrounding areas to boost E. Coli counts.

Runoff from rural areas meant agricultural waste, like animal faeces, being washed into rivers. In urban areas, contaminants could flow in from burst pipes and overflowing waterways.

Two spots on the Hutt River had the most swimmable days in 2020; Silverstream Bridge (currently off limits due to algae) and Birchville both had 247 safe days out of 365 (68 per cent).



Local children swimming in the Hutt River at Taita Rock

The Akatarawa River, where it meets the Hutt River, had experienced 248 swimmable days out of 365 (also 68 per cent). Last week, the regional council [warned](#) toxic algae levels in the Hutt River had reached unsafe levels.



Toxic algae is prompting warnings from Greater Regional Council, asking people to not swim and keep their dogs away

Sites at Poet’s Park, Birchville, and Maoribank Corner required caution, but other spots were not safe; Melling Bridge and Silverstream Bridge due to toxic algae blooms, and a high E. Coli count at Melling Bridge.

Toxic algae is now a yearly issue. Shiny brown, dark green, or violet in colour, it grows on submerged river stones, but can detach from stones and float on the surface making it easy to ingest.

Anyone who swallows it or experiences nausea, vomiting, numbness, tingling, muscle twitches, shaking, weakness, breathing difficulties, convulsions or even loss of consciousness after swimming should seek immediate medical attention.

Dogs are at the greatest risk, as they love the smell and taste of the algae and should be kept on a leash around affected rivers.

Fish and game suffer while the organisation charged with looking after their interests and habitat founders by Tom O’Connor

OPINION: The need for newly elected Conservation Minister Kiri Allen to act swiftly to rescue the New Zealand Fish and Game Council from total dysfunction took on fresh urgency with the recent sudden resignation of CEO Martin Taylor.

An independent review of the Fish and Game Council system was ordered by former Conservation Minister, Eugenie Sage, last year following several years of internal dissension and significant governance issues. The review team was due to report back to government by the end of the year but that has now been extended to late January or early February.

The 12 Regional Fish and Game Councils are responsible for the technical management of game bird and sports fish populations while the New Zealand Fish and Game Council is charged with advocating the interests of licensed anglers and hunters nationally as well as coordinating and auditing the work of Regional Councils. In the past the New Zealand Fish and Game Council was one of our most effective conservation lobby groups having succeeded in getting water conservation orders on a number of important rivers and laid the foundation for the Government's current priority focus on freshwater quality.

The councils, however, have been hampered by a number of systemic problems. One of most serious problems appears to be the appointment of one elected member of each regional council to serve on the independent New Zealand Fish and Game Council. It would be totally unacceptable to have our local district council appoint the local member of parliament but that was the system Fish and Game Councils were given.

Some appointed councillors were forced to act as regional delegates rather than take a national overview as the Conservation Act requires. Those who did not act as delegates were quickly replaced by those who did.

That resulted in the inability of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council to carry out its proper function, particularly the coordination and audit of the regional councils. That also led to the development of regional parochialism and the failure of regional councils, and particularly some of their managers, to focus on their core business of managing the resource, leaving national politics to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.

A number of Fish and Game councillors also have undeclared perceived, if not actual, conflicts of interest in that they have shares in irrigation schemes which have the potential to endanger fish and wildlife habitats.

Others are involved in the commercialisation of game bird hunting and angling by 'persuading' landowners to close their properties to all game bird hunters and anglers in favour of the councillor/guide's fee-paying clients. While probably legal this activity is an anathema to the founding ethics of the system which disallows the commercialisation of game birds, sports fish.

The role of these councillors in protecting game birds and sports fish for all New Zealanders was clearly compromised as was the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in attempting to deal with the issue. Some Other councillors tried, unsuccessfully, to have the issue properly addressed.

When Taylor, who has a corporate and political advisory background, took on the job in 2018 he set about trying to get the organisation to function efficiently, but the New Zealand Council was already spiralling into dysfunction and some Regional Councils were uncooperative. He is said to have been particularly worried about problems ranging from financial mismanagement to cultural issues in three of the 12 regions.

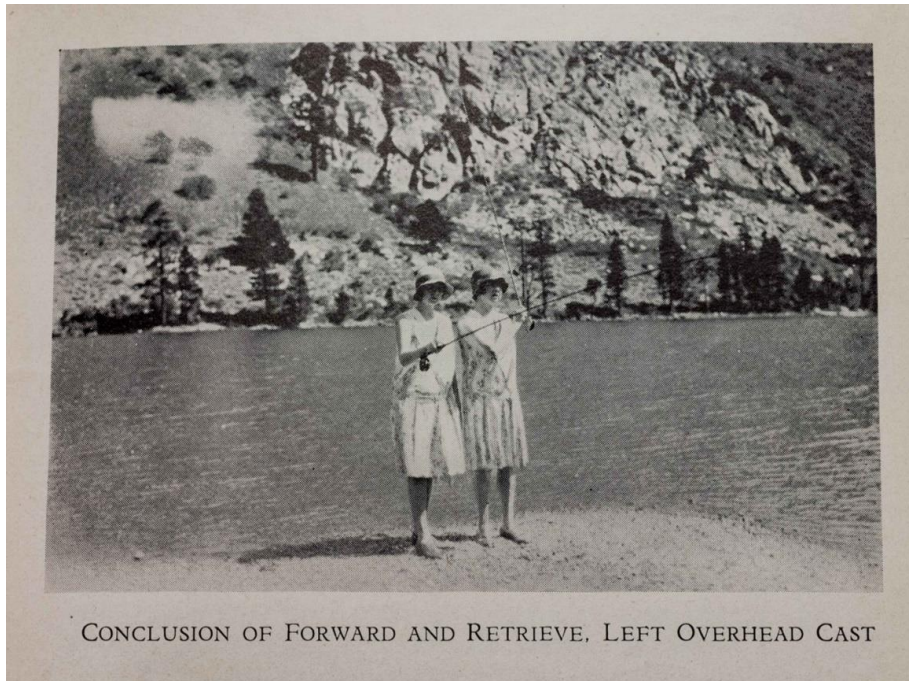
Last year he and former chairman Lindsay Lyons called for an independent government review to address some of the underlying causes. After the review was announced it was expected that the New Zealand Fish and Game Council would pull together to try and improve performance, but it seemed to stagger from crisis to crisis starting with the dumping long serving chairman Lyons. His replacement lasted just a few months before he also resigned. The council also muzzled Taylor

from making negative comments about farming. That muzzling order was later rescinded but a week ago Taylor suddenly resigned just two years into a five-year employment contract.

A former councillor has taken on the CEO role as an interim measure and that is where things should stay until the minister has at least had the opportunity to read and consider the report of the review team. The council however has announced it is already seeking a permanent replacement. That would seem to be unwise and it would be equally unwise for anyone to take on the role until any changes required by the minister are in place.

Tom O'Connor served on acclimatisation societies and several regional fish and game councils for more than forty years. In that time, he was a member of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and represented the Director General of Conservation on one of them.

Have the fundamentals of fly casting changed over time? Styles change, or do they? by John Juracek



The photo shown above is from an obscure book titled *Outwitting Trout with a Fly, Letters of a Western Angler*, written by Bertram Lackey and published in 1929. I'm rather struck by the caster's attire. Seems to me more fitting for a night on the town than fly casting instruction.

Then again, providing commentary on the sartorial choices of any female, in any era, is miles outside my ken. I'll simply note that styles appear to have changed over the intervening years. On the other hand, I feel much more qualified to discuss the casting mechanics being demonstrated. So, let's have a look at the technique depicted here, and see if it remains "in style", 92 years on.

Let's start with the "retrieve" (backcast), on the right side of the photo. The elbow position is higher here than in its concluding position; a fundamentally sound move largely accomplished by utilizing the muscles of the shoulder. Excellent work, ladies.

Raising and lowering the elbow during the casting stroke prevents most tailing loops and also sets the line trajectory properly high in the back, low in the front. It's a movement we should all strive to incorporate, in every variety of cast.

Now, check out the angle between forearm and upper arm—slightly less than 90 degrees, a somewhat closed position relative to the conclusion (and I assume start) of the cast. This isn't a serious issue. It merely means that some of the effort that could be—forgive me here—shouldered by the shoulder has been transferred to the biceps and forearm muscles. Over a long period of steady casting, that can be fatiguing.

Still looking at the "retrieve", note the relation of the reel seat to the caster's forearm. The roughly 45-degree angle between the two tells us immediately that the caster has employed her wrist to help accelerate the rod. Applause, please. Great work.

Our wrists should be used on every stroke we make, without fail. But hang on just a sec. Her wrist movement invites further critical analysis (because, as serious casting students, critical is all we know). Looking closer reveals an imbalance between her wrist and upper arm movements. By way of explanation, let's assume she's making a short cast, say, 30 feet or less. The 45 degrees or so of wrist flex she's employing is excessive for such short distances; it's tiring to the wrist and typically leads to wide, sloppy loops. This can be fixed by relying more on the upper arm and shoulder to accelerate the rod and less on the wrist. That's accomplished by raising the elbow higher.

Assume now that the photo is meant to represent a long cast. Because a long cast requires more acceleration of the rod, her 45 degrees of wrist flex is no longer a problem. But her elbow is. It's still too low. Once again, she's relying too much on her wrist to accelerate the rod and not enough on her upper arm and shoulder. Can she still be successful this way? Of course. But an over-reliance on the wrist makes casting a tiring affair and, more ominously, can lead to tennis elbow—something I've seen plenty of fly-fishers suffer through. Good mechanics dictate striking a balance, where the work of accelerating the rod is spread proportionally among all the muscles of the arm.

On to the conclusion of the cast. First thing to note is that the reel seat and caster's forearm have now come parallel to each other. This is an ideal finishing position. Getting there requires using the wrist, which as noted above is something we want to incorporate on every stroke, *in the appropriate degree*. So, well done, ladies.

Now look at the angle between upper arm and forearm—roughly 90 degrees. This is a slight increase from the backcast position. As an instructor, I teach that maintaining an approximately 90-degree angle *throughout* the casting stroke is the most efficient way to cast (excepting extreme distance). I find it's also the easiest arm position for students to comprehend and incorporate. Other instructors teach that the angle between forearm and upper arm should close and open through the stroke, but typically ending in this 90-degree position. Either way, the picture illustrates a pretty sound conclusion to the cast.

Outwitting Trout with a Fly isn't a book of casting instruction. It was written as a series of letters to a beginning angler. So, it's probably safe to say that our analysis here goes slightly beyond what Lackey intended. Then again, maybe not. Taking the trouble to stage a picture like this one (and there are a number of others in the book), shows that he's pretty serious about fly casting. He also participated in casting tournaments, another testament to a genuine interest in this aspect of the sport. So, kudos to Mr. Lackey. The mechanics his models demonstrate were "in style" back in the day and remain that way today.

So, go ahead and use these ladies as an example. Except, perhaps, their streamside attire.

Oh, wait, that's not for me to comment on ...

The last generation of trout anglers – the future of trout looks increasingly bleak by Chris Hunt



Scientists the world over have gushed enough terrifying data on the perils that accompany human-induced climate change over the last decade to where many across the globe are now numb to it. Rising sea levels? Got it. More frequent and more severe storms? Check. Longer droughts? Understood. Ocean acidification? Uh huh.

Even the latest congressionally mandated climate report produced by the federal government (and quietly released the day after Thanksgiving and disavowed by the current administration) offers up dire data—massive crop losses, economic calamities in the billions of dollars and actual human casualties will be laid at the foot of a warming world before this century is over unless we alter our approach to dealing with climate change and alter it quickly.

Sadly, wilful political and on-the-ground inaction on climate change continues. Today, we're on course to leave the coming generations a world in environmental peril, where food production will be a challenge, where oceans won't be dependable sources of fish and where hunger for millions could very well become a reality.

But those are global consequences. What about the trout? What does climate change have in store for them? And for those of us who pursue them? The latest scientific data offers this notion:

The last generation of trout anglers might very well be wandering around in diapers today.

Here's hoping this coming generation of fishers isn't forced to give up the pursuit simply because the trout aren't there to pursue. According to real data from real scientists, the loss could be foisted upon them by the inaction of the generations that preceded them, and stubborn governing bodies in the U.S. and around the world that ignored legitimate, peer-reviewed science as proof that the world was changing, and that mankind played a starring role in this unfortunate production.

If we continue on the course we're on today—if we continue to emit carbon at today's rate into the atmosphere for the foreseeable future—nearly half of the suitable habitat for all species of trout will be lost to climate change by the 2080s. That isn't a "doom-and-gloom" scenario meant to frighten us into action. It's data, based on research conducted by a host of scientists for the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

But wait. That's not all. If we stay the course and continue with our greenhouse gas emissions at today's rate, here's what we can expect to see, when it comes to the decline of the trout we love to chase:

- We will lose 58 percent of our *existing* cutthroat trout habitat in the West. Keep in mind that native cutthroats are already experiencing drastic habitat loss due to invasive species introduction, water flow changes, development and, yes, a warming climate.
- We'll lose 77 percent of our existing brook trout habitat.
- Our hardy browns? They can withstand anything, right? No. Nearly half of our brown trout habitat will be lost due to warmer temperatures, rainier winters, and winter flood frequency.
- We'll lose 35 percent of our rainbow trout habitat.

There remains a sliver of hope, but only if we act. If we are to protect the country—and the planet—from the worst impacts of a changing climate, the time to act is now. It's time to stand up and realize just what course we're on, and what kind of world we're about to deposit at the feet of our toddlers-turned-trout-anglers.

As the government's new report reads, "Future risks from climate change depend primarily on decisions made today." And the solutions are largely known, starting with a steady, yet rapid, reduction in carbon emissions and a significant investment in climate-resilient infrastructure. The latter likely won't help our trout streams, which are already warming beyond comfort levels for our cold-water loving salmonids. But the former can slow the progression a warming world and perhaps give us time to restore and arm our trout watersheds for what's to come.

And that's where "hope" comes in. More recently released science offers optimism that the work many in the fisheries world are already doing is helping capture carbon and make trout water more impervious to a warming world. Trout Unlimited (full disclosure—I proudly work for TU and have for nearly 15 years), for instance, has been restoring trout waters for decades—only recently have we learned that intact or restored riparian landscapes store carbon at a rate more than triple that of more arid lands.

There is, indeed, hope. But that hope lies in action. While some are doing good work to make the planet more resilient to a warming world, others must take on the task of meshing science and politics and put the world on a course correction. In other words, we must *do something*.

If we don't, our children and grandchildren — and the trout we love — aren't going to like it.

Editor's note: This article was written for an American magazine in 2018 and it reflects the same challenges we have here in New Zealand.

Fly Fishing Leader Design by Domenick Swentosky



Beginning anglers probably don't give much thought to the overall composition of their leaders. With so much to learn and dissect, the novice focuses mostly on fly choice, fly rods, reels, or lines. That's fair. Because fly fishing is a complicated endeavour. And it makes sense to follow basic advice, grab an extruded, knotless leader from the fly shop and get to work on learning some things about fly fishing.

Then, somewhere down the winding path of a seasoned angler, we're finally ready to consider the leader. With a fundamental understanding of casting, and some good ideas about trout behaviour, we start asking questions about the means of delivery. We finally start to consider the leader, realizing that leader composition is the most important element in presenting the fly.

What follows is not a comprehensive consideration of leader design. Instead, this is a continuation of the Troutbitten short series, Know Your Weights and Measures. The goal here is to highlight the stats to be understood — to give a wide perspective of what matters in leader design and how materials and construction affect the angler's ability to deliver and drift the fly.

What matters?

Material diameter and material stiffness: these are the two qualities that come into focus. And along with length, these properties dictate the performance of a leader.

Breaking strength matters very little. Certainly, it's good to know that our fly is tied to four pound or ten-pound test, because that fact dictates how hard we fight a trout or pull on a greedy tree

limb. But given the wide variety in leader materials, breaking strength has virtually no predictable correlation with diameter or stiffness.

Material diameter and material stiffness. That's what matters. And these two qualities determine a leader's turnover power and the amount of potential drag.

Turnover vs Drag.

Remember this: At the heart of every good leader design is an intentional balance between turnover and drag.

Thicker and stiffer material gives more power and push to a leader. 2X carries the power of our cast with more force to the end of the line, while 6X has far less punch. (Likewise, a thicker butt section carries more power than a thinner one.)

But that same 2X tippet drags more than 6X. And it may create that drag in three different places: on the surface, under the surface and in the air. Being both thicker and stiffer, 2X is more influenced by water currents than 6X. Likewise, the thicker 2X simply weighs more, so it hangs more and sags more in the air. And as always, sag equals drag.

A well-designed leader is a calculated balance between the counterparts of turnover and drag.

Diameter and Stiffness

Most anglers focus first on the tippet. And that's a great place to start.

We should know the diameter of our tippet but consider its flexibility and stiffness too. Rio Suppleflex nylon, for example, is much softer than Cortland Premium Fluorocarbon of the same diameter. So, it carries less turnover power but also incurs less influence from the water.

This kind of education starts by making no assumptions. On your next few trips to the river, spend a half hour testing things for yourself. Tie your fly to 2X and then 6X. You'll see quickly that the results are undeniable. And knowing how to match your tippet to the fly size and/or fly weight is a skill gained from these kinds of tests on the water.

Remember, terminal tippet is not the only consideration. And the full leader should be understood. So, try using thick butt sections vs thin ones. On-the-stream testing, without bias, is the best way to gain a fuller picture.

In my favourite Harvey dry leader, I often adjust the last three tippet pieces on the water. For example, if I swap out from a #18 Blue Winged Olive to what I call Light Dry Dropper, with a #14 X-Caddis paired with a #20 WD40, then I cut back the 3X, extend the 4X and finish with a piece of 5X of about 600mm. Then I trail with 6X flouro to the small WD40. Without these adjustments, I will not get the preferred s-curves to the dry fly.

This example is not for you to slavishly imitate, but to see what might be necessary to change on the water. How do I know what to alter in my rig? It comes from experimentation. I remember reading George Harvey's explanation of how to adjust leaders for each fly. But try as I might, I didn't understand the process until I put it into practice. It takes an advanced angler's mindset and a willingness to adjust.

Of course, there are keys to understanding leaders and lengths too. The longer, softer, and smaller the diameter of a material, the less power it has for turnover. And remember the corollary: thinner diameters take on less drag from currents, on the surface or below it.

All of this is equally important for underwater presentation of nymphs and streamers.

Take the popularity of euro nymphing tactics for example. I prefer a Mono Rig instead of a euro fly line because it's much lighter, so it sags less than a comp line.

But I also prefer a Mono Rig butt section that is thick enough to be powerful in the cast. Turnover is paramount to me. So, I'm not a not a fan of micro-thin butt sections, as they are underpowered, and they encourage lobbing more than casting of the flies.

Likewise, I build my standard sighter from materials that are a little stiffer and more powerful than the bi-colour material found in fly shops. Then, I often add a length of the bi-colour material to extend my sighter, during times when I'm tight lining further away.

Word on taper

Tapering a leader reduces the power created from a fly line. That's its job — to dissipate power evenly. This makes a lot of sense for presenting dry flies fine and far off. But it makes very little sense for many underwater presentations.

This understanding seems to have taken hold in the streamer world, as most of the recommended steamer leaders these days have very little taper, being composed of just a few diameters at most. But this is not the case with many nymphing leaders, especially for a tight line.

I do not want long tapers in my tight line leaders. When I'm casting a Mono Rig or even a euro line, I want to get all the power possible from these thin lines. So, I don't want a long taper. Remember, tapers are for **dissipating** power. But I want **turnover** power, and I'm trying to get that from a relatively thin line. People tend to take standard leader design principles over to tight line leaders. And in my opinion, that's a mistake.

Next time

Understanding the diameter and stiffness of the materials in your leader is critical to taking the next step as an angler, because nothing affects the performance of our flies more than the leader itself. Knowing the composition of the leader and adapting it with intention to specifically suit your own goals, is at the heart of next-level fishing.

All of these weights and measures are intertwined. And in the last part of this Troutbitten short series, I'll address what we should understand about flies and weights.

Fish hard, friends.


Members Profiles by Editor

At our last Management Committee meeting we agreed to introduce a 'Members Profile' as a way of providing our members with a little background on our members.

Introducing – Steven Taylor

Members Name:	Steven Taylor
Where do you live:	Plimmerton
How long have you been Fly-fishing?	Started saltwater Fly-fishing during the late 1980s then moved to trout fishing.
When did you start your fishing journey?	As a boy my brother and I would try to catch any fish that swam in either fresh or salt water.
Other interest:	Love of the outdoors in general with hunting, sea fishing and football. Played my last game of football at the age of 50.
First trout caught:	Legally on a trout rod on the Rangitikei river near Mangaweka on a Rep Tip Governor.
Most enjoyable time fishing:	Camping in the headwaters of the Ruahine or Kaimanawa Ranges, normally hunting but always the lookout for a fish.
A favourite place to fish:	Wherever I am able to catch them.
Largest trout caught	7-pound Brown Trout on the Rangitikei river
Mentoring members?	Whatever knowledge I have I am willing to pass on.
Availability for fishing trips:	Weekends in general, but always keen for a long weekend.
Preferred style of fishing:	Single nymph or dry fly to sight fishing in summer.
Why you joined KFFC	To meet likeminded people and to improve my fish catching tactics and fly tying.
Contact details:	021 490 177 ataylorbuilder@gmail.com

Introducing – Malcolm Francis

Members Name:	Malcolm Francis 
Where do you live:	Te Horo
How long have you been Fly-fishing?	I brought my first fly rod in the early 1970s which I still have in my collection.
When did you start your fishing journey?	As a 10-year-old boy on a local Coarse fishing lake just outside of Canterbury in Kent.
Other interest:	Art, Music, and enjoying the New Zealand's natural wildlife and environment, I spend two days a week volunteering at the Nga Manu Nature Reserve in Waikanae.
First trout caught:	In New Zealand it was on the Wairau river on a March Brown wet fly. As a 12-year-old boy I found that the local trout in the River Stour loved the 'maggots' I used for Coarse fishing, so I hid under a bridge by the Mill Pool and landed a few nice-looking trout. The local Bailiff was none to pleased with my antics and gave me a 'right ticking off'.
Most enjoyable time fishing:	Any time spent on a river somewhere is my 'happy place' plus I enjoy tying my own fly's.
A favourite place to fish:	I enjoy fishing the Waikanae river and the challenges it presents the angler.
Largest trout caught	10 lb plus on the Otaki river, caught on a Pheasant Tail nymph.
Mentoring members?	More than happy to share what I have learnt over the years.
Availability for fishing trips:	Most days, but I do volunteer work on Tuesday and Thursday.
Preferred style of fishing:	Dry fly, Soft Hackle and Nymph
Why you joined KFFC	To meet up with likeminded people who enjoy any form of fly fishing.
Contact details:	Email: malcolm1@xtra.co.nz Mobile: 027 3846596

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Since the last newsletter, the breeding Kiwi's at Nag Manu have produced two new young Kiwi chicks who have joined us at Nga Manu. The breeding Kiwis have now laid yet another egg which is fertile and if all goes well and it hatches it will stay with its parents.

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.

Club meetings

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

The venue is the **Turf Pavilion Sport Grounds**, Scaife Street, Paraparaumu,

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

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.

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

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