



Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

February 2021 Newsletter

This month's front cover: Photo of Kras trout – “It ain't much, but it's an honest day's work” Photo taken by Kras Angelov

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Club activities

Date	Event	Coordinator
Monday 22 February	Club Night - Jack Kós the Brown Trout Story	Leon
Monday 8 March	Fly Tying Workshop at Waikanae Boating Club	Gordon
TBC	Day trip to Manawatu River	Kras
March TBC	New members day – Otaki river	Michael
April dates TBC	Whanganui and Whakapapa	Malcolm
Monday 22 March	Club night – Steve Bielby DoC Waikanae River Conservation Plan	Malcolm

'Club members will be notified by email confirming the dates of planned club trips.'

You are invited to the next KFFC Club Night on Monday 22 February when Jack Kos will provide members the history of the NZ Brown Trout.

Meeting starts at 7:30pm looking forward to seeing you there

Presidents report

Crickey, it's almost the end of summer already however we now will be moving into, what I consider, one of the best times to be on the rivers and lakes, with slightly cooling temperatures and the fish feeding heavily in their pre spawning period as they move back up the rivers to spawn.

To kick this period off we are so fortunate to have Jack Kos presenting to us at Club night about the History of Brown trout in Aotearoa NZ on this Monday 22nd February.

Jack is an enthusiastic Wellington based angler as well as being Policy Adviser at Fish & Game with a keen interest in all things fishing. For those of us who were fortunate to be present at Ian Boyesen's presentation to the club on saltwater fly-fishing last year and may have seen Gian's Facebook page last week and there was a post of local saltwater legend Gian with Jack holding a monster kingfish boat fishing on the fly off the coast in our area. Jack is clearly a man of many talents.

So, come along and bring your partners as this will be an interesting presentation for sure.

The club trip to the Rangitikei river last weekend, arranged by new member Peter Blaikie and coordinated by Pete Haakman was a great opportunity for members to fish new waters and I thank both Pete's for making this happen. Remember that if you know of any good places to run trips then let any of the committee know as it is so good to be able try different places. This is a good example of our members not leaving it up to the committee to do it all. Thanks again Pete B for providing access to not one location but two!

After our Covid 19 scare this week it is so good to be able to continue to be able to keep the freedom we have got used to over the last months and from what I see on some of the fishing sites I visit on social media I am sure we are the envy of the rest of the angling world.

We have had a significant number of new members in recent months, so welcome and I look forward to seeing you on the water.

I try to make the most of this time of the year getting out on the water whenever I can and have been fortunate to have been with several members over the last couple of weeks. Without being a member of our club, I would not have met and been able to get out on the water with these guys!

Our superstar junior members Zac and Noah have developed into great anglers as evidenced by the photos in this newsletter. Go Zac and Noah!

Enough of my ramblings

Kia Kaha

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.

Our Junior members 'out there doing it'



It has been great seeing how both Zac and Noah have developed into two very effective fly-fishers over the past year, supporting the development of our Junior members is important for the future of our sport.

Fly Pattern of the Month – Caddis Nymph by Gordon Baker



Caddis nymphs are some of the easiest to tie patterns. They are also extremely effective trout catchers throughout the year. The Net Building (White) caddis, the Free Living (Green) caddis and the Horn Cased caddis, in various sizes, deserve a place in any fly box.

Hook	TMC 2457 size 10-16
Weight	Optional - lead wire, black tungsten or copper bead
Rib	Wire, thread, vinyl or tinsel, colour optional
Body	Dubbed fur, latex, cassette tape etc
Wingcase	Nymph skin or similar
Thorax	Dubbed fur, peacock or ostrich herl

Please Note

This month's Fly Tying Workshop will be held at the Waikanae Boating Club at 7.30pm on Monday 8th March, look forward to seeing you there.

Please remember that the materials for our Fly Tying workshops are sponsored by the Flyshop where you can purchase your fly tying materials, their website is; <https://www.flyshop.co.nz/>



Notice of two motions by Secretary Pete Haakman

This is to notify you that at the upcoming Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Meeting at 7:30pm on Monday 22nd February 2021, members will be asked to vote on two motions. The votes in both cases are constitutionally required because of the level of expenditure the Club needs to make on each motion exceeds the limit (\$250) that the Committee can authorise without Members' approval.

The two motions are:

1. To approve the expenditure of \$2330 on the memorial seat for founding member Austin Fraser and his Wife Lorna, both of whom passed away over 5 years ago. The riverside memorial seat has been in planning by the committee for several years now, and is at long last coming to fruition, thanks to the efforts and dedication of those members who have contributed their time to the project. The red tape has been cut through and the KCDC has finally come to the party, approving our application and our chosen location on the banks of Austin's beloved Waikanae River.
2. To approve expenditure of (up to) \$500 on the Cup or Trophy to commemorate former Club President and long-standing member Graeme Waters, who passed away last year. The Cup will be known as the "Graeme Waters President's Cup", its purpose to be announced and its inaugural presentation to be made at this year's KFFC AGM in May.

Any member unable to attend the meeting but wishing to vote may make a proxy vote by contacting the Club Secretary by Sunday 21 February 2021

Fishing the clock by Rene Harrop

Prevailing over a wary opponent like this handsome male rainbow is largely dependent on perfect presentation of the fly. Learning to present the fly from a variety of angles makes a favourable outcome much more likely.

"FISHING THE CLOCK" is a descriptive term for the ability to present the fly from any angle to a fish in moving water. Attaining this level of competence depends on mastering a variety of casting techniques that will allow you to effectively counter the host of obstacles that often present themselves. Of equal value is learning to determine the best position from which to present the fly and minimizing the length of the cast by wading strategically.

When given a choice, I prefer to make my approach from the side and slightly downstream from a large surface feeder, and with the current moving from right to left. A positive curve cast will place the fly in the trout's window of vision ahead of the leader while keeping the line well out of

view. This method of presentation requires considerable practice and is usually limited to forty feet or less. In most instances, the positive curve cast is executed sidearm with a tight loop and extra line speed that overpowers the cast. An abrupt stop of the stroke applied at just the right instant will kick the fly and leader to the left in a pronounced curve. With the proper control, the amount of curve can be as long as the entire leader or as short as just the tippet. This control comes from the tip of the rod, which must be fairly stiff in order to develop the line speed needed to make a perfect presentation.

An upstream wind can aid a positive curve cast, which can be delivered with less line speed but requires precise tip control for suitable accuracy. Too much flex in the tip will disrupt the aerial mend that allows the wind to induce a positive curve in the line.



A negative curve cast (left to right) is executed by bringing the line under the rod tip and stopping the power before the line has straightened. Drop the tip to allow the line to settle on the water in a wide curve.

A curve cast from a similar position but with the current moving from left to right requires a completely different manoeuvre if the angler is right-handed. Simply described, a negative curve cast is almost an underhand lob. With the rod held vertically, allow the back cast to dip slightly, and then sweep the line beneath the tip with an underpowered stroke that lifts the line upward and to the left, producing an upstream curve. Stop and drop the tip when the fly is in line but upstream of the target. This will kill the energy of the stroke and produce what is essentially an incomplete cast because the leader and part of the line are not allowed to straighten before the fly arrives on the water. Precise accuracy is not a general characteristic of the negative curve because it is often hampered by wind. However, with practice it becomes a useful tool for covering a sizable amount of water with a fly-first drift.

When the trout's location allows an approach from the side or somewhat upstream, a reach cast is a fairly easy way of obtaining a fly-first presentation. Begin this cast by starting the forward stroke toward the point on the water where you want the fly to arrive; then move the rod tip upstream. The fly will travel on its initial path while the line follows the rod tip upstream. Quick snap mends that add slack and length to the drift will enhance the effectiveness of this method

of presentation. A reach cast to the right is used when the current is flowing from right to left; the left-hand reach is used when the situation is reversed. As in all casts, adjust your line speed to the wind force and the distance to the target.

Perhaps the most favoured presentation among anglers of limited casting skill is made from a position nearly directly upstream from the objective. And while it can be relatively effective, two negatives can come into play when the fly is presented from upstream. It is seldom that any trout will tolerate an angler's presence within its window of vision, and it is never a good idea to allow the line to pass over the fish either in the air or on the water. This is especially true in extremely shallow water or when the angle to the target is close to being directly downstream where the line cannot be led far enough away from the drift line to avoid alarming the trout. However, I concede that there are times when a directly downstream presentation is the only option, but I usually assume it will be a one-shot deal.



A slack-line cast made downstream allows the fly to reach the fish before the line and leader. Approaching the fish and making the cast without being detected can make this a difficult presentation to successfully execute.

A careful approach is always a key element regardless of the angle from which the cast will be made. Clumsy wading practices inevitably spell defeat by sending trout warning sounds or water disturbance ahead of your advance. Each step must be taken with slow deliberation. Feel the bottom with each foot as you move forward, making certain of stability before placing your full weight on that foot. A successful stalk of fifty feet or less may take five minutes or more to complete, and it is here that many battles are lost without ever making a cast.

A downstream presentation becomes much more logical in water at least thigh deep and should not exceed a 45-degree angle unless absolutely necessary. It pays to use any obstruction such

as a dense weed bed or large rock that can shield your approach and shorten the casting range. Bending low over the water will lower your profile and allow a closer approach than were you to come in standing straight up. As a rule, you should expect the cast to be considerably longer when positioned anywhere upstream of your objective.

I consider anything beyond forty feet to be a long cast when presenting the fly to a surface-feeding trout. And of course, the difficulty of proper execution increases in proportion to the length of the cast. However, a long downstream presentation can often be accomplished with a cast that is considerably shorter than the actual distance to the trout. And this is undoubtedly what makes this approach so attractive to those of minimal experience with a fly rod.

It is not uncommon to witness some success from anglers who get by with a rather weak delivery of the fly that arrives well upstream from the target but also beyond the correct line of drift. The fly must then be pulled into the desired position by dragging it across the surface. Assuming it is still floating, the fly is allowed to proceed downstream by dropping the rod tip and feeding slack into the drift with a series of mending actions.

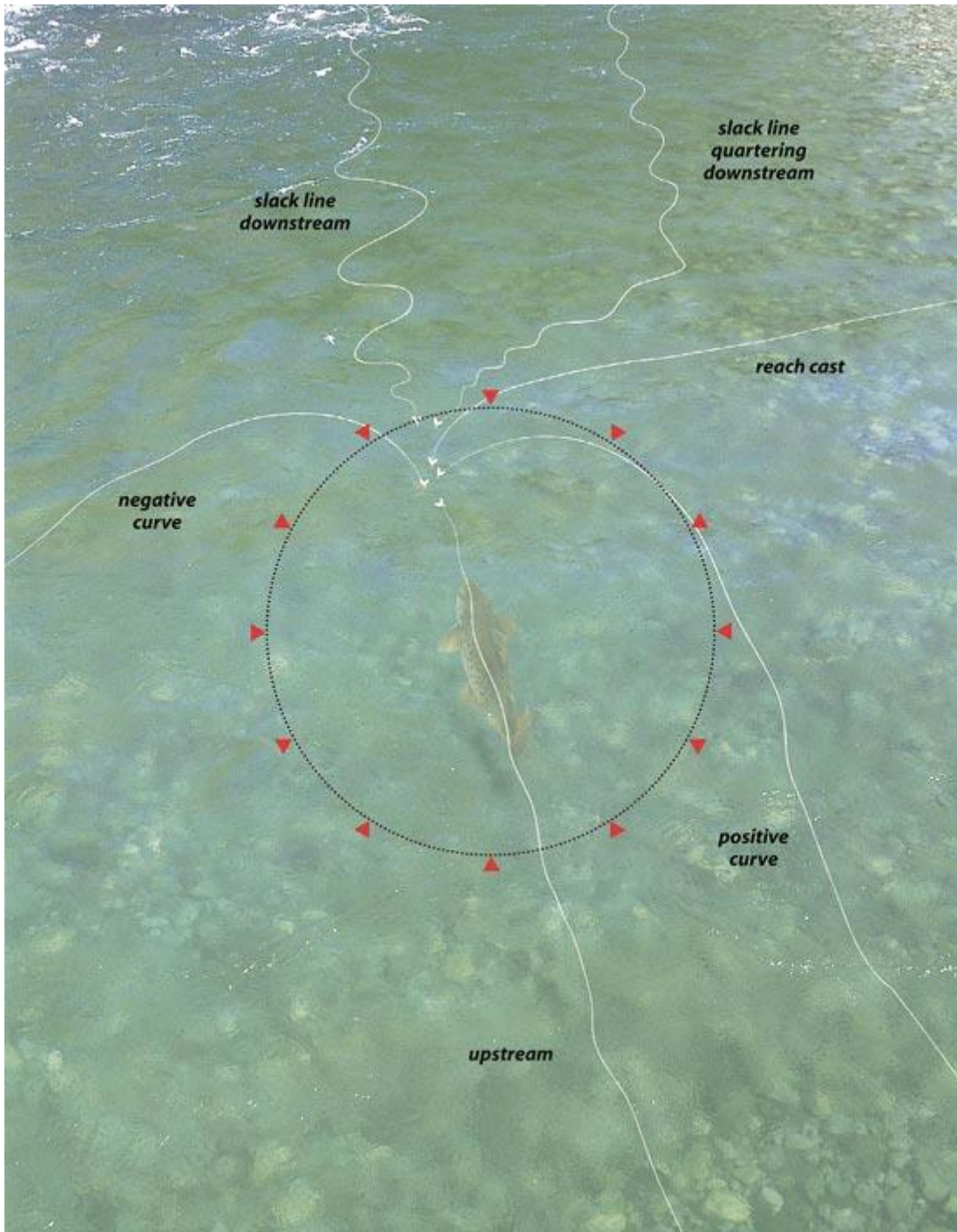
Hopefully, the trout has not been put off by all the disturbance created directly upstream. Because all slack in the leader is removed prior to the beginning of the drift, this technique is not reliable when the fly must follow the subtleties of a complex current in order to arrive at the target in a natural manner.

A much more precise and dependable way of delivering the fly from an upstream position is to use a strong casting stroke that generates more line speed than is needed to reach the target. Allow the full length of the line and leader to straighten well above the water, and then pull back sharply with the rod tip. This will cause the line to recoil back against the rod, and the leader will fall in loose curves to the surface.

With some time and a little effort spent in perfecting this technique, you will be able to efficiently place the fly where it needs to be and with enough slack to avoid drag. Using this method, it is possible to shorten the length of an otherwise long cast by depositing the fly on the water well upstream but in line with the feeding position of the fish.

A series of crisp mends with the rod tip will allow extra line to be fed into the drift as described earlier. With the correct technique and the right rod action, it is not uncommon to maintain a fly-first drag free drift for thirty feet or more. This is especially valuable in extremely shallow water where an approach to less than fifty or sixty feet will most certainly spook your objective.

If the presentation is not accepted, always remember to allow the fly to drift well beyond the trout's position before leading it away from the drift line with the rod tip. Strip the now submerged fly back upstream until you are certain that the motion of lifting the line for the next cast will not disturb the fish.



It is my opinion that the shorter you cast, the better your success, and the one angle most likely to allow a close approach is from directly behind the fish. For many anglers, however, a straight-line cast made directly upstream is intimidating despite its fundamental simplicity. I think this is because this presentation is highly dependent upon accuracy and does not allow for manipulation of the fly's position after the cast or mending to improve the drift.

In any fishing situation there is one best angle to present the fly. Learning to recognize the most advantageous casting position and being able to execute the appropriate cast come from experience and practice.

An upstream presentation is performed with the rod in a vertical position, and the stroke is made directly in line with the flow of the water. Aim the cast slightly to the side of the target, allowing only the leader to pass overhead. (The fish is less likely to touch the leader if the fly is an inch or two to the right or left.) Accuracy is more important than a long drift when fishing upstream. In slow water, a distance of two feet beyond the rise is usually sufficient to allow the fish to see the fly and intercept its drift. Faster water may require as much as double that distance. However, a fish that is holding close behind a surface obstruction such as an exposed weed bed may require that you put the fly literally on its nose. A tippet longer than thirty inches will hinder this kind of accuracy, especially when wind is a factor. Allowing the leader and line to arrive on the water before the fly will induce premature drag. This can be avoided by stopping the rod during the delivery stroke at precisely the right instant to permit the entire leader to straighten just above the surface, thereby minimizing the effect that wind has on the placement of the fly. Drop the rod tip at this point to soften the impact.

An upstream cast that angles across the directional flow of the current creates a significant increase in the difficulty of creating a natural presentation of a dry fly. A fly cast straight upstream will be carried in a line that does not conflict with the direction of the flow. Conversely, a cast made even slightly across the current will encounter quick drag as the flow pushes against the leader, causing the fly to move sideways rather than following the current directly downstream. A partial cure for this malady is to make a positive curve cast with a significant upstream mend. However, this technique can only be implemented from one side of the fish and is limited to a very short drift.

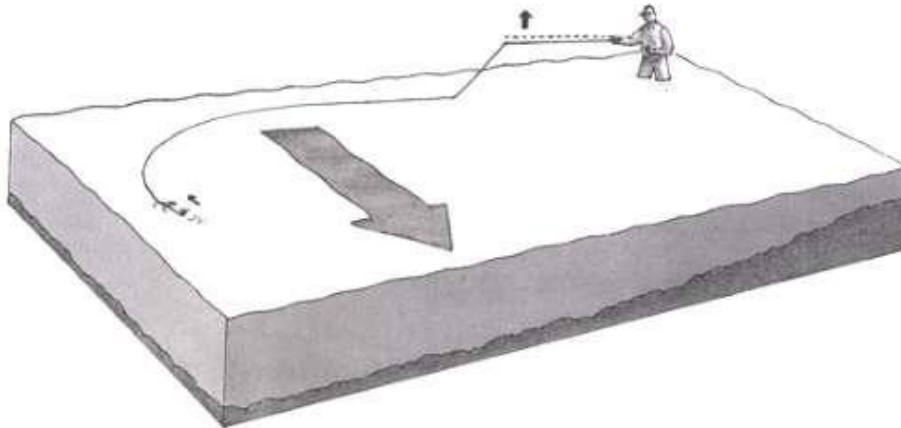
A more versatile alternative is to use a check cast in conjunction with a longer tippet of forty to fifty inches. A tippet of inordinate length always carries the potential for diminished accuracy, but there are situations when this is the best way to go. A vertical casting stroke that keeps the line as parallel to the water as possible is best applied when making a check cast. Slightly overpower the delivery, and then stop the rod sharply as the leader straightens about four or five feet above the surface. The leader will spring back toward the rod tip and then pile in loose curves on the water with more slack than is usual. Pulling back with the rod tip will exaggerate the recoil, bringing even more slack into play if desired. The result will be a considerable delay in drag producing tension on the leader as the fly drifts downstream. The check cast can be effective anytime a difficult current is working against you.

René Harrop is also author of two excellent books, The book Trout Hunter (978-0-87108-922-9) and Learning from the Water, this article is excerpted from [Learning from the Water](#) (Stackpole Books, August 2010, 224 pages, hardcover.



When drag is desirable by Tom Rosenbauer

Imparting movement to a dry fly is one of the most effective and exciting ways to fish dry flies, but it must be done under the right circumstances with special techniques that distinguish movement given to the fly.



The Sudden Inch. The fly is cast with an upstream mend or reach cast, and as it drifts downstream the rod is moved upstream just until the fly moves upstream about an inch. The fly is then allowed to dead-drift and inched again if the current allows.

IMPARTING MOVEMENT TO A DRY FLY is one of the most effective and exciting ways to fish dry flies, but it must be done under the right circumstances with special techniques that distinguish movement given to the fly by the fisherman from ordinary drag. Insects on the surface of the water move, no question, but when insects move, they do it without creating a V-shaped wake that drag usually creates. When you purposely give movement to a fly, it should look like a *skater gliding* across the surface rather than a swimmer doing the crawl.

If this is done properly, a skated fly will draw trout from two meters away, fish that might not be induced to take any other fly. It's more an active technique that you should use like a streamer fly to provoke strikes than a passive technique where you pitch a fly to a trout's suspected position and wait for him to inhale your fly.

Sometimes you need to add just a simple twitch to a dry fly to catch a trout's attention. In our Vermont streams in autumn the same debris that causes a migration of people from hundreds of kilometres away for a few short, frantic weeks while it is still on the trees is quickly shed with the first autumn cold fronts, littering the surface of our rivers with the flames of red maples, pumpkin oranges of sugar maples, burnished gold of beeches and aspens, and at the end of the season, rich brown of oaks. As soon as the first leaves hit the water, trout that would move over a half metre for a dead-drifted Ausable Wulff fly seem to lose interest.

I suspect this is because during the summer, when there is little vegetable matter falling into the river, there is a good chance that something floating on the surface of the water is food, and it is worth it for some trout to inspect most items in the drift. In the autumn, the trout have so many false alarms, rising to the surface and either turning away or inhaling a piece of inedible plant

matter, that it is difficult to catch their interest. Unlike the spring and summer, where two casts to the same spot will be all that is needed to rise some trout, in the autumn you might cast ten times to the same spot without results, then twitch the fly gently, then try another cast with a twitch, and finally twitch the fly steadily as soon as it lands and keep twitching almost to your feet. You need to distinguish your fly from all the inedible junk on the surface.

Aquatic insects invariably move upstream when they twitch, so you need to position yourself where you can move the fly upstream, which usually means working downstream or at least getting across from the place you want to cast, so that when you move the fly it moves upstream. When casting downstream, cast with an upstream curve using the reach cast, and then raise your rod tip enough to move the fly an inch or so upstream; then quickly drop the rod tip so the fly drifts back downstream without drag.

This is the simple but deadly Sudden Inch technique first described by Len Wright in his book *Fishing the Dry Fly as a Living Insect*. When casting across-stream to a position, try to throw an upstream hook using a curve cast or an upstream aerial mend, so that when you pull on the line, the fly moves upstream. You can also try to mend upstream after the line hits the water, letting the mending process move the fly, but I usually find that moving the rod and line enough to get a decent upstream mend makes the fly move too far, or it seems to pull the fly under the surface rather than skating it along the top.

The one exception to moving the fly upstream is when you are fishing with a hopper, as the trout are used to seeing a hopper move in almost any direction. If you get into a place where you think a twitched fly might work, but you can only cast upstream because of an obstruction, or in shallow water where you suspect you'll spook the fish by getting upstream of them, try a hopper.



This Vermont Hare's Ear is a great fly for skating. It's made from hare's ear dubbing and brown-and-grizzly mixed hackle, trimmed with scissors. These aren't easy to find commercially, but in a pinch, you can trim any fly with bushy hackle.

Other than hoppers or big foam flies, the flies you use with an active dry-fly presentation should be those that will skate across the surface without throwing a wake or splashing, and this means a fly with stiff, long hackles, or trimmed hackle, and also a pattern that keeps the point and bend of the hook above the surface. If your hook penetrates the surface film, the fly will resist the skating action, the hook digging into the water like an anchor, and the fly will hesitate and jerk, throwing tiny plumes of spray, rather than slipping across the top of the water like an insect.

Trimming the hackle flat on the underside of a long-hackled fly like a Wulff or variant is one way to create a good skater.

Trimming the hackle creates a wide base of blunt, stiff fibers that keep the fly above the surface film. I know this idea is repulsive to fly tiers, who spend their winters haunting the fly-tying materials sections of fly shops for expensive hackle capes with a combination of stiff, long fibers and just the right colour, but even the best-tied dry fly, made from the finest hackles, will have a variation in fibre length underneath the fly, with some of the fibers resting on the surface but others penetrating the surface film. Take a heavily dressed fly like an Ausable Wulff, one with hackle that is twice the hook gap in length, and with a sharp pair of scissors trim the hackle flat across the bottom. Make sure that the cut you make leaves enough hackle to extend beyond the point of the hook — you should be left with hackle that is about one and a half times the gap.

Other good skating flies are ones that are palmer-hackled, like an Elk Hair Caddis or a Stimulator. If the palmer hackle is stiff, is uniform in length, and extends beyond the gap, you can often get away without trimming the hackle flat across the bottom, but if the fibers show some variation in length, or if you see that the fly does not skate without making some commotion on the water, get out the scissors. One of the deadliest skating flies is also the simplest, and the dressing calls for tying in a full hackle of brown and grizzly and trimming the hackle. Called the Vermont Hare's Ear, it is simply a body of rough hare's ear dubbing tied down around the bend, with a clipped collar of hackle.

Gary LaFontaine, in his incredibly thorough book *Caddis flies*, introduced one of the premier skating flies. The Dancing Caddis, an appropriate name, features a wing of elk hair that is tied upside down, so that not only does the wing cradle the point and bend of the hook to keep them out of the water, but also, because of the wing position, the fly lands with the hook pointed up every time. To add to the fly's skating properties, the hackle is also trimmed flat on the opposite side of the wing.

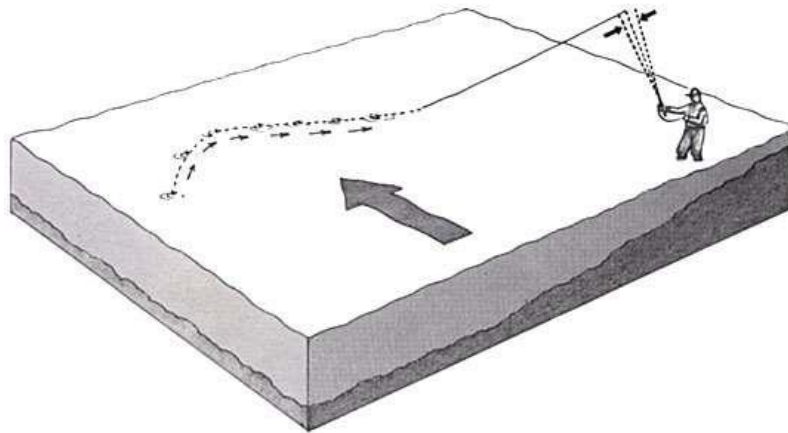
To keep your fly on top of the water, make sure that every part of your terminal tackle floats high on the water. If you don't pay attention to this, you'll make the fly dive underwater, ruining the effect. First, clean your fly line and apply a good line dressing. This is something I don't pay much attention to under most conditions, because with modern floating fly lines you don't have to dress them more than every dozen or so trips to the river for acceptable performance. But when skating a dry fly, you need every edge you can get.

Next, dress your entire leader with either a paste fly floatant or line dressing, so the leader skims on top of the water as well. Don't worry about leader shadow spooking the fish, because trout will be chasing your moving fly and won't be bothered in the slightest by the shadow of a leader.

Conditions for moving a Dry

Two conditions make skating a dry fly most effective: big mayfly duns or caddis hatching within the past week or so. Both of these kinds of insects skate and flutter across the surface of the water, and a trout's memory of seeing this seems to last for at least a week. Luckily, there are few weeks during the regular trout season from April through September that you can't find at least one of these kinds of insects hatching. On the Battenkill, a river that resists the best efforts of a blind-fished dry fly with conventional approaches, I had poor luck for years blind-fishing a dry until one day in June, during a sporadic March Brown hatch that was not bringing the fish to the surface. My Ausable Wulff started to drag at the tail of a big pool on the lower river near

Shushan, New York. As the fly started to swing, a large brown trout pounced on it by whirling around, clearing the water, and taking the fly in a downstream dive. I had not seen a trout rise all day. Of course, I hauled back on the rod so hard that I immediately popped the tippet.



Skating a dry fly. The fly is cast slightly downstream and then skated across the water with a very high rod, wiggling the rod as the fly is moved

Over the next couple of seasons, I refined my technique so that as soon as I saw the first of the March Browns hatching in the spring, I would clip a bunch of Ausable Wulffs or Gray Fox Variants flat on the bottom and would fish a skated fly from sunrise to dark, not caring if there were any flies on the water during any given hour or day. The trout would respond to the big, skated flies as long as the March Brown hatch lasted, and then a week or so after I stopped seeing March Browns hatching, the fun would be over. And it is fun to see big trout fall all over themselves trying to catch a bushy dry fly careening across the surface.

I have had similar success on New York's Ausable with either a White Wulff or a Gray Fox Variant when the Green Drakes mayfly were on, and on western rivers during the times Western Green Drakes were hatching — again, regardless of whether or not I actually saw flies hatching. This technique seems to work best if the water is a little above normal and slightly coloured, as I suspect it spooks the trout when the water is low and clear.

Skating a Caddis

About the same time, I was playing with skating the big Wulffs and variants, my friend John Harder was refining a technique that he feels is his most effective for catching trout on a dry fly when nothing is rising — the skating caddis. John has used this method on the Battenkill, on the Beaverkill, on Rhode Island's rivers like the Wood, throughout the Yellowstone area, and even on coastal cutthroat rivers near his home in Seattle. He can work magic with it, and as long as there have been caddis hatching recently, he can make a river that looks barren of trout come alive, as if the fish have been waiting for him to skitter his flies across the tail of a pool all day. John relies heavily on a Vermont Hare's Ear for this kind of fishing, but he has also been known to use a Henryville or Elk Hair Caddis if he has given away all his Vermont Hare's Ears.

It's important to note that the skating dry fly does not work in all kinds of water. Luckily, though, this method works best in water types that are difficult to blind-fish in a normal dead-drift

manner — tails of pools and other places where you find fast, slick water. Because smooth, fast water gives you such fits when trying to get a drag-free float, the skating technique rounds out your bag of tricks for prospecting with a dry. I've tried to skate dries on riffled water, and I feel that if you could get the right presentation in the riffles, it would work — but when you try to skate a fly through the riffles, the fly spits water into the air as it moves through the tiny hills and valleys. In order to fool the fish, a skated fly must slide over the surface without any added commotion.

Skating a dry fly, as opposed to just making it flutter an inch or two here and there, is a much more active, aggressive technique that you can use to cover a lot of water in just a few casts. Because you might be skating the fly six metres or more, then letting it dead drift another two, and then maybe skating it again, you can see why it is more useful on water that does not have any obvious places for trout, like the smooth tail of a 30-metre-wide pool. In John Harder's skating technique, you cast across and downstream, preferably with a rod not under nine feet long, matched with a light fly line-5-weight or lighter.

As soon as the fly hits the water, begin to raise the rod tip smoothly while pulling with your line hand, almost as if you were going to single-haul. Twitch with both the rod tip and your line hand, so the fly dances across the surface, always moving upstream. When your rod almost reaches the vertical, drop the rod tip quickly to the water, throwing slack into the line; let the fly drift for a couple of metres, then try another skate. You can usually get two or three skates before the fly gets too close to you. The difference between this technique and the Sudden Inch is that with the Sudden Inch you use a small twitch in between long dead-drift floats, and with a skating fly you fish relatively long, broad twitches in between short dead-drift floats.

With a skated fly, it seems as though the less chance you give the fish of seeing your fly the better your chances of connecting. If, for any reason, the fly starts to dive underwater as it skates, and especially if it throws any water, it's poison. You might as well pick up the cast and try somewhere else. Once the fish have seen this business, they get wise to you instantly. Also, you seldom rise a trout on the tenth cast to the same spot when using this skating technique. I have seen trout respond to the Sudden Inch after a dozen casts, but the Sudden Inch is subtle, where the skated fly is nothing short of obnoxious. My friend Jim Lepage uses a skated Elk Hair Caddis on various local rivers, and he has found that he can get a fish that has made a pass at a skated fly but not connected to rise again if he changes the colour of the fly. Everything else that Jim has discovered about skating a caddis agrees with what we have found out in other parts of the country — it's best in the tails of pools, greasing the leader, the same skittering upstream motion — so I don't doubt it will work wherever trout are found.

Skating a Nymph – Dry combination

When caddis flies or stoneflies are dipping on the water, I've often combined a big, heavy nymph and the appropriate dry fly to create a dapping rig. Tie on a dry that imitates what you've seen dipping on the water as usual, then attach a second piece of tippet to the bend of the hook on the dry fly. Half a meter to a meter is a good place to start for a length on this lower piece. Then tie a heavily weighted nymph or even a streamer to this piece of tippet — something like a Woolly Bugger, Tungsten beaded Hare's Ear Nymph, or Golden Stonefly.

Now make a relatively short cast upstream and across. Let the nymph or streamer sink a little, and then raise the rod tip enough to lift the dry fly off the water. Now, as the whole rig comes even with your position, raise, and lower the dry fly so that it just barely touches the surface and

then takes off after a quick dip. Keep doing this until too much drag sets in and the flies swing behind you. Sometimes this drives fish crazy, even when they aren't rising. It's a very lifelike suggestion of a flying insect bouncing on the surface.

On a trip to coastal Chile, where trout take dry flies more readily when skated than just dead-drifted because of the abundance of dragonflies, damselflies, and big Black Horse flies, I accidentally came up with a technique that often works wonders when nothing else works. I had been fishing a Parachute Adams with a small Prince Nymph dropper, just dead drifting this rig, when I stopped to swat a Horse fly.

While I was preoccupied, the flies swung across the current below me and a nice rainbow grabbed the dry. I then began to actively skate the dry/nymph combination across the current and found that with the nymph acting as an anchor, the parachute could skate more freely because I could lift the dry off the water and just barely skim it across the surface. I also found that, although not many fish took the skating nymph, if I stopped moving the flies and quickly dropped my rod tip to get a dead drift, they would slam the nymph as often as they took the dry. The previously slow fishing day turned into a circus, and when I got into a good run, I could often hook a fish on every cast.

Skating Spiders

Before there were fluttering caddis imitations, back in the thirties and forties, fishermen like Edward Hewitt and George LaBranche were skating spider flies on Catskill rivers with great success, particularly for large brown trout that would not respond to any other fly. Skating spiders are tied with stiff, oversized hackles, usually spade hackles, and have no bodies, wings, or tails. I know of no place where they can be purchased commercially today, but they are deadly flies. If you have hackle capes with stiff spade hackles along the side of the neck, regardless of colour, tie some up by starting at the middle of the shank of a short-shanked size 16 hook, tying in two hackles with the dull, concave sides pointing forward, and finishing off with two more hackles with concave sides pointing to the rear, so that the tips of all the hackles meet at a point. Try to choose the hackles so that all the fibers are the same length. The diameter of the hackle should be around one and a half to two inches.



A spider is just hackle on a hook — but long, stiff hackle that allows the fly to skim across the surface. You don't always hook the fish that move for this fly — but it sure is fun

I have seen rare movie footage of Hewitt and LaBranche, fishing side by side on the Neversink river, casting these oversized flies to the base of one of Hewitt's famous log cribbing dams, retrieving these flies like a modern streamer, with steady, fast pulls, the fly skimming over the water high on its tiptoes, with tremendous rises that shatter the surface.

John Atherton, the famous commercial and fine artist who lived on the Battenkill in the forties and early fifties before his untimely death on a salmon river, once spent an entire season fishing nothing but variants and spiders. In *'The Fly and the Fish,'* his only book, he wrote that although it was an experiment he would not like to repeat, he caught as many fish that season as in any other season, and most of the larger trout that took the spiders cleared the water after chasing the fly across the pool.

Atherton also noticed, as I have, that these flies most often land flat, the bend of the hook pointing down into the water, and the deadliest point is just after the fisherman begins to put tension on the line, as this makes the fly lift onto the tips of its hackles. There are few manipulations a fly fisherman can do that are as lifelike as this moment.

When fishing a skating spider, get upstream and across from where you think a trout might be and cast just upstream and to the far side of the spot. As the fly drifts even with the spot, lift your rod tip enough to raise the fly onto its hackles and let it drift over the trout's head. If you aren't rewarded with a smashing rise, draw the fly back to you, keeping as much line as you can off the water, never stopping its motion until you're ready to pick up for another cast.

Trout don't have the ability to stop and start easily once they begin to chase a fly like this and stopping and starting the fly usually isn't as effective. If, at this point, you're still not convinced that a dry fly can be as much a lure as a streamer, wait until you see a large brown trout streak across a pool chasing a spider — something you'll almost never see a trout do after a natural insect.

Another approach with a spider, or for that matter any other skating fly, is to let the fly hang below you on a tight line in one spot, as you would a wet fly. It doesn't work as often as skating the fly, but it sometimes is effective in getting into tight spots you couldn't fish any other way, like just above an impenetrable deadfall.

Creating a hatch is a topic I introduce with reluctance, because although I don't believe in the technique, some fishermen I know, experienced ones at that, believe you can make a trout think there is a hatch occurring by repeatedly throwing a fly with perfect drag-free floats to the same spot. Hewitt believed it could be done, and he wrote about it frequently.

I have tried this technique time and again, in places where I was certain there was some trout, and I've seldom been able to raise a trout after two-dozen casts in the exact same spot. If a trout doesn't take on the first cast or the fifth but rises to the sixth, I prefer to think that he just wasn't looking up on the first few casts, or that he was chewing on a mouthful of nymphs, or that the first five casts had some microscopic drag that I couldn't see but the trout could.

I have such poor luck blind-fishing by being persistent in a single spot that I prefer to spend my limited time on the water fishing over fresh places that haven't been spoiled by my thrashing and splashing. I think trout can be alerted by our presence even if they don't stop feeding, and the old saying about your first cast being the most important is nowhere more important than in prospecting.

Tom Rosenbauer has written a number of books and magazine articles, this article has been excerpted from [The Orvis Guide to Prospecting for Trout: How to Catch Fish When There's No Hatch to Match, Revised Edition](#) (The Lyons Press, January 2008, 208 pages).

Editor's note: Both these articles have been excerpted from two very good books published in America, I have made every effort to convert any measurements into metric measurements. I have a copy of both these books and found them of great value.

Remembering Austin and Lorna Fraser – our first club President by Malcolm Francis



The setting up of the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club was driven by the enthusiasm of Austin Fraser and his lovely wife Lorna, Austin was elected as our first club President. Over the years since the clubs inauguration Austin provided a lot of energy to ensure the clubs success and to make sure the correct procedures were followed, and he was more than willing to stand up at our meetings to make a point. Austin also provided a great deal of humour to our meetings and club fishing trips; I warmly remember his many humorous 'stories' and his dreaded Frying Pan sessions.

Sadly, both Austin and Lorna are no longer with us but prior to Austin passing in 2015 he donated his fly-fishing gear to the club to be auctioned off to raise funds for the club. The Management Committee at the time agreed to establish an appropriate memorial to Austin and Lorna on the Waikanae river. A big thank you to Nic Weldon and Cathie who has been working with both the Kapiti Coast District Council and the Greater Wellington Regional Council to have a Memorial seat erected alongside the river.

You will find the Memorial seat 300 meters downstream from the Old Sate Highway Bridge on the Southern side of the river, the seats are set up so that you are looking downstream.

The clubs Committee are in the process of setting up a day and time so that members can gather at the Memorial seat for a short formal dedication, all members will receive an invite to attend.

Fly girls – why women’s fishing is having a glamour moment by Tara Barker



Fly fishing is booming as a sport for women. In the UK, the number of fishing licences issued to women is up 230 percent. In North America, 30 percent of all licences are now bought by women.

In New Zealand, that figure is 24.1 percent – 25,981 women nationwide are now wading into rivers. The rise in fishing interest is being helped by young female fishing icons who are using social media to hook fans.

In Central Otago, professional fishing guide Kristina Placko charges \$500 for a day of guided fishing with her company [Stray South Fishing](#). Her social media accounts [@kristinaplacko](#) and [@straysouthnz](#) feature sun-dappled days on the river – and even paintings of fish. This is clearly a woman who lives and breathes fly fishing.

Over in the UK, [Marina Gibson](#), 30, has 61,000 subscribers to her YouTube channel for [Northern Fishing School](#), 48,200 followers on Instagram and thousands more fans for her Friday live chats on Facebook.

With her chestnut hair, [April Vokey](#), 37, looks like the Canadian version of the Duchess of Cambridge, only in waders and a woolly hat. Vokey has a hit video series on fishing for steelhead trout and 125,000 fans on Instagram.

“Women have been fly fishing forever, but participation is growing now thanks to easier access to resources and community-building through women’s groups and social media,” says angler Christine Atkins, who works for America’s Orvis fishing and sporting goods company on its [50/50 On The Water](#) global initiative to get more women into fishing.

She’s not kidding about the social media “community”. The first International Women’s Fly-Fishing Day was held last September, but because of the Covid pandemic, it was a virtual day of fishing on Facebook. First into the water was Julie Cook from the Southland Fly Fishing Club of Invercargill. sharing snapshots of fly fishing at the Mavora Lakes. Some 450 women around the world commented and shared their own videos and photos. It was like the world’s biggest fishing day out.

All glory, no fish guts: the new appeal of fishing

In many ways fly fishing is the perfect sport for these stressful times. It gets you back to nature, which is a lifeline for mental health. Plus, safe social distancing is easy when you're standing in the middle of a river.

“Fly fishing is the most relaxing thing to do,” says Jo Wills, a director and business consultant who fishes around Taupo. “I love the river, the bush, the sound of the birds, the skill it takes to cast a fly – catching a fish is just an added bonus.”

Marina Gibson agrees. “It captures being outdoors – that’s what’s so appealing. You can fish solo or with people. Fly fishing is relaxing and good exercise, and a challenge. You set yourself goals, like making your casting better. When you reach them, it gives you confidence.”

She’s sure the grow-your-own boom triggered by the Covid lockdown will boost fishing even more. “People are growing vegetables and baking bread. Fishing is part of that back-to-nature movement. It’s very eco-friendly. You get a real connection with nature when you catch your own fish. You know it’s wild-caught and healthy and hasn’t been processed in a factory.”

Gibson is filming a 12-part video series for YouTube. “The first episode is about fish welfare, conservation and sustainability. In other episodes we’ll cover how to catch and release fish properly, and how to fillet and smoke the fish you catch for the table.”

If killing fish sounds like way too much connection with nature, the sport of fly fishing is mostly “catch and release”, using hooks without barbs. Or there’s fly casting, which doesn’t use a hook at all. You just cast your line into targets floating in the water and get points for distance and accuracy. The world champion is female: 14-year-old Maxine McCormick of San Francisco.

Female-friendly fishing workshops

To hook new anglers, professional guides are running female-friendly workshops. Some stress social benefits, including “Wine, Women and Waders”, hosted by the Taupo Fishing Club, which currently has more women members than men.

Others aim to increase skills, like the workshops for beginners run by the 37-store Hunting & Fishing New Zealand retail chain. “The number of women getting into fly fishing is up a long way,” says Mike Davis, co-owner of the Rotorua outlet. “We’re also seeing more women enter fly-fishing competitions now. Women are very good at getting other women into the sport.”

Davis is especially proud of Waikato’s [Rachel McNae](#) who made the New Zealand fly-fishing team last year. “She’s been pushing really hard to get more women and children into fishing,” he says. “She’s personally encouraged a lot more women to compete in fly-fishing competitions.”

“In fact, Sport Fly Fishing NZ wants to get enough women involved to send two teams to the Commonwealth competition in Canada in 2022 – a men’s team plus a full women’s team of 11 members.”

Having more women in the sport has encouraged manufacturers to make fishing gear especially for them. “Simms make an entire line of waders for women, designed with input from female fishing guides,” says Davis. “The inside seams, hip distance and openings are different, to suit a woman’s body.” Patagonia’s women’s line includes the Women’s Swiftcurrent Waders, which tackle how to go to the toilet without having to get undressed. Instead of a male fly front, a “rear buckle system provides drop-seat function for quick relief”, the company’s website explains.

Veteran guide Brent Pirie of [FlyFishTaupo.com](#) also pays attention to what women want on the rivers. His luxury fishing trips can cost more than \$10,000 for three days, with clients flown by

helicopter to remote backcountry fishing spots on the Whanganui, Mohaka, Rangitīkei and Ripia rivers.

“We take gourmet food, a private chef, silk sleeping-bag liners, and feather pillows scented with lavender,” says Pirie. “This is not camping where you stuff a t-shirt down a pillowcase.

“We also take a chemical toilet, like in a campervan. Women value hygiene. Guys can sit in the bush for three days and not wash. Stink like racoons. They’ll dig a hole for a toilet.

“Men tend to focus on the numbers and size of the fish they catch. But women don’t have to go hard all day. It’s about being among nature, seeing birds flying over your head, looking up at the Milky Way at night. The stars are so bright in the backcountry that you can read a book at night, without the campfire. Women don’t put so much pressure on themselves to get the biggest fish, they just enjoy the whole experience of being there.”



A good catch

More room on the river this year

Fishing tourists, luxury or otherwise, aren’t biting so much this season. But at least this means there’s more casting room on rivers for New Zealanders.

Fish & Game New Zealand is actively promoting fishing to Kiwis. “We’re promoting an approach called ‘Park and Cast’ that lets you know areas with good fish populations that are easy to drive to,” says a spokesperson. “The Fish & Game website is designed to help someone who’s new to fishing understand the basics quickly and have a good chance of success.”

Mike Davis says now is an ideal time to try the sport. “Women are just as good as men at fly fishing. They pick up the fundamentals better, they become smoother. Men often think they need to out-muscle the rod, but you only need a certain amount of strength to cast a fly line. It’s more about technique and observation.”

And if you do catch a fish, Jo Wills has an excellent recipe she inherited from her mother. “Stuff your fish with herbs, butter and a bit of brown sugar. Take a whole newspaper and soak it in water. Wrap the fish in brown paper, then wet newspaper. Bake for half an hour in a moderate oven.”

Or try Marina Gibson’s trout en croûte with asparagus or Kristina Placko’s cured rainbow trout in a jar, which they share on Twitter and Instagram.

Trout farming ban continuation welcomed – Fish and Game NZ

The Government's decision to reject commercial trout farming is a responsible move and will come as welcome news to the 150,000 freshwater anglers throughout the country, says Fish & Game New Zealand.

A recently released Government response to the Primary Production Committee has declined to review the legislation that prohibits trout farming, citing that there is no analysis on the benefits of farming trout or what risks it presents to the wild fishery.

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Chair Ray Grubb says he is encouraged that the Government has given serious consideration to the adverse impact on the recreational fishery that trout farming poses.

"Trout fishing is a highly valued recreation for so many New Zealanders, with family traditions stretching back generations, and is also of significant economic value to the country. New Zealand is widely recognised as the premier trout fishing destination in the world, something the country can genuinely be proud of," Mr Grubb says.

"During Covid restrictions and in the absence of international anglers, we've seen a significant increase in Kiwis buying angling licences and travelling around their own country fishing for trout. They contribute millions to the regions when accommodation and service providers are struggling and desperately need the income.

"It makes no sense putting at risk the recreational fishery, and all it contributes to the economy and people's wellbeing, as well as our international image, for questionable gains from commercial speculators."

Fish & Game is funded solely from the sale of licences to recreational anglers and hunters; it is the lead organisation fighting for water quality, clean rivers and lakes, and wetland habitat to the benefit of all New Zealanders, and both native and valued introduced species.

Mr Grubb says the move to reject trout farming is a responsible decision by the Government. Commercialisation would be inconsistent with the good work currently being undertaken on freshwater management and policy.

"Trout are an iconic clean water species and a healthy wild population in New Zealand is an ideal and important fit with our international brand."

Internationally, commercial trout and salmon farming has had disastrous impacts on wild populations, introducing disease and causing majority environmental degradation as well as contributing to poaching for the black market.

Currently, wild trout and salmon cannot be bought or sold in New Zealand and it remains illegal to farm trout.

Yesterday was almost the last day of my life by Todd Tanner



The Missouri River in winter

I have a cautionary tale I'd like to share. Forgive me for not painting a more eloquent picture, but everything is still a bit too real, and raw, to gussy it up with pretty writing.

Yesterday was January 2, 2014. It was also very nearly the last day of my life.

I drove down to the Missouri River on New Year's Day — Wednesday, the 1st — hoping to take advantage of the 4.4 C degree weather and test a bunch of fly-fishing gear. I spent most of the afternoon on the river, and despite the cold-water temps — it was in the 0.5 to 1 C degree range — I had solid fishing and the opportunity to check out a number of new rods, reels, waders, jackets, packs, etc.

For those of you who don't know the Missouri, it's a big, wide, open river near the tiny Montana towns of Wolf Creek and Craig. It deserves respect — as does any big river — but it's not the kind of water that typically gets people in trouble. Yesterday was a little different.

There's a good-sized island I like to fish upstream from the Wolf Creek Bridge. At low water levels — and the river is low right now — I can wade out to the island and then hit the productive water all around. Yesterday I waded out to the island and walked downstream to the very bottom end. There was another angler fishing the slot where I'd usually start, so I went down below him, making sure to leave him plenty of room. I started casting a G Loomis 10' 7-weight with a sink tip line and a new streamer pattern I've been playing around with.

There was a fair amount of ice in the lee of the island, sitting in shallow, protected water and anchored to the shore. I can't tell you exactly how big that hunk of ice was — maybe 15 metres by 15 metres, the size of a big house — but I waded around it and fished my way down the submerged bar that extends below the island.

The fishing was actually pretty good. I landed three nice rainbows, lost another, and missed at least four or five other strikes. I was casting down and across to both sides and swinging the streamer across the current almost as if I was fishing for steelhead. There was faster, deeper water to my left, and slower, deeper water to my right, and I was a little over waist deep — about as far downstream as it was safe for me to go — when something hit me from behind right in the small of my back.

I turned around, and I saw that the entire ice sheet on the bottom of the island had broken free and was drifting slowly downstream, blown by the wind. I glanced left, glanced right, and realized that I was pretty well dead-centred, with nowhere to go and deep water all around. I tried to hold the ice back, but I couldn't. Then I tried to climb on to the ice sheet, but it broke underneath me. That was when the reality really hit home — I was screwed. I'd have to swim 100 yards or so in my waders and fishing gear, or I was going to drown.

It's all still a little surreal, to be honest. I was bobbing downstream, ice water slowly slipping in past my wading belt and filling my waders, trying to swim, and realising that I was getting colder by the second — and that it's damn hard to swim in waders and a heavy, wet jacket. I kept thinking about my son Kian, and about how if I didn't make it to shore, he was going to grow up without a father. I went under once or twice, but I came back up and kept going. I felt myself slipping away, and I fought to keep pushing, to keep going, knowing that there weren't any second chances waiting around the bend.

I was maybe 6 or 7 meters from shore when I hit the wall. I just couldn't go any further. I sank — and ended up on a little underwater lip that extended out into the deep slot. I pushed myself toward the bank, and then just sat there with my head just out of the water until I caught my breath. I tried to stand, but couldn't, so I crawled toward the shore and finally shoved myself upright. I staggered a couple steps, but I couldn't go any further. My waders, pack and jacket were full of water, and I was so cold and tired that I couldn't do anything but lie down on the shoreline rocks and gasp for air.

The gentleman who was fishing above me saved my life. He came down and got me up on my feet. He told me that I had to move; and that I was likely to become hypothermic if I didn't get warm soon. My cognitive functions were already shutting down, but that particular line struck me as sort of funny. I didn't say anything, at least not that I'm aware of, but I thought to myself that I was well past "might become hypothermic." Truth to tell, I was about as hypothermic as I'd ever care to be.

In any case, I grabbed his shoulders, and we went up the steep bank as best as we could; him pulling and cajoling, me with my heart racing and gasping for air. We stopped every few steps so I could catch my breath, but I just didn't have it in me — about two thirds of the way up the hill, my legs gave out

I undid my wading belt, but we couldn't get the 50 pounds of ice water out of my waders. After a second or two, we decided to pull off the waders and boots. I couldn't help. My fingers didn't work, and I was completely out of gas. The other angler took over and, after a little semi-incoherent coaching on my part — I have the impression that he'd never used the BOA lacing system before — he pulled off my wading boots and waders. Then he told me to wait and he ran to get his car.

I got up a minute or two later, struggled up to the top of the hill, crawled through a barbed wire fence, and made it into the car that was just pulling up.

He gave me a ride to my truck, which was maybe a half mile away, and made sure I was able to strip off my clothes and get the truck going. I climbed inside, cranked the heat, and sat there naked for about an hour and a half while I slowly warmed back up. I have vague recollections of a handful of other anglers checking on me — I suspect that I'm now known as "the naked guy sitting

in his truck at the fishing access site” — and all I can say is that I’m truly grateful to everyone who stopped and offered to help. Their concern means more to me than they’ll ever know.

So why am I sharing this particular story today, roughly 28 hours after I went for my swim? For two reasons:

1. First, I want to offer a very public “Thank You!” to the angler who helped me out when I was in my moment of need. I never caught his name, but I’m seriously in his debt.
2. Second, if you ever find yourself fishing a river where there’s ice around, please, please, please be extra careful. I should have left myself a safe place to exit if a problem floated down from above me. I didn’t. Don’t make that same mistake. Just because there’s no snow on the bank, or ice floating by on a regular basis, doesn’t mean that you’re safe, or that something crazy can’t happen.

Editor’s note: *The story above reminded me of the time when I thought I was about to experience ‘The last day of my life.’ A few years back I was on a club trip to Turangi and on the Sunday morning before heading home a number of us headed to the Blue Pool on the Tongariro River for our last fish. I was standing on a large boulder at the head of the Blue Pool when I lost my footing and slipped into the ‘fast water,’ I managed to grab hold of a large boulder and held on as the fast flow of the river tried to pull me downstream.*

Wearing a wading belt meant that the water never filled up the legs of my waders, but my upper body was soaked as I struggled to hold on. Thankfully, Leon saw what happened and rushed to my rescue and pulled me out of the river. The boys put me in the car and we quickly returned to Leon house and a hot shower, a very big ‘Thank You to Leon’ who came to my rescue.

A valuable lesson was learnt from this experience, I no longer wear a ‘fishing vest’ this has been replaced with a water-tight hip gear- bag which can act as a ‘life vest’ in an emergency and keep my upper body a float.

The Soft Hackled fly on the South Branch by Brian O’Rourke

Reprinted from the “NZ Fishing and Shooting Gazette” September 1955.

The South Branch of the Waimakiriri River is about 12 miles from Christchurch – a long way on a bicycle with a load of fish!

Years ago, it used to be the main bed of the river, but the upper end was blocked off to allow the speedier passage of flood waters down a specially constructed straight channel. The water which makes up the South Branch is seepage from under the gravel barrier.

Thus, the Branch rarely if ever becomes discoloured. This makes for a particularly stable bed on which insect larvae and other small aquatic creaser find a permanent and untroubled home. The great variety and amount must account for the excellent condition of trout caught in the Branch.

The greater majority of anglers use the dry fly. My first ventures on the stream were with the conventional heavily hackled dry fly. I attempted nothing fancy but merely “fished the water.”

This brought about three fish a day averaging out at three-quarters of a pound each.

About that time, I happened to read an informative book by Major Hills called "River Keeper." Hills introduced me to not only "fishing the rise" but also the art of upstream nymphing. These additional techniques brought results of bigger fish and more fish per day.

Two Angles

'The technique has two aspects: - firstly the stalking of the fish and secondly the fishing of the sunken fly.

A fly floating in and not on the surface film of the water has an advantage in that it can represent both the rising nymph and the drowned imago. In anywise it certainly takes more fish. The Black Gnat, Red Tip and Greenwell's Glory are all useful flies, however Lunn's Particular and the Partridge and Orange have proved to be most effective.

This is the dressing I use for the Partridge and Orange:

Hook size: 14 to 16
Hackle: Two turns brown partridge
Body: Orange fine tying silk ribbed with fine gold wire

The fly has no wings or tail.

It is fished upstream on 4x leader tip with the fly kept at such a stage of wetness that it floats not on, not under, but in the surface film. Should it happen that fish though not rising are yet feeding, then the fly after it has been thoroughly moistened in the mouth, can be fished as a nymph, i.e., deeper below the surface.



How the "Grey Beards" have destroyed the Planet

Checking out at the supermarket, the young cashier suggested to the much older woman that reusable grocery bags were a good idea as plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days."

The young cashier responded, "That's our problem today - your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right our generation didn't have the 'green thing' in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, lemonade bottles and beer bottles to the shop. The shop

sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So, they really were recycled.

But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Grocery shops bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, that we re-used for numerous things, most memorable besides household bags for rubbish, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school), was not defaced by our scribbling. Then we were able to personalise our books on the brown paper bags.

But too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have a lift in every supermarket, shop, and office building. We walked to the local shop and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go half a mile.

But she was right. We didn't have the "green thing" in our day

Back then, we washed the baby's nappies because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 3 kilowatts ... wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids had hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Back then, we had one radio or TV in the house - not a TV in every room and the TV had a small screen the size of a big handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of Scotland in the kitchen. We blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn. We pushed the mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

We drank from a tap or fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time, we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Back then, people took the bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their Mums into a 24-hour taxi service in the family's \$70,000 People Carrier which cost the same as a whole house did before the "green thing." We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances and we didn't need a computerized

gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 37,000 kilometres out in space in order to find the nearest pub!

But isn't it sad that the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then?

By the way ...

We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to pee us off...especially when the "advice" is being offered by a tattooed, multiple pierced smartarse who can't work out the change without the cash register telling them how much it is!

Have a nice day!

Winter fly fishing - dying to get out there? Don't be intimidated by winter angling by Ben Kryzinski



The reason many anglers either avoid winter fishing entirely or struggle when they choose to tangle with trout during the colder months has as much to do with perception as it does with reality. It's frigid outside. Maybe there's snow on the ground. The water is cold. Odds are fishing is going to be slow. Right?

Fortunately, that's not the whole story.

Trout do slowdown in the winter months, but they never really stop eating. It's true that food availability in some rivers and streams is limited during wintertime. And it's also true that a trout's metabolism slows as water temperature drops, reducing the amount of calories a trout needs to take in to survive. But survive they must, and as a result, trout eat all winter long. How much and how often is largely dependent on where and when you find them.

So, if you're winter-curious or even winter-sceptical, know that there are anglers out there, likely as you read this, who are connected to fat-and-happy, feeding winter trout while you're staring at your screen.

The water

I've caught trout during the worst of winter conditions—in blustery wind-ripped blizzards where temperatures hovered in the single digits and on bright, sunny days where the mercury managed to push above freezing. Certainly, some winter days are better than others, but truth be told, the weather above the water is less important than the water itself. If you're standing on an ice shelf trying to dredge a deep run with a heavy nymph while you're dodging ice floes, your prospects are probably pretty bleak. But if you're fishing a river or stream that might be influenced by spring water your prospects might be quite favourable, even in really cold weather.

Many great trout rivers across the country are in prime shape during the winter months because much of their flows come from spring upwelling. Springwater flows range in temperature, but some are a perfectly balmy 10 C degrees and, even if it's -10 C degrees outside, trout are enjoying almost ideal conditions beneath the surface.

Hatches

Bugs hatching in the wintertime. Yes. Absolutely. There are prolific insect hatches even on the coldest trout streams. Granted, you're not likely to see sizable bugs, but dry-fly fishing to trout rising to midges can be truly exhilarating when winter's quiet cloaks the river. If you've never experienced a great midge hatch during a snowstorm, you're missing out.

Of course, midges are tiny. A size 24 is probably about the best you can hope for (although I have seen big winter "Snowfly" midges on Wyoming's Snake River that likely pushed a size 18). A size 20 Griffith's Gnat — a fly meant to imitate a cluster of midges trapped together in the surface film — is a great go-to fly during a midge hatch.

On warmer days, even in the depths of winter, *baetis* mayflies will hatch. These prolific fall and spring bugs will hatch all winter long when temperatures aren't too cold. On cloudy days where the mercury might climb above freezing, a size 20 Blue-winged Olive is often my fly of choice.

Low and slow

Honestly, though, winter fishing is largely a subsurface endeavour. It's a great time to put your Euro-nymphing skills to work while high-sticking a double-nymph rig through likely riffle's or to cast tight against the bank while drifting a couple of nymphs under an indicator. Just like any time of the year, during wintertime trout earn most of their meals by waiting for food to come to them, so nymphing can be very productive, depending on the waters you choose to fish. If you know that, every spring, a certain freestone stream sees a salmonfly hatch, one of your nymphs should imitate a stonefly nymph.

Is there a caddis hatch around Mother's Day? Your second fly ought to be a caddis nymph. Midges? Think about a small, simple fly, like a Zebra Midge tied with a small glass bead to imitate the emerging air bubble the small bugs use to float to the surface. Let the fly drift, and

then swing out beneath you like a midge coming to the top. You might be surprised how well you do.

The flies

Assuming you're including some of the suggestions above, consider the following fly's that should be in your fly box when you hit the river in the winter.

Griffith's Gnat

This midge cluster pattern in sizes 18-22 will cover most of your dry-fly needs when you see trout rising to very small flies during the winter months. I tend to fish a Griffith's Gnat about 18 inches behind a much larger dry fly (like a size 16 Adams), simply because, when there are lots of naturals on the water, I have a hard time telling when a fish is after my bug or the real deal. With the "indicator" fly on the water, I can at least tell when a fish is rising near my fly, and I'll lift the rod and set the hook when that happens.

Prince Nymph

This heavy, gaudy nymph is a great searching pattern during the winter, and, depending on its size, it can imitate either a stonefly nymph or a caddis nymph. I like to tie my Princes big — sizes 8-10 — with rubber legs. The iridescent peacock herl and the white goose biot feathers make this fly really show up in the winter.

Girdle Bug

A simple fly is often the best fly, and I won't fish my favourite spring-fed river without a box of weighted Girdle Bugs. The rubber legs vibrate in the current and it's just buggy enough to get consistent looks from winter trout.

Copper John

Tied with gold, red or green wire, this John Barr creation is an excellent winter fly. It sinks fast, boasts high visibility, and can be tied a variety of sizes. Bigger versions are great caddis imitations. Tied with green wire in sizes 18-22, the Copper John is a great BWO nymph pattern.

Perdigon nymph

This Euro-nymphing staple sinks like a rock and, when tied with bright "hot spots," really shows up under water. It's an excellent "point fly" on a double-nymph rig, but it's just as good as a dropper under an indicator. Read all about Perdigon nymphs here.

<https://www.hatchmag.com/articles/perdigon-nymph-pellet-fly-isnt/7714975>

Woolly Bugger

The good, old Woolly Bugger. Sculpins are active in the winter months, and 'buggers might be the simplest way to imitate them. Don't hesitate to swing or drift streamers in the winter. Sometimes a big bite of protein will distract midge-sipping trout.

Remember it's cold out there!

First and foremost, before you head to a stretch of river that might be just a hair above freezing, take the proper precautions. Wear layers of non-cotton clothing, particularly the layer against your skin. Consider old-school neoprene waders, double up on your wool socks and make sure you've got a fleece layer between your waders and your legs. Gloves can be a good idea, but if you get them wet, it's a recipe for disaster.

Winter windburn can be miserable — wear a face-gaiter or something to ward off the worst of the chill. Ditch the ballcap and go with a fleece beanie instead — most of your body heat escapes from your head. A waterproof puffy jacket or a heavy-duty rain jacket atop several layers is a good idea, too.

Finally, drink a lot of water to stay hydrated. Leave the boozy concoctions at home.

If you're not safe while fishing in really cold conditions, you're inviting disaster. Hypothermia sneaks up on you, and by the time you realize you're in trouble, it might be too late.

Just go

Most importantly, don't be intimidated. If you're aching to go fishing, winter angling is perfectly doable. Be smart, know your limitations and do some basic research. Go fishing. It beats staring at the screen.

Characters on the stream by Toney J Sisk

We've all seen them--Characters.

Fellow fly-fishers who have given us pause--either because they inspire us, humour us . . . or cause us to run the other way. The following is a collection of people I've seen or fished with who strike me as interesting fishing characters (some bizarre, a few possibly insane).

None of these characters remotely resemble you or me, keep in mind. And it is not relevant that some of them catch more fish than you or me. That's not the point.

The point is . . . well, I'm not sure what the point is, but follow along anyway.

The entomologist – This one knows bugs – all bugs. Doesn't even have to make up a bug name, can pronounce the scientific names of all bugs, as evidence by his pointing out them correctly. Has one fly box for every species of midge, caddis, and stone fly, two for mayflies and three for spinners. His six "summer boxes" have dozens of grasshoppers with three colours of legs, ants in three shades of cinnamon, locusts (in preparation for the 17th year hatch) and billions of beetles.

He has no Woolly Buggers. Often seen peering into small streams, exploring two-inch fingerlings with the same excitement as the Rambo type (see below) fighting a 38-inch steelhead. Sometimes dons scuba gear in two inches of water, getting animated about little pink eggs. Has an uncanny knack of pulling fish out of any water, including city creeks. He can pull a 12-inch trout out of your bathtub.

The Connected Crowd - This is the walkie-talkie/shortwave fly-fisher, possibly touting a GPS and mapping software on his car laptop or palm-sized digital assistance. If he doesn't have a fly



on a line, he is researching fly fishing online, and has his browser's favourites set to every fly fishing and insect database in existence.

Where spotted: trout streams. He needs a worthy adversary. This one has the stalking skills of a sniper, that's why he brings a friend as a spotter with a walkie-talkie. Some may even be using drones and, launching their thoughts over the latest social media platform.

Rambo with a Fly Rod - A very courageous fly-fishing warrior. He has fished where no man has fished before. Has his proven trout flies pinned into the wall above his bed, to "impress the girls." Has been known to follow a small drainage for four days with a 25-kilogram pack on his back, with a compass or GPS in one hand and a fly rod in the other. Catching 10lb trout the colour of which has never been seen before, doesn't even have to lie as he sucks all the air out of the club house proclaiming his gift to fly fishing godliness. When not in the mountains, is sometimes seen with the Connected Crowd.

Average Joe - This one has just started out fly fishing 10 years ago, dropped the sport for five years, and is picking it up again, and again, and again each season. Has 6 types of flies, but fishes with only a Royal Wulff, but is beginning to think about bead-head nymphs. Will dutifully listen to anything you have to say about fishing but won't understand anything you have to say about fishing. Will automatically assume you are a better fisherman and worth listening to because . . . well . . . you're the one doing all the talking and he is nice enough to not tell you to shut up.

The Terminator - Has the cunning of backyard cat. Tee shirt reads, "I practice catch and kill." Bumper sticker reads "My other car is pan-fried fish." Fish is food--no ifs, ands or buts. One thing is certain: this one is getting plenty of Omega-3 fatty acids and will outlive you or me. He wants big fish, really big fish, and catches them with one of five flies: black woolly bugger, red woolly bugger, brown woolly bugger, olive woolly bugger, and a yellow woolly bugger. Could easily beat the crap out of 12 Entomologists types, sometimes seen with the Rambo type. Show him a chironomid and he'll punch you. Mention that he should try an Ephemerella mayfly pattern, and he'll beat you up.

No Fish Guy - This is the person who is dutiful about all aspects of the sport. Practices casting on the odd occasions, studies bugs to an extent, and buys reasonable flies. Kicked over a rock once to see what was underneath and then decided what he saw resembled bugs in books but nothing he or anyone else has ever tied. Catches small fish but seems happy anyway. Also known as most everybody.

The Old Man - This man fished with Theodore Gordon, so he says. He probably has. He ties Bumblepuppies, Tup Indispensables and Cock-y-bundhu patterns just for laughs and shows them to the "chironomid kids", as he calls the young kids on his once favourite lake, which he'll constantly tell you was His lake until fly fishers started becoming more numerous than the midges.

Being resourceful with materials at hand when need be, he has been known to tie with dog hair, but mainly ties with starling wings and bizarre parts of mammals and birds from English parts of the world. Sometimes found crouching next to a stream tossing ancient flies to a trout named 'George' who has been caught and released hundreds of times with the old man's flies. The fish will soon die of old age or boredom.

The Agnostic - For him there are no fish here, no fish there, no fish anywhere. When confronted with an unsuccessful day of fishing, he assumes the fish weren't present. Sometimes suspects winter kill or human intervention. If it's true that 10 percent of the fishermen are catching 90

percent of the trout, then the Agnostic assumes the remaining 90 percent of the fishermen are catching not much more than nothing (and probably using attractors). Disturbingly familiar person, though not to be confused with you or me.

The Shop Guy - This person has the finest flies, all tied by people who don't fish and who live in countries not easily pronounced. Easily recognised by the plethora of clothes and gear more expensive than the cheap stuff you have. Sometimes donning the latest design in fly vest/bag combinations complete with hydration system and possibly a radio, if not a GPS. Knows the actual flow of every river and stream within a thousand kilometres. By definition, shop people are very nice people, but like many, won't shut up. Can sometimes be seen with the Connected Crowd.

The Woolly Bugger Guy - Has only one fly box. Doesn't like the fact that 90 percent of the fish are caught by 10 percent of the fly fishers and plans to do something about this with Woolly Buggers. Ten percent of the fly fishers are getting really pissed.

The Well-Travelled Angler - This one has been on every stream in every continent on the earth. He has fished in more places with unpronounceable names than you can find in an atlas or online. "Then there was the wild anadromous brook trout in Lake Abacikerizeryz on the northern ridge of the Ural Mountains in Russia. You won't find that place even on the internet." He would rather talk your ear raw than fish. A great fisherman just ask him.

The Beginner - After talking to the Shop Guy, this one appears on the stream with half-a-shop worth of gear: Gortex hat, coat, gloves, vest, underwear; fly rods named after exotic metals and polymers and geometric shapes; boots that actually fit well and don a podiatrist's endorsement; flies beautifully tied (unlike the crap you and I tie) by people in countries who are in the news a little too often for vague political reasons. Sometimes seen fighting a fish bigger than you and I will ever hope to catch, running up and down the river like he has just stuck the devil. Damn it.

The Other Guy - Stands in the middle of the stream, not fishing. Not doing anything, just staring at the edge of the stream, looks around more than fishes, bends down on occasion. If you are lucky, you'll see him raise his arm for a single cast toward a crease in the current only he, the fish and a nearby rock know about, and then catches the largest fish in three states. He knows you're watching. He knows what fly you are going to use before you do. The only reason you see him is that he probably allowed it. Don't bother being like him. You can't.

The Girlfriend - Doesn't have a clue how to impart the kind of precise action to a fly that took you 15 years to learn, doesn't understand mayfly entomology. Thinks a spinner is something you do in the parking lot. A nymph is something she'd rather not talk about, catches more fish than you do. Don't get her started on fly fishing. Has tendency to learn quicker than you did and manages to stay put long enough on the edge of a stream and catch the fish you missed.

The Morally Superior - Doesn't even fish. Don't talk to him. When he asks why you hurt fish, tell him "I fish; therefore I am." Be careful, though. He may be right. If a fish ever spoke one word to me, I'd hang up my gear for life.

Any resemblance of the above to actual people you've met is entirely possible, but probably coincidental and imaginary.

Members Profiles

Introducing Michael

Members Name: Michael Murphy



Where do you live:	Otaki
How long have you been Fly-fishing?	First started in the 1950's fishing the Otaki and Waikanae rivers plus we had a Bach at Tokaanu where my Dad, brother and I mainly fished the TT and Waimarino rivers as the Tongariro was a big, dangerous river for young lads in those days. Bamboo rods and streamers then. A bit more in the 70's with family there then a big break until 2007 in Christchurch when I started up again and had to learn this nymphing lark.
When did you start your fishing journey?	It has been intermittent (as above).
Other interest:	Family, campervanning (especially at good fishing spots). Fly tying. Previous overwhelming passions at the time include Bowhunting, diving, sailing (built two yachts) and Four-wheel driving.
First trout caught:	A 1.5lb caught night fishing in the pitch black with my Dad between the Main road and rail bridge on the Waianae river. I could not see the fish till I landed it
Most enjoyable time fishing:	Any time I am catching fish.
A favourite place to fish:	Anywhere the fish are. Rivers, lakes and the sea.
Largest trout caught	A number around 8lb however the magical 10lbr still eludes me
Mentoring members?	Chris Moy, Malcolm, Gordon Baker and occasionally my son- in-law Leon have helped me a lot. Happy to help new members.
Availability for fishing trips:	Pretty much any time and as long as my body holds out as that's what retirements all about!!

Preferred style of fishing:	Nymphing, dry flies, streamers, boat fishing however I am keen to try different styles
Why you joined KFFC	To expand my fishing knowledge and places to fish as well as to get more fishing mates. It has worked!
Contact details:	28 Ludlam Way, Otaki. Phone: 0275 918734. mnkmurf@gmail.com

Some photos from our January meeting

It was great to see a number of new members attend our January BBQ Family meeting as well as present members, Leon and team did a great job of providing an endless supply of hot sausages.



A promotional poster for a Kiwi Night Encounter at Ngā Manu Nature Reserve. The background is dark with a central image of a kiwi bird illuminated by a spotlight. The text is in white and yellow. At the top is the Ngā Manu Nature Reserve logo, which includes a stylized kiwi head. Below the logo is the title 'KIWI NIGHT ENCOUNTER' in large yellow letters. A circular call-to-action bubble on the right says 'CALL 04 2934131 TO BOOK'. At the bottom, there are two columns of text: 'Share in the magical night world of kiwi!' with a '\$5 Discount for Friends of Ngā Manu' below it, and '1 ½ hour experience:' followed by a bulleted list of prices for adults, children, and a row of 5 seats.

Ngā Manu
NATURE RESERVE

**KIWI NIGHT
ENCOUNTER**

**CALL
04 2934131
TO
BOOK**

Share in the magical
night world of kiwi !
\$5 Discount for
Friends of Ngā Manu

1 ½ hour experience:

- Adult (Age 16+) - \$35
- Child (Age 7 -15) - \$25
- Row of 5 seats - \$150

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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