



Southland Fly Fishing Club

In the Fly Vest

Mar 2010

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www.SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz

"Ripples"

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club
PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand 9840



The club was founded in 1974



[Cover Photo...](#)

Dave Harris with a beautiful 7lb—25" brown trout from the Wairau River, come to the next meeting a see a presentation on the Wairau and some excellent photos of the area



[Around the Club](#)

Since the last publication, there has been a fishing competition organised by Simon Budd, this was an excellent weekend last year, and one that more people should take advantage of, this gives you the opportunity to hone your skills with another club member, while enjoying the camaraderie and stories, read the report later in the newsletter. Thank you to Simon for organizing competition.

The annual club evening on the river, complete with a BBQ,s and food arranged by Linz, this turned out to be another great night on the river. Food cooked out on the river bank in fresh air, seems to make food taste so much better, or was it just Linz's excellent cooking? I for one enjoy going out just for the food, the fishing is a bonus. The rise did not appear until some time after dark, by which time most had gone home, leaving Chris McDonald and Simon Budd on their own to feast on the rising fish. Simon landed 4 including one of 3.5 lbs and Chris landed 6 with the best being 2.5 lbs. Next year I just might stay longer. Thank you Linz for organising the BBQ.



Simon Budd, Darin Borcovsky and Derek Wright enjoying a beer at the BBQ

Dave Harris organised a boat trip up the North Mavora Lake during the last weekend. There were three members on the trip, Dave Harris, Les Ladbrook and Darin Borcovsky. Darin is going to provide a report on the trip which will be in the next newsletter.

Guest speakers:

We urgently need some guest speakers for a couple of meetings, so if you have any ideas, please pass them onto Dave Harris, contact details on the last page.

Food for thought:

It is still some months away until elections for the next year come up, but it is time for people to start considering putting themselves forward to take on any of the positions of executive, or being on the committee. Don't leave it to the same old keen few, you only get out of the club what you put into it.

The editor will be overseas August/Sept this year, and would like someone to put their hand up to fill in for me for these two months, should I still be editor next year. If you are interested in any part of this feel free to contact me if you would like more information.

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Wairau Fishing Adventure

Dave Harris & Les Ladbrook

Fri 29th Feb 2010

Over a year ago Dave Harris stated he would like to fish the Wairau River one day, before they raped and pillaged the river, screwing it significantly for fishing, by putting a dam on it and diverting a large amount of the water. This of course will stop the fish from being able to travel up and down the river during the season, this is what they do now. One day they can be found in one location, next week they might be several kilometers downstream or upstream from their last location, this has been proven through tracking. It will also affect spawning, which as you know replenishes trout populations for the river. After some discussions with Dave about the area, Les too was keen on the idea, and has always enjoyed trips away with Dave, whether it is a boat trip up the Mavora Lakes or a trip into the Greenstone with Dave and other members of the club. After nearly a year of anticipation, the trip to the Wairau River was finally here. The last two weeks before departure saw Dave and Les preparing in earnest for every eventuality we might come across in 6 days of fishing an area totally new to us both.

Going through and checking every piece of gear we wanted to take, from flies to tippet, with a complete selection of rods, reels and lines, including fly tying gear, in case there was a special fly we needed to tie. Who knows we may have struck a day where we could not fish. Rods and fly lines were checked and cleaned, new leaders put on and all line connections renewed. Any suspect items were replaced.

17:30 Friday 26th Feb Dave's Jeep arrived down the drive, Les was ready and waiting with all his gear, and I mean "all his gear", every situation or possibility covered. Les counted that Dave only had six of his 10 rods in the back of the truck, was that really enough Les thought, for he only had two rods. The gear was carefully but quickly placed in the Jeep and in 15 minutes we were off north, arriving in the Oamaru Motor Camp later that evening

Saturday:

Dave & Les left Oamaru next morning heading for St Arnaud where we were booked in to Travers-Sabine Lodge for the next 7 nights. The anticipation and excitement was really starting to build, we were hoping for some fantastic dry fly fishing, would cicadas be present, we would just have to wait another day and see. Weather had so far been fine and sunny, with excellent prospects for great weather for the whole of our trip, this turned out to be the case. On the way through Christchurch we picked up groceries and continued northwards.

Heading through Calverdon temperatures had reached 30 degrees plus, so a brief stop-over for a sandwich and a cold drink was needed, before continuing on the final leg of our journey to St Arnaud.

We finally arrived at Travers-Sabine Lodge, to be greeted by a very nice couple Yvonne and Richard Leppard, who a couple of years ago had sold their farm in Southland to take on a different lifestyle in the tourist industry running Motel and Backpacker accommodation. This place has everything you need to make your stay very comfortable, for example the kitchen has everything you need from cutlery, dishes, pots and pans and a couple of hard working fridges. Dave and I would recommend this place to anyone.



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Sunday:

We rose at 6:30am, inspected the weather, blue sky and sunshine – smiles all round. As we had planned we sat down and had a leisurely breakfast, no lunches to be made as we had decided all lunches would be “Back Country Cuisine” made right here in Southland, nice and easy!

Around 8am we were heading off into bright blue skies, towards the Wairau River which is only a short distance away from St Arnaud. We drove towards the saddle between St Arnaud and the Wairau Valley feeling on top of the world. Dave pulled the Jeep up at the turn off to Rainbow Valley, so we could check the weather and make a decision on whether to head up or down the valley, unfortunately the wind was quite strong and would have been in our faces all day, not a good start. So we headed back through St Arnaud, and just a couple of kilometers down the road and there was virtually no sign of wind, that was positive, and we continued on down the valley with the Buller River (see photo below) on our right for a few more kilometers and as the river came near the road the vehicle turned around and parked on the verge, yes I mean the vehicle turned around, there was no discussion, it just happened as if the vehicle knew better, we leapt out to inspect the water from our vantage point.



From the roadside it looked “perfect”, what little breeze there was, was in our favour – upstream. With-out so many words, we were soon putting on the fishing gear and batting off the sand flies off like mad at the same time. We quickly learned over the next few days, not to leave any skin exposed for very long, particularly early morning.

As usual Les likes to wander down to the river and see what is going on before deciding which fly to use, but not Dave, he ties on his favourite “Royal Wulff with Hare & Copper dropper” then off he goes regardless. Dave had already put up a couple of casts up the near bank, but prospects looked far

better on the other side, so he quickly crossed over the river (finding it much stronger than he had anticipated) and had a fish on before Les had even managed to get his line threaded through the rings of the rod and flies tied on. Was this going to be an ominous sign for a good day, not as it turned out, if I recall right we did not catch any more fish until around lunchtime onwards. Dave managed to land three smallish fish, and Les landed a nice little 3lb brown – sighted first of course, that is the way we prefer to fish. There were plenty of nice pools with crystal clear edges and perfect runs, that should have contained many fish, not sure why they were empty, the only thing found all day was plenty of didymo.

All in all for our first day, while not hugely successful in terms of fish, the atmosphere, sunshine, beautiful looking water and very pleasant surroundings made for a very nice first day, but more importantly Les finally had a fish for the February competition.

Back to St Arnaud, where we checked out the Buller River outlet from Lake Rotoiti with the plan we might do some night fishing, we never did, by the time we got back each day we were too tired, or on most occasions had already had a good day, why spoil it with fishing around the lake edge in the evening with more sand flies per square metre than sand grains on a sheet of sand paper. Under the wharf there resides a bunch of good sized eels that come out in the evening, or when there is some food around. We did feed them one night with a bit of road kill, a great sight to watch the eels finding the food, attracted out from under by the smell of a tasty morsel nearby.

At the end of every days fishing, we were generally arrived back at our accommodation by around 5-6pm each day. A quiet beer while relaxing in the shade for a short while, then submerging & cleaning all our gear in Dave’s big bin of soapy water ready for the next day.

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Les cooked the evening meal each night, which consisted of meat, potatoes, and 3-4 vegetables. Our plates were envied by many of the travelers stopping for a night.

Monday:

We arrived at the saddle to the Wairau River valley and it looked like this was going to be our day, the wind had turned around and was gently blowing upstream. Exploring started, we stopped and inspected a couple of access points as we headed upstream, arriving at a place near Dip Flat. We fished all morning, only seeing two fish, one of which Dave had a few casts to before it headed off into safer water. Plenty of walking, big boulders and fast water that drops quickly as it runs through the valley, not what we were used to in Southland unless you are fishing the likes of the Waiau River. Back to the Jeep for lunch, then we continued our search upstream for some fish. Mid afternoon we found some nicer water, and in a pool which Les had been fishing up blind, Dave spotted a fish well out which Les tried to reach, but it was all in vane, the fish took the fly and failed to hook up. In the meantime Dave flicks his dry fly out just above Les and proceeds to hook and land a nice fish. By the end of that pool we had hooked five fish between us and landed two, they were 4.5 and 6.5lbs, we were now happy we had at long last found the action we were looking for after a very hot, windy and fishless morning.



We moved upstream, and it was not long before Dave hooked up on a nice fish [cover photo] came up to a Royal Wulff, which after some playing in heavy water, and Les's skills with the landing net a beautiful 7lb – 25" Wairau brown trout was landed, and I thought we were already in heaven with such a great day until a few moments later. There was another fish in the same piece of water Dave had taken his fish from, he proceeded to fish it again with the dry/nymph combination, but could not get the fish to come up to the dry. It was now Les's turn so he put on a double nymph rig and stepped in to where Dave had just been casting from and put a cast up into the run, the line stopped, and Les instinctively lifted, "yes!!" he was into a 'good fish'. It headed out to faster water and started sliding downstream, Les had all the pressure he was willing to safely apply on the fish, but was not making any headway. He knew it was a good fish, but how big he did not know at that stage, for he had only caught brief glimpses of it here and there. In the middle of the stream there was a very large boulder, the fish carried on downstream on the far side of course, going around the boulder snagging the line up good for Les. Several thoughts were going through his mind, he wanted desperately to land this good fish, so he hurriedly handed his pack and fly vest to Dave contemplating he might have to go for a swim (as it turned out he didn't need to, and it might have not been wise to do so, given the depth of the water and the current right there). After several attempts at flicking and roll casting the fly line, he managed to get the line over the rock, only to be hooked up around a similar sized rock a few meters down stream, this time it was much easier to get the line over it and he somehow still had the fish on, how I don't know, it should have been free by now.

With the skilful help of Dave's netting, Les was holding his biggest ever brown trout on the fly, an 8lb – 25" beauty in every shape and form, perfectly conditioned, beautifully marked and light brown in colour compared to Dave's fish from the same water. Les could have danced across water, let alone all the way home. We didn't care what

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the rest of the week was going to bring, we were both very happy with the day! Around 4pm the shadows started appearing over the river as the sun moved westward, so we packed up and headed back to St Arnaud.

Tuesday:

We headed a little further up the Wairau this day, somewhere near 6 Mile Creek.

Fishing upstream until around 4pm, it was hard going again, big boulders and very few fish to be seen. You can go for long distances between fish, but when you do find one, it is normally a good size and the average here seemed to be around 4lb or better. Dave and Les caught two fish each with the biggest being 4lb and 4.5lb respectively.



Wednesday:

The weather was again a repeat of Monday/Tuesday, fine, sunny and an upstream breeze, this continued right through until midday on Friday when there were some shifts in wind direction, but nothing that would stop us fishing the day out to the end.

Today we decided to try a section of river downstream quite away, just above Wash Bridge. Entering the first F&G access point, we headed down stream for an hour so we could fish back to the truck. This was some of the best looking water we had seen so far on the trip, some nice deep blue/green pools with lovely runs and tails, but too big to make easy crossing in many places. Even when a suitable crossing spot was found, we found it a definite advantage to have wading sticks to assist crossing the river and we recommended them. It was another good day on the river, sunshine with cicadas chirping, but only two fish seen with Dave fishing to one of them. This was to be a day where we got skunked, but no matter we enjoyed the day, and tomorrow could only get better.

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Thursday:

After some investigation into another river below Wash Bridge which we found to be full and dirty, we headed back up the Wairau and into the Rainbow valley proper.

We stopped at the toll gate, where we also met two other fishermen (a guide of all things) heading in the same direction, and after some friendly discussion, stated the areas we would each fish, allowing enough water for both parties to have a good days fishing. We filled in ACC forms and paid our \$25, and with some directions from the friendly gate keeper and his dog we headed up the road. Parking the Jeep, and quickly gearing up as it was now around 10am, we strode off downstream for about 20-30 minutes to the point we wanted to start from.

The first main pool proved very productive with Les landing a nice couple of very well conditioned browns at 4.5 and 5lb, then another poorer conditioned 6lb fish in the next run above. This day it seemed most of the fish were on Les's side of the river. Tally for the day was Les – 4 and Dave 1.

Friday:

Our final day, we drove back to where we finished the day before, and had the place to ourselves—heaven.

Again the day was perfect weather wise for the area we were in, the scenery was something to be admired, and the water was perfection, all that was needed was to see some fish.

Dave fished to four good fish in the first pool but failed to hook up on any of them, even after some guidance from the cliff above by the station gate keeper who just happened to be passing.

Today we swapped sides of the river we were on from the day before, and it was Dave's turn to be in the thick of it, dropping 4 fish, landing 3 while Les hooked and landed 1 fish.

But I must say the last fish was what they call an "our" fish, Les spotted a shape in the rocks on Dave's side from the his side of the river. Les waited for Dave to catch up, then using the radio's, carefully directed Dave how far to go upstream and then into position in the water, then once there Dave could see what looked like a fishy shape. Second cast and the shape rose to Dave's fly (a Royal Wulff of all things, perhaps Dave will get a bit more adventurous one day), and after some antics under and around rocks Dave landed a very nice Wairau brown. A short time after that we headed back down the road to our truck.

All I can say is "what an adventure", I had never been fishing every day for 6 days before, and to get excellent weather, this is going to make any trip into this area hard to beat in the future, this is what dreams and memories are made of, a great fishing trip with a good mate!

(No, we did not stay in this hut)



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Saturday:

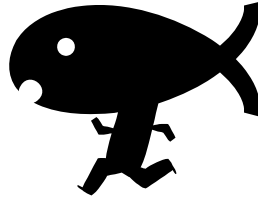
Packed up our gear, leaving our wonderful accommodation, and made off on the long road home, stopping at Timaru overnight, then continuing on to our final destination (Invercargill) on Sunday.

Sometimes you have to make plans, and sacrifices too, to achieve some of these things, and if you don't do it now, some time in the future might be too late for many reasons. 21 fish landed for the week, with a total weight of around 81.6lbs, an average of over 4lbs each. Thanks to Dave for the inspiration to make the trip.

PS: At the next meeting there will be photos from the trip, so don't miss, seeing some wonderful country

Fillet

[Request for Fish Heads](#)



Dear Anglers

My name is Abbey Reith and I am currently working with Fish and Game investigating the current Brown Trout population in the Lower Clutha River and the potential effects of the hydro dam. The first step in my project is to assess the current numbers of Brown trout in the dam foot print (Millers flat to Tuapeka). This will be achieved by electric fishing all the tributaries and counting all the Brown Trout present. The second step will be to look at the number of adult trout that are returning to spawn in the tributaries from May to July. As one major problem the dam would act as a barrier and prevent the trout from returning to the tributaries to spawn. To investigate this young of year (YOY) trout from each tributary and adults from the main stem will be taken and their otolith (ear bones) will be analysed for trace elements. The elements that are found are an indicator of the water chemistry in each tributary. Each tributary has slightly different water chemistry from differences in physical characteristics. From this you can assess movement of adult Brown Trout by matching the trace elements from the adults otoliths to the YOY otoliths.

At this current stage there has been very little research undertaken on the Lower Clutha River Brown Trout population so there is an urgent need to assess this before the potential dam could go in.

I am writing to you as I require your help in getting the adult brown trout from the Lower Clutha (Millers Flat to the sea). All I need is the head from the fish (Frozen), length and the location caught. I would ideally like at least 40 heads but as many as possible would be greatly appreciated.

The project relies heavily on getting these fish heads and the more the better.

If you could please pass this on to any keen anglers that you know or place in news letter. I have attached a poster that I will send to businesses around the river but feel free to place in other places.

For more information and collection please feel free to contact me or Morgan (Fish and Game), details at bottom of email.

Cheers

Abbey Reith (Otago Uni)
0274207129
reiab916@student.otago.ac.nz

Morgan Trotter (Fish and Game)
P.O. Box 76
Dunedin 9054
(03) 479 6556
m.trotter@fish-game.org.nz

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[Wanted - Fishing Companion](#)

I am looking for a fishing companion for my annual trip to Te Anau at the end of November.

I normally book a house for 9 nights and fish rivers in the Te Anau area trying to make at least one trip to the Worsley if the weather permits.

All costs are shared and it usually costs about \$1200 for the 9 days (\$600 each).

I am looking at November 26 to December 5.

If interested contact Dave Harris (03) 215 6068 dcharris@southnet.co.nz

Dave

[Glenorchy Hotel and Backpackers Accommodation](#)

Exclusive offer to Fishing Club Members

On your trip to and from the Fishing areas in the Glenorchy and Wakatipu sites, we would like to invite you to stay at the Glenorchy Hotel and Backpackers.

Exclusive to Fishing Club members - if you have a main meal in our restaurant, we would like to offer you a complimentary glass of house wine, handle of tap beer or non-alcoholic drink.

We are also offering your members - "Two nights for the price of One" promotion. Stay two consecutive nights in our accommodation between 1st May and 1st September 2010 and we will give you the second night, with our compliments.

** Contact Les, to find out how to obtain this offer **

Please note that the following rates apply (note children half price on hotel rooms)

- Hotel room with ensuite \$105.00 / night
- Hotel room without ensuite \$90.00 / night

Backpacker accommodation \$30.00 / person adult or child (facilities toilets and showers all in same complex). This is a shared dorm - depending on availability others will be sharing with you.

We also have available within our backpackers accommodation - a twin room and one double room - each for \$70 per night.

Please feel free to peruse the Glenorchy Hotel Website: www.glenorchynz.com for more information or secure payment options. Please also note the cancellation policy for accommodation.

If you would like to make a booking, we require your credit card details (Visa or MasterCard) as confirmation.

We do not access your details unless you fail to give us appropriate notice of cancellation or are a No Show on the day (see our Cancellation Policy).

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You can do this through our on-line secure booking system which you can find on our website below. You will make payment when you arrive here in Glenorchy.

We pride ourselves in our friendly country hospitality.

Restaurant, Cafe, Bar and new Beer Garden, Luggage Storage and Car Parking (car parking is free if you stay with us), Internet computers, Laundry Facilities.

Please note that the following services are also available within the same building:

Information Centre & Activity Bookings (including helicopter flights)

- Fishing equipment & rod hire
- Grocery Shop with bread, milk, chips, drinks, pies and sandwiches

Bottle Store

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information.

Glenorchy Hotel and Backpackers Ltd

Phone: (03 442 9902)

Website: www.glenorchynz.com

Glenorchy Info Centre (located at the Glenorchy Hotel & BackPackers) Cnr Mull and Argyle Streets, P.O. Box 86, Glenorchy Phone (03) 4429902 Fax (03) 4429912

Email: Info@glenorchyinfocentre.co.nz

Website: www.glenorchyinfocentre.co.nz

"A taste of classic country hospitality on the way to Paradise"

Glenorchy Hotel Website: www.glenorchynz.com email hotel@glenorchynz.com

[The Last cast](#)

After 20 years of marriage, a couple was lying in bed one evening, when the wife felt her husband begin to fondle her in ways he hadn't in quite some time.

It almost tickled as his fingers started at her neck, and then began moving down past the small of her back

He the caressed her shoulders and neck, slowly worked his hand down over her breasts, stopping just over her lower stomach

He then proceeded to place his hand on her left inner arm, caressed past the side of her breast again, working down her side, passed gently over her buttock and down her leg to her calf. Then he proceeded up her inner thigh

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stopping just at the uppermost portion of her leg.

He continued in the same manner on her right side, then suddenly stopped, rolled over and started watching TV.

As she had become quite aroused by this caressing, she asked in a loving voice, **“That was wonderful. Why did you stop?”**

He said, **“I found the remote”**.

Fly Site Competition

We had 6 people entered this year. 2 or 3 short of the number I was hoping for. We all headed out on the Saturday in pairs to find with the hot weather and low flows, fish numbers were down as they have dropped back or in deeper waters. The water temperature was high which drives them to cooler waters. Not many fish caught on Saturday. Konrads was the biggest.

Sunday turned out to be much like Saturday, with a few fish caught. I put my son Taylor onto a couple of fish which took his fly but failed to stay on. I was lucky enough to catch the winning fish to win the comp.

1st **Simon Budd**

2nd **Dave Harris**

Team - **Simon Budd & Taylor Budd**



I must say thank you to Lionel at www.flysite.co.nz for sponsoring the competition.

The Southland Fly Fishing Club and the members who participated.

Competition Results

ALLAN WHITE SPORTS

Fish Competition.

Winner of the ‘Fish card draw’ — no draw last month, bring your cards for Feb & March

Photo Competition.

The best Photo (judged by popular vote) — no competition, don't forget to bring photos this month

The last meeting was on the river, so there were no competitions held.



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Coming Events



30th Mar	[MM]	Dave and Les speak about their Wairau River trip with photos
2-5th April		Easter
6th April	(CM)	Fly Tying
11th April		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game (8:00 am)
17/18th April		Fishing trip to Te Anau, depends on weather
24/25th April		Lodge Trip (End of Season)
27th April	[MM]	
4th May	(CM)	Fly Tying

Club Contacts

Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand

- President Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (03 215 6068) dcharris@southnet.co.nz
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) ChrisM@mdp.co.nz
- Editor Les Ladbrook, 31 Taiepa Road, Otatara, Invercargill (03 213 1015)
Les.Ladbrook@SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz
Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month
- Lodge Custodian Linz Withington, 234 Dome Street, Invercargill (03 216 4366) withingtons@xtra.co.nz

Club Items for Sale



Metal Badges \$15 ea.



Cloth Patches \$12 ea.

Club Meetings

The club meets at **7:30pm on the last Tuesday** of each month (except December) at the Fish & Game building, 159 North Road Invercargill. **The February meeting is on the river.**

Executive Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month following the general meeting, except for Dec/Jan, includes with fly tying, so come along and bring your gear if you want help with a fly—all members welcome.

Club Resources

The club has an extensive library of Books and Videos, contact the Librarian.

A blow up Rubber Boat and a set of five Radio's, which can be borrowed by club members, contact the Editor.

Disclaimer:

The opinions or views expressed in this newsletter, are those of the respective authors, and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Southland Fly Fishing Club. The Editor takes no responsibility for the factual content of this publication. News and pictures to Les.Ladbrook@SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz

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