



Southland Fly Fishing Club

April 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...

Myah Popham holding a beautiful 6lb Rainbow from the Waiau River, with his fishing mate Liam McWilliam standing behind. These young lads had only caught one trout between them on the fly prior to this trip. Dave Harris very kindly took them out for a days fly fishing and tuition, their own stories feature later, but to have caught fish of 6lb, 5.75lb and 4.75lb among the bigger ones must have been a magic day for them.



Around the Club

Well March seems to have been a bit quieter for most, whether it be due to limited opportunities, cooler weather or the occasional dump of rain, which was enough to give the rivers a good flushing flow and the sight of coffee for a few days.

With April well under way by the time this newsletter gets out, lots time to start thinking about those end of season trips to the lodge. The end of April trip is the for some the final flourish of the main season before packing the gear up until October 2010. And for others it is merely just another trip, to be followed the month after (end of May trip to the Lodge) for the final opportunity to once again visit those favourite high country rivers, before they close for spawning.

For April and May, there is always that chance, there might be a good run of fish heading upstream on their annual migration to the spawning grounds, to give us our final day or two of excitement, in cooler clearer autumn days that often start with a wee nip in the air. Even if you don't manage to catch those elusive beggars, there is the lovely autumn tones in the trees to be admired and remembered. You have the best of weather, and the fish rise here and there on a lazy autumn afternoon, you present a lovely dry fly upstream, but have difficulty spotting it in amongst all those leaves, softly falling onto the water to be carried downstream somewhere. The leaves can make for some nice patterns on the water. But they can be a pain if they are being pushed along in a quite breeze, some catching on your line creating unwanted drag on your fly, which presents a different challenges, but isn't that what fishing is all about, enjoying the season and catching the odd fish.

- If you are interested in the annual end of April trip to the Lodge, please contact Dave Harris and book your ride and bunk, this trip is filling fast.
- At the last committee meeting Dave Harris demonstrated how he ties his Madam-X fly (thanks Dave)
- Next General meeting John Day will demonstrate his Smelt Fly, which will be the competition fly for May, then each month after that the next fly in the competition will be demonstrated by a club member.
- The list of Flies for each Month to be found later in the newsletter
- Chris Dore will be in Lumsden 30th April, (5pm) and running a 40 minute casting clinic, for anyone who is interested, contact Les Ladbrook or Chris McDonald for further information.



Please Note: - The **April meeting starts at Superframers - 21 The Crescent, Invercargill**, be there **by 07:30** for a talk and demonstration by Bruce Hill on putting photos onto canvas.

Once we are finished at Superframers, it is back to Fish & Game for the rest of the evening, and John Day's demonstration on how to tie his version of the Smelt Fly, this will be the recipe and design you will need to follow, so don't miss out on John's wisdom and techniques.

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[From the President](#)

To make up for the poor weather and river conditions over Easter I went fishing both days the following weekend.

On the Saturday I took two young friends up to the Lower Waiau. One of these lads, Myah, had been on our fly fishing course in February and had managed to catch one fish on a fly since. The other, Liam, lives across the road from me and had commandeered his father's fly rod and had been out practising casting for some time. Neither of these boys have a fly fisher in the family to take them out.

We had a great day. I started the proceedings when the two boys spotted a fish that was heading downstream towards me. It was quite happy to take a hare & copper but then headed downstream fast. I eventually landed a 5¾lb rainbow. Not long afterwards Myah hooked a good fish. It was a quite a long battle which was almost too much for the young angler. But once landed the only thing bigger than the 6lb rainbow was the smile. A couple of small rainbows were landed but Liam was having trouble managing to land anything. He was hooking up but losing the fish. Finally he landed a 3½lb rainbow and at the end of the day added a 4¾lb rainbow.

As you can imagine I dropped off two very happy but tired boys at the end of the trip. They had coped very well with a downstream breeze and their casting was clearly good enough to catch fish but with some room for improvement. By the end of the day we had landed 8 fish but they had played havoc with my stock of hare and copper nymphs.

The following day was the April Club outing. Just three of us turned up and headed to the Mataura. This was a nice relaxing days fishing with a few fish being caught. What was missing was all of the new members who should be making the most of these opportunities to learn from the experienced club members. All three on the trip had plenty of experience and a day out with any of us would be a great learning experience for any new angler.

Why don't any of the less experienced members come out on these monthly outing? These are a good chance to learn from other members and maybe to hook up with one of them for more outings. The first part of this article gives an example of what can happen when out with someone experienced.

Dave

[Waiau Fishing Adventure](#)

Our day started at 7.30am with Dave picking us up for a days fly fishing on the Lower Waiau. After travelling for an hour twenty we were there and keen to go! I set up my rod with a Copper John and raced down to get started, we got down to the river Dave had spotted two trout to Myah and I, I thought then this is going to be a great days fishing.

I was having no luck with the Copper John so Dave gave me a Hare and Copper Nymph to try as Dave and Myah had already caught one each with theirs. I headed to a set of rapids and was casting for five minutes and BINGO caught one, it was a 3lb rainbow. We then moved up stream to another set of rapids their I landed my very impressive 5lb rainbow it put up a good fight.

It was a brilliant days fishing with us landing eight fish for the day between Dave Myah and myself with the smallest being 2lb and the biggest 6lb. The scenery was outstanding and the surroundings peaceful with good fishing conditions. I would like to thank Dave Harris for the wonderful days fishing and the ice cream on the way home! I can't wait to go back in the future!

Thank-you, Laim McWillaim



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[Waiiau Fishing Adventure—part two](#)

It was 7.30am on Saturday morning when Liam and I walked across to Dave's. We couldn't wait to start fishing. It took about an hour twenty to drive to the fishing spot.

Dave told us that we were going to Blackmount to fish in the Waiiau river. When Dave told us he caught a 7.5 lb brown and a 5 ¾ lb rainbow last time he was there, we knew it must be a good spot.

When we got there we got our gear ready and put on the fly's. Dave gave me a gold bead head, hare and copper to try. We walked down the river as far as we could then started to fish. Dave saw a few trout that we all had a go at. Dave got one of them that was 5¾ lb, which was a great start to the day. We carried on up the river catching more fish.

At the end of a fabulous day we had landed 8 trout between us. I caught the biggest trout of the day that was 6 lb which was also the largest trout that I have caught.

I would like to say a big, big thank you to Dave for organising the trip and teaching us more about fly fishing and how to catch fish. It was by far the best day fishing I have ever had!!!

Myah Popham

[Fly Swap Feb 2010](#)

We had 6 people who entered the latest fly swap. The theme was something big. We had some great creations this time as you can see from the photos. If anybody is wanting any tying instructions email me at siandvic@xtra.co.nz

We will be running another fly swap in the near future. Hope to have a couple of more people keen to tie something.

Simon



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Mavora Boat Trip

The trip began with Dave, Les and me meeting at Dave's place on Friday after work. His boat was ready and waiting to ensure a quick getaway in order to make it to Careys Hut in daylight. After packing our gear into the Jeep and Boat we were on our way and an order of fish and chips was phoned through to the Winton fish and chip shop for collection on the way past. The trip up to Mavora was rather uneventful, the conversation consisted mainly of tails of past fishing expeditions and general guy talk. Being new to the sport and to the club I listened with some intent picking up a few tips and tricks from Dave and Les's stories.

As we drove past the South Mavora Lake it was dead calm and we spotted several trout rising along the edge of the lake. As tempting as this was we had no time to stop as we still had to boat up to the top of the north lake to our destination at Careys Hut. On arriving at the north lake boat ramp a very slick launching of the boat took place and it was full throttle toward Careys Hut. It was about this time that I got an inkling we had a fair amount of gear with us as the 90hp Mercury struggled to get us on the plane. My suspicions were confirmed when we reached the Hut and unloaded the gear. In addition to the essential camping and fishing gear there were a few comfort essentials, you know a generator, lighting, that sort of thing. The daylight was now fading so I carted the gear the short distance up to the hut while Dave and Les tied the boat up for the night. I knew the lake was very low and the wind had picked up a bit making it hard to find a good spot to leave the boat, but I was still a bit suspicious about the time taken to tie the boat up. I was on my last load when they finished up. Hmmmmm???



We set up camp and enjoyed a drink in our well lit hut. Just when we were about to retire for the night a four wheel drive arrived outside the hut. It was three young guys from the Catlins on a hunting trip. We made room for them and introduced ourselves as did they, (two of them with their proper names and the other simply as Rat). When we asked Rat's proper name one of his mates confessed he only knew him by his nickname even though he had known him for number of years. This turned out to be a fitting introduction. As we yarned to them they revealed themselves as good value down to earth guys.

On Saturday morning we got off to a late start as we had been disturbed by the resident mice during the night and an alarm at 4am (there is no dam cows up there to milk guys, gurr!!!). To add to this a strong northwest wind coming down the valley meant we weren't missing out on prime fishing conditions. Dave and I chose to walk up to the top of the lake and fish the shallows around the edge of the lake and the river mouth while Les fished the edge of the lake around the hut. Despite the wind making the lake very choppy we managed to spot a few trout but had no luck until Dave spotted one about two or three metres away in a shallow area where we had previously spooked one. He cast and as he drew the fly back past the fish it swam over and took it. After a short battle Dave had netted a nice 3 ¼ pound brown trout which was quickly released back into the lake. We moved along the shallow section a little more and spotted another fish, this one was mine. All I had to do was cast my fly out a short distance and draw it back past the fish just as Dave had done. I cast out and a gust of wind promptly dragged my fly straight into a bunch of sticks not far from the fish. Unfortunately, as soon as I tried to free the fly it spooked the fish and it was off, "Bugger".

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We then proceeded back to the river mouth and headed upstream for a quick look before it started to rain forcing us back to the hut. Les was already back at the hut when we arrived and he reported on his unsuccessful morning fishing over lunch. The rain kept us inside until late afternoon when we headed out for a fish around the edge of the lake close to the hut. Again the fish were elusive and none were caught. However the day wasn't a waste as I had seen a few fish, some of these where in areas I would not have previously expected to see them so I was learning more than how to cast in a gale force wind.

That evening we enjoyed a drink and a chat with our hut buddies. When they showed some interest in fly fishing that was all the excuse Les needed to get them out on the grass behind the hut to give them some casting lessons.

On Sunday morning we woke early to light winds and fine weather, yes it was looking like a good day. We had breakfast and made some rolls for lunch as the plan was to fish up the Mararoa River above the lake. Just as we were gathering the last of our gear to head out for the day the wind started to pick up again, however we were up there to go fishing and this wasn't



about to stop us. I spotted the first fish on the far side of the river in a small backwash Les had recommended I check out, unfortunately it spotted me at about the same time. As we proceeded up the river (two of us on one side, one of us on the other) we spotted many fish but they were all very spooky. It was a real challenge to get into position and cast accurately in the wind without spooking them. This wasn't that surprising as it was late in the season and the area is generally well fished by then.

One fish we spotted was hiding tucked into some weed with just the tip of its tail poking out. There was no way he would be in the mood for eating so I pushed the weed back out of the way with the tip of my fly rod to allow Les to take a photo of it. Surprisingly this didn't bother the fish at all and it wasn't until Les touched it a couple of times with his rod that it swam off. It turns out that Les catching this fish with his camera would be the only fish for the day even though we put in a considerable effort from our early start till mid afternoon. But hey that's fishing.

Despite the weather and Dave being the only one to catch a fish Mavora is a great place to spend a weekend. The scenery is fantastic and there are plenty of spooky fish to test your patience. Being my first trip away with the club I learnt heap from the guys and will be lining up another trip soon.

Darin

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Fly Tying Competition

<u>Month</u>	<u>Fly</u>	<u>Hook size</u>	<u>Demonstration by;</u>	<u>General meeting</u>
May	Smelt	8	John Day	April
June	Stonefly	10	Simon Budd	May
July	Spotlight Fly	??	(to be advised)	June
Aug	Emerging Caddis	18	Linz Withington	July (2 flies this month)
Aug	Elk Hair Caddis	12	Les Ladbrook	July
Sept	Adams Para	14	Dave Harris	Aug

This year the fly tying is going to be a little different.

At the general meeting prior to the next one when your fly will need to be entered, you will be given a demonstration on how to tie the pattern by the people listed above.

The fly will be tied to a certain size of hook, and some other details will be given out by the respective demonstrators, there may also be some materials given out.

For example this month at the April general meeting, John Day will be giving a demonstration how to tie a Smelt fly and may well provide some materials if they are not common in your fly box.

Come see, then have a go, if you don't have the required materials "sing out" and we will do our best to ensure you can enter a fly in the competition.

It does not matter how good or bad your fly is, it is a matter of learning and the only way you can learn and improve your skills is to enter your flies and talk about them with other members to see what advice they can offer.

Competition Results

Fish Competition.

Winner of the 'Fish card draw' for March — Chris McDonald

ALLAN WHITE SPORTS

Photo Competition.

The best Photo (judged by popular vote) — Simon Budd



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Coming Events

24/25th April		Lodge Trip (End of Season)
27th April	[MM]	>> Meet at Superframes - 21 The Crescent, Invercargill - 07:30 <<
4th May	(CM)	Fly Tying
9th May		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game (10am), to the lower Matura
25th May	[MM]	
29-30th May		Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge



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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