

"Ripples"

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club

The club was founded in 1974

September 2010



*Searching Small Streams
Fishing an often overlooked resource*

www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

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Commercial Trout Farming



Club members who subscribe to Fish and Game magazine would have received an insert in the latest addition on Fish and Game's position regarding commercial trout farming. Whilst I agree with the general points made I found one point to be a bit over the top. To link poaching concerns and the issue of law enforcement in the crossing of private land to the cultivation of marijuana is emotive and fear mongering at its best. The writer of this spin really needs to stick to the facts and not conjecture if this issue is to be presented to the public and government in a professional manner.



Fish and Game Regulations

Not at all happy with the new regulations book. The old one was a lovely wee book that fitted nicely in fly vest or wader pocket. The new one is way oversize and wont fit compactly at all. Why the change? Did they research the suitability and acceptance of this? Or was it that the advertising on the back page didn't fit the old format?

[Around the Club](#)



Club member Dene Cole has returned from an extended trip that included the Tongariro and the Waitutu River in Fiordland!

Dean fishes the estuary of the Aparima for sea run trout and is only too happy to assist any members interested in catching these magnificent fish. He also is an avid flounderer and hunts them by spear at night!

Aussie member Derek Wright has returned from Ingham in Australia having been away for 6 weeks R&R. Derek bemoaned the foul Aussie weather, yes really! and returned fishless on many occasions from the Great Barrier Reef. Good on ya Derek.

PS Don't these guys have real jobs?



"If people don't occasionally walk away from you shaking their heads, you're doing something wrong."

John Gierach

Searching Small Streams



In preparation for the new season I have purchased an Airflo Drift 7' 11" 4/5 weight rod from David at Allan White Hunting and Fishing. Before purchasing David kindly lent it to me to try out on the back lawn. It loaded up well on a short line and cast delicately and accurately to the rising dandelions. Many of the small streams and spring creeks in Southland are willow lined and overgrown and this wee rod will be perfect for casting to wary trout.

There are umpteen wee streams and creeks in the Matura catchment alone that I have fished and it is amazing to find trout in a stream you can step across. These fish are predominant early in the season through to early summer when they retreat to the main river as temperature rises and water flows decrease. However there are some that hold fish all season, holding in deeper pools and runs under a blanket of dense willows. It is a pleasure indeed to wade up through the stream on hot summer days and find plenty of fish rising or grubbing in the pools in the cool under a canopy of willows.

Early season tactics when the fish cant be spotted readily, unless a hatch is on, is to use a searching fly cast into the likely runs and riffles. A size 12 bushy dry or stimulator often gets nailed as it rides high in the current. Attaching a wee nymph dropper can also prove effective and will quickly signify if they want the dry or nymph. I have found that the trout are often free rising early in the season and the dry works well.

On open country spring creeks it is essential to use commando tactics to spot and cast to wary fish. Crawling along the bank and keeping a low profile is par for the course. I have cast to spotted trout from a prone position only a few metres from my rod tip and it makes for heart racing fishing.

*An early season well conditioned
4 lb brown caught on a size 12
Coch-y-Bondu in a fast run on a
wee stream to the east of Matura.*



Fishing these wee streams can also assist in developing your skills on a number of levels. Perfect presentation and accuracy in casting using roll casts where necessary, playing the odd whopper in a confined area on light tackle and releasing the fish quickly and effectively really hones your skills. This all helps in the hunt and stalking of fish in the bigger rivers.

So rather than drive by these wee streams on your way to far flung places stop and search them and you will be surprised at the rewards and the quality of the experience you can have on our often overlooked streams closer to home.

Redtag



David White from Hunting and Fishing gave a presentation on tackle and products to club members at the monthly meeting. David asked for frank feedback on product selection from members.

Allan White Sports has been a long standing sponsor of the club. David presented a good range of product on the night and produced some good bargains in rods and tackle especially for members.

David is happy to assist setting up new fly fishers set up with the correct tackle and will help with rod selection by enabling casting demonstrations in the carpark behind the store.

David is passionate about fishing and his philosophy is to be engaged with the customer for the long term. Providing the right advice with quality product at the right price.

Sponsor Profile

NAME

David White

FAMILY

Wife and 2 grown up Kids

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

30+ Years

HOW LONG FISHING

50+ Years

FAVOURITE RIVER

Upper Mataura above Athol

FAVOURITE FLY

Parachute Adams dry and a Pheasant and Hare nymph

FAVOURITE REGION

Anywhere on the West Coast

BIGGEST TROUT EVER

11lb Brown

Monthly Allan White Fly tying Competition

Fly Competition Card Draw The Fly Draw was won by Linz Withington.

Fly Competition August



For August we had two fly, an emerging caddis and a caddis dry. Unfortunately there was a very small entry with a total of only 7 flies from 4 people. Linz Withington produced the winners for both caddis.

September Fly

For September we have a parachute adams dressed by Dave Harris. You can enter one in the competition.



Dave Harris - Parachute Adams Dressing

The parachute adams is a great fly to represent just emerged mayflies. I like to use it on the Mataura in sizes 14, 16 & 18. I usually fish it with another fly in tandem, either a CDC emerger or an unweighted pheasant tail nymph.

I have checked several people's patterns and there seems to be several variations on the materials used. The tail seems to be able to be made from moose hair, pheasant tail, tailing fibres, brown grizzle hackle fibres or brown hackle fibres. The wing post can be made with calf hair or poly yarn. The dubbing can be several different things either natural or synthetic but generally a dark grey or brown. Finally the hackle can be a grizzle and a brown, a brown grizzle, or just grizzle.

This shows what has happened over the years with fly patterns changing as people don't have the right materials or just find something else works better. Quite how it can be the same pattern if you use completely different materials I don't know.

I am using brown tailing fibres, poly yarn wing post, adams grey superfine dubbing and a grizzle hackle on a #14 hook.

Fly Tying Information

There is a myriad of dressing and hook styles available on the market today. For the beginner or indeed the experienced fly tier it is often unclear as to what particular materials are required. With the dressings described every month I think it important that the actual hook used is described by maker/s and type and that the dressing materials are clear. A list of on-line suppliers would be useful and the specific brands noted. Can all dressers please try and include specific information and over the next few months a catalogue of suppliers and a recommended basic materials list including tool selection can be produced to assist the novice fly tier in the selection of appropriate products. Please feedback any recommendations to the Editor.

Gollum saves the Nevis



Well not quite the Gollum we know from the 'Lord of the Rings' but a hereunto unknown wee galaxiid called *Gollum galaxiid*. This wee fish has been identified in the Nevis and is unique to the river. The Special Tribunal's report on an application to vary the Water Conservation (Kawarau) Order 1997 in respect of not building a dam on the Nevis River has now been granted. A great result for those who love this beautiful river and valley.

Extract from the report:

There are populations of Gollum Galaxias in a number of places in the southern South Island and Stewart Island. It had been assumed that the Nevis population was simply part of that broader population (ie, the same species) - albeit that the Nevis river population was the northern most extent of the known range of the species and at the highest altitude.

But relatively recently it was ascertained that it is, in fact, a genetically distinct species.

Apparently in that regard it represents the most ancient offshoot from the ancestral Gollum galaxiid population as a consequence of geographic isolation from all other Gollum galaxiid populations because of the 'capture' of the Nevis River by the Kawarau River that took place 500,000 to 800,000 years ago. Indeed, prior to that point the Nevis river used to flow in the other direction.

It would appear from the evidence that the genetic and biological significance of this separate species caught in something of a time warp, is still being understood. Even during the hearing the status of the species changed on the threat classification system. On the 2005 list it had ranked in the fifth highest threat classification. In June 2009 a revised draft list was published. The Special Tribunal was told that the classification system itself had been changed, as well as the ranking of the Nevis galaxiid, which was now recognised as a separate species. The outcome was that the Nevis 'one species assemblage' is now elevated to the third highest threat

classification. The Special Tribunal was also told that although the draft list was still to be peer reviewed, changes are likely to be minor. Dr Allibone, the applicants' expert, was of the view that the diversity of native fish species at single sites in New Zealand is often low and this 'one species assemblage' is 'unique', rare, and now considered threatened.

Against that background can it be said that the presence and continuing existence of this species is an 'outstanding' characteristic?

We are of the view that it must be. Quite apart from the fact that the species is unique, there are some genetic and geological dimensions to that uniqueness that still are only partially understood. Further, whether or not imposition of a condition requiring fish barriers is within this jurisdiction, there is considerable doubt attached to the viability of such barriers above a reservoir - both as to the containment of piscivorous predators and as to a long term unintended disastrous effect on the Gollum galaxiid species.

Finally, on the issue of nexus with the river, as a fish species the nexus is undeniable. No one sought to argue that the water habitat of the tributaries was too disconnected from the main stem of the river and it could not seriously be argued that the survival of a rare indigenous fish species in a tributary turning on the damming of the main stem failed the nexus test vis-à-vis the main stem. We have therefore reached the conclusion that the application should be granted, but the amendments confined to recognition of the outstanding value of the Gollum galaxiid.

Well done to Fish and Game and all who supported this application. Is it not sad though, that a beautiful valley such as this has to be saved by an ugly wee important fish. We cannot rest on our laurels however, as anglers we must be ever vigilant in protecting the natural assets of New Zealand. There has been no indication to date of Pioneer Generation lodging an appeal.

Lodge Working Bee - 21st August

A few members recently had a working bee at the lodge to tidy it up before the season starts. Simon Ayto, Steven Withington, Dave Harris, and I headed up to the lodge early on Saturday morning after stopping at Simon Budds to get some last minute materials and tools to do the job. Our mission was to remove all the timber from the pump shed south wall so that we could reline it with building paper and corrugated iron. We had to replace some timbers that were rotting and put some others in to support the iron. Most of this was done before Simon Budd and Chris McDonald arrived after Simon's son's soccer game. With the extra hands about we removed the large pane of glass from the window on the east wall at the entranceway and filled it in with a sheet of ply wood and some timber to support some hangers for wet gear.



Lodge Custodian Linz Withington supervising building works at Castle Rock.



We attached the iron and had it all securely fastened by 6pm making for a long day but the job looks great. There are some flashings still to make up and fit in place but these will be complete before the season starts. My thanks to the members who gave up their Saturday to give us a hand with this project, your help was appreciated.

Linz

Simon Budd checks quality control whilst relining the back wall. This will make the lodge warmer and ongoing maintenance work a lot easier. No water blasting or painting required. Well done guys.

Lodge History

The lodge at Castle Rock was established in 1975. It was constructed from two huts purchased from Southland Electric Power Supply where Norman Marsh, President of the club was Distribution Engineer for the Invercargill area. Situated in the Five Rivers region it is perfectly placed for fishing throughout Northern Southland and is a fantastic asset for the club. It has hosted fly fishermen from all over the world including Canada, Scotland, USA and yes Australia. Many untruths and gross exaggerations have been told around the dining table, yes mainly by Australians.

From the President - Dave Harris

Not long to go now before the season starts and we can get back out on our favourite rivers. The question for all is where to go. Opening day is a Friday so there will be some people that have to work but there will also be a large number of people out so finding a suitable place to fish may be difficult. I will be heading up to the Lodge on the Thursday night ready to get out early on Friday. Last year I fished the Aparima with Simon on opening day and we managed eight fish between us.

The other question is are you ready. I have a small pile of dry flies on my tying desk. They are not where I left but carefully pushed into a corner to make them look tidy. However there are no where near enough of them nor enough different patterns and sizes. More work to do there.

I have a couple of new lines ready for use and plenty of leaders, tippet etc but still have a couple of older lines that need to be cleaned but that won't take too long.

As for the rest of the season, a trip I was planning to the North Island fell through some time ago but I have my usual 9 days in Te Anau at the end of November and I am planning to go to the Greenstone again in February. I have looked at a couple of rivers over the off season that may be worth a look but will need to do a bit more planning. Still there is plenty of time for that.

The time has come and you should get out and enjoy yourself. Remember once you let a day go by without getting out fishing you can't get it back again.

[Name this Stream competition](#)



Can you name this Southland stream? It would seem not as I have had only one reply and Linz got it wrong! So it will remain until the mystery is solved and the monthly prize will

accumulate until then. A clue is that this stream is a tributary of a major river originating in Northern Southland and the only 4wd road access is through private forest. Answers by email only please to service@eis.co.nz Correct answers will be placed in a draw for a \$20 Allan White Sports voucher sponsored by EIS.

If you have a photo of a Southland stream you would like to include in the competition please contact the Editor.



[Fishing Competition](#)

The fishing competition starts in October so remember to keep the details of any good fish you land and to have your catch cards ready to hand in at the Monthly meetings. You are given 7 cards and that is one for each month of the season. Make sure you put in a card each month even if you have only caught a small fish as each card goes in the prize draw. Full details on the competitions next month.

[Photo Competition](#)

The photo competition in its present form has not been working as it should. We are looking for ideas on a new photo competition so if you have any good ideas let Dave know. In the meantime keep taking those fishing photos.



[Fly Fishing Course - 2011](#)

Our annual fly fishing course has been confirmed for 12/13th Feb 2011 with Mike Weddell, we can now start taking enquires/bookings. An advertisement will be on our website in the next few weeks so people can be directed there for information.

[Hot Tips and Quotes](#)

(Courtesy of Tony Bishop. Check out his excellent and informative website. www.bishfish.co.nz)

Curling leaders are a pain, but easy to remove. Tuck a piece of real-rubber glove, or an eraser with a slit cut in it. Pull the leader, **gently**, through the slit in the eraser, or the piece of rubber glove pinched lightly between your fingers, and bingo, a straight leader. But gently does it, too fast or too hard, and you will heat up the leader and lower its breaking strain.

For at least the last 275 years the honesty of fishermen has been somewhat questionable. It should be noted that Izaak

Walton whose book published in 1653 spoke not of "anglers and", but "anglers OR very honest men".

Author:

Arthur Ransome - Rod and Line 1980



Coming Events

7th Sept	(CM)	Fly tying
19th Sept		Club Trip (winter) Fish & Game 9:00am
26th Sept	Sunday	Casting Day at Queens Park cricket ground 1pm – Public and Selwyn Shanks (Centrefire McCarthy's) to attend
28th Sept	(MM)	Fish & Game speaker
1st ^t Oct (Friday)		Opening Day
2/3rd Oct		Lodge Trip [Weekend at the Lodge]
5th Oct	(CM)	Fishing Stories & Fly Tying
10th Oct		Club Day Trip meet at Fish & Game – 8am
25th Oct		Labour Day

Club Contacts

- Website www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz
- 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 Johnny Mauchline, 10 Carlyle Street, Matura (021 2877 323) service@eis.co.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
- Address Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand

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 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.

Club Sponsors



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