

"Ripples"

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club

The club was founded in 1974

November 2013



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippets

Release from Eastern Fish & Game

A six part TV series on trout fishing in the central North Island including Rotorua's famed 'trophy' lakes, told by a "real angler," will screen on Sky TV beginning later this month (November 24). The series called *'Take the Bait'* was shot by award-winning film maker Mike Firth, known for iconic films such as Kiwi ski documentary 'Off the Edge. and The Leading Edge ' Long-time trout fisherman, Tauranga-based Mike Firth, says *Take the Bait* is what he describes as "point of view filming" which takes the viewer on a journey, wading remote rivers and boating across pristine lakes. "The series will cover the many



techniques and methods of fly fishing, from trolling to the more modern art of jiggling. The anglers fish from modern craft to old character wooden boats." *Take the Bait* also focuses on fly-tying experts, and a whole episode is devoted to Fish & Game's hatchery at Ngongotaha near Rotorua, where more than 100,000 fish are bred annually to stock the North Island's lakes. Mr Firth says that hatchery experts Mark Sherburn and Lloyd Gledhill "take us through the rainbow trout breeding program, one of the most successful in the world. "Their breeding program plays a key part in New Zealand's and the Rotorua lakes global reputation as a fishing mecca." *Take the Bait* screens on Heartland, Sky TV, from November 24 through to December 29th .

Cabela's 6" Black Forceps

Forceps are an essential part of every fishermen's vest and tackle box. These 6" straight forceps remove hooks from fish or hold flies while threading. Black metal that wont spook fish!. Check them out at cabelas.com



Cover Photo— Les Ladbrook



An exceptionally tied fly and very well photographed

Around the Club

Two double figure trout have been caught locally on threadline spinners. Some deep pools hold these fish which at times do come out to feed in the shallower water.

Had my first 'drop in' fly fisherman last week. Couldn't believe this guy saw me then sneaked around me and drooped in right in front of the next pool. He acted as guilty as hell! With so may kms of river and stream waters to fish what is going on in their heads?

"People get the Politicians and fishing tackle they deserve."

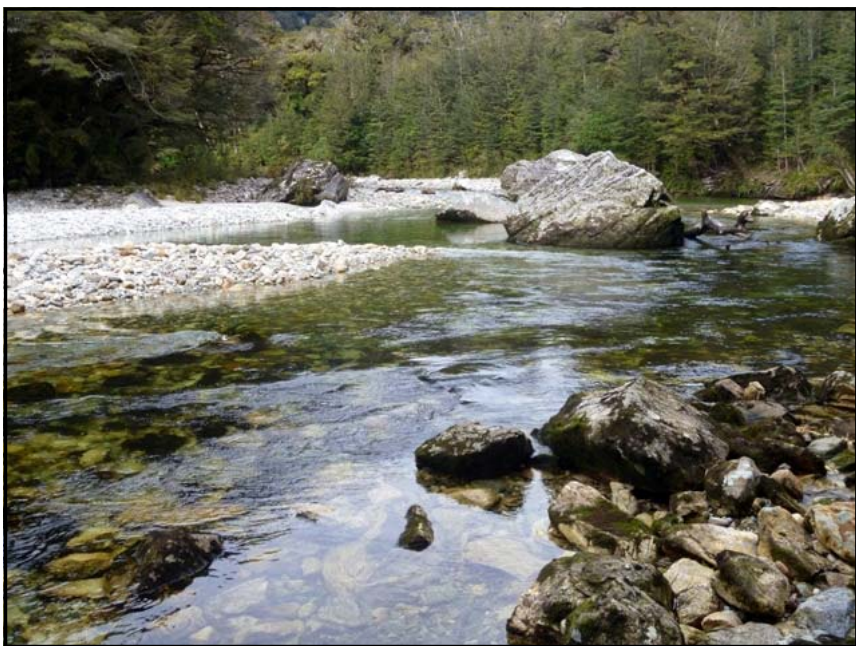
John Gierach

Fishing Report by Redtag

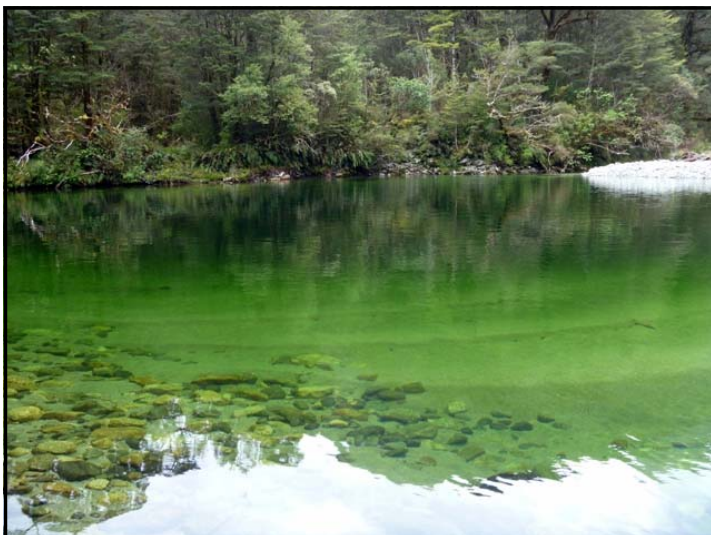


The river is again coming good after rains and snow melt kept it high and discoloured for many weeks. Fish are beginning to settle in to beats and some small hatches are bringing the odd rise here and there. Unfortunately the strong north and westerly winds have persisted which is never comforting and with the breeze still evident in the late evening the hatches have been poor resulting in no activity in the twilight hours. Hopefully some light south westers will change that.

Backwater fishing has been a highlight with cruising fish feeding well in the sheltered spots. I spent 2 1/2 hours on one splendid fish (top left photo) in a old gravel pit that refused everything until damselfly started to hatch in the afternoon sun. I tied on a CDC red damselfly and cast it two metres in front of the fish which slowly cruised towards it and took it gently off the top.



A visit to Fiordland offered up some wonderful river fishing with glorious conditions over a couple of days. Plenty of large browns and the odd rainbow lying deep in the pools. Ultra shy and spooky and hard to catch. I noticed most fish coming out late in the evening and feeding on nymphs. I spotted a good fish moving into a run and cast a dry yo hit which it checked out and refused. It then took a size 18 pheasant tail flashback nymph with gusto and tail walked all over the pool. After a fair bit of excitement it came to the net (bottom right).



Early season Tassie report by John Morwood

Hi Johnny,

How's your season going?

Over here its been terrible. Constant rain so the rivers have been flooded & dirty for months. Snow & cold weather up the Lakes - haven't been up yet! My worst ever early season [in 28 years!]

Although hope springs eternal, with a good forecast for this w/end looks like myself & a coupla buddies will be heading up for an overnigher at the Club shack at Penstock where in a 'normal season' the duns would have started! So its fingers crossed. Anyway much looking forward to the trip away out of the house. Will let you what transpires.

There's been plenty of time to tie flies for NZ, particularly willow grubs & daelitids and some Chernobyl Ants for any back country trips, these monstrosities became a favourite in USA. Not sure what the trout think they are but take them they do! Must try one on a willow grubber?!

TG for NZ in Jan & Feb. Solo in Jan & Tassie mates in Feb. We have to have a fish or two in Jan. Hatch some cunning plans.

Keep in touch and tight lines

Fly Fishing—Belly Crawling My Way to Big Beautiful Trout

I know what you're probably thinking, "Come on Kent, you wrote another freaking post about the importance of stealth for spooky trout? Yes, I did, but this isn't your average stealth post. Most of us already know spooky trout require anglers to move slow and quietly. We understand how important it is to pay attention to our shadows, to work fish with our leader and fly only, and that delicate presentations are critical. Last, but not least, we're smart enough to realize that even when luck is on our side, all we're probably going to get is a couple good shots before the game is over.

Most of the time, if we maintain our stealth in all of the above areas, catching trout isn't a problem. But from time to time, we do find ourselves on trout streams when conditions are so damn challenging, our standard everyday stealth tactics won't be enough to get the job done. In order for us to find success in the toughest of conditions, we have to be willing to push our stealth efforts a step further. And that



means going above and beyond what other anglers are too lazy or physically unable to do to catch trout. That's right, I'm talking about dropping to the ground, and crawling on all fours into position to make a cast.

About a week ago, that's exactly the situation Louis and I found ourselves dealing with, after travelling to a new headwater section of trout water. Excited about the opportunity to fish trout water neither of us had laid our eyes on, we quickly rigged up our gear and walked down to the stream. The first spot that each of us fly fished, the trout darted off like a bat out of hell as soon as our flies hit the water. It was almost as though, someone phoned the trout ahead of time, and let them know we were coming for them. Humbled and our ego's checked, we moved upstream in search of more promising water. The polite angler that Louis is, he gave me first dibs on the next spot. Once again, though, despite making what I thought was a solid presentation, the trout spooked. As I sat on the bank of the stream to downsize my flies and tippet, Louis leap frogged ahead to the next hole. With my rig changed out, I turned upstream and saw Louis on the ground in the prone position, with his rod bent over. Running up to help him out netting his trout, I yelled, "Damn boy, that away to sacrifice the body and waders for a hook up." He replied laughing, "I belly crawled my fat ass all the way from that tree over there, and the first bow and arrow cast I made, this big some of a bitch ate my fly. And that's when it hit me, I could keep on fly fishing and keep spooking every trout I cast to, or I could follow Louis's lead, and get down and dirty on all fours. I think you know what I chose to do.

Courtesy of Kent Klewein at ginkandgasoline.com Photo: Louis Cahill—arrow cast



High Country Opening by Les Ladbrook & Dave Harris

Dave Harris had just hooked a nice fish and leaned into it, just as he did, the fish dropped off, and the flies whistled pasted his head and into the bush. Not to be beaten, Dave was going to get his flies back, come "hook line & sinker", so this is Dave doing his bush bash dance.

[Day 1]

It was that time again, a time for expectations, would it be a good opening, with good weather and well-conditioned fish?

That is what openings are for, to get you excited, dream, and hope for exciting fishing.

Well this year was no different, except with an extra day, well we made it an extra day, because the 1st of Nov was a Friday, why not make it a decent 3 day weekend someone said, there was no objections from three of us, in fact I think we were all quietly thinking the same thing, someone just had to say "Let's do it", and we did!

Thursday night, the groceries were collected and three of us headed for the Lodge in two trucks, we were expecting a couple of more members for Saturday, so we needed at least two trucks for the weekend.

Dave was first to arrive at the Lodge, would there be a heap of swarm flies – to his surprise, and ours, virtually none, perhaps the expensive fly traps had done their job, we will have to wait on that one. By the time Les and Chris arrived with the food, Dave was already into his second or third Kentucky & coke. It was soon getting late, and with an early start it was time for the sack. Just after the lights went out, Dave's little furry friend made his presence known.

With only half a dozen hours' kip, the alarm went off at 5am, a quick breakfast and off to our #1 river for the opening. They hit the start of the river in a little over an hour from leaving "The Lodge", and passed seven vehicles at the top section of the river, far more than any other year, would we find out why?

Les & Dave decided to start of the old homestead, while Chris would go further down river and start in the gorge. Les & Dave started off in cool but clear conditions, the river was higher than normal, carrying quite a bit of colour. Chris also found the river full with colour down in his section of the river.

After fishing for several hours Chris came up looking for Dave & Les, to see how they had gone, well it was Dave 1, Chris 2, and Les 4. All three jumped in the truck and drove back upstream looking for another place to fish, and decided to fish just below a gorgy section, which incidentally had already been fished by a few. That did not seem to matter, as Dave was soon into more fish along with Chris, to end the day Dave 4, Les 4 and Chris 7, a pretty good day.



Back at the hut the day's events were examined, and a good home cooked meal of spuds, veggies and twice as much whitebait as the three of us could eat. Chris would be eating whitebait burgers for lunch the next two days, more bait than bread. Later in the evening Stephen arrived for Saturday, well off to the sack with another early start on Saturday, oh and off to sleep with Dave's little friends' concert going on in the ceiling.



[Day 2]

Saturday saw Dave and Stephen head back to the river fished the day before but with a different section in mind. Les & Chris headed to another river in the Te Anau basin.

Dave & Stephen arrived at their chosen spot without sign of other fishers but had been followed for quite a distance by another car that had closed up very quickly but disappeared well before the river was reached. Their chosen section of river was in better condition than further down and they set about trying to find fish. There didn't seem to be too many and the light was not good for spotting but eventually they started to find one or two. Not far up the river three

fishermen were spotted coming down the river. These gentlemen were planning to walk down and start where Dave and Stephen has started but had to change their plans. They turned out to be the travellers from the car that had been following Dave in but had stopped for a comfort stop. They were not surprised to find a number of people on the river as a response to the fishing results from the same time last year. After some discussion they headed off to fish elsewhere. At the end of the planned section of river 5 fish had been caught it and was time for the long walk back to the car.

Meanwhile Chris & Les went off in the direction of Te Anau, plans were to fish one of their favourite rivers. Well they arrived at the chosen spot to enter the river with no other vehicles at that point, a good start they thought. Once they reached the river, they found it to be less than perfect, carrying quite a high flow for this area, and quite a bit of colour, most of it from snow melt. Their day was not looking too promising, but the decision was quickly made that they would continue, hoping they might find some clearer water in some side branches, even the odd spring creek was in their wishes, would the fishing gods provide for them?

Well the day was tough, only fishing the edges mainly, and any likely backwater they could find. By the end of the day both Chris & Les had a couple of fish each, so they were happy.

After a hard day they decided that a deviation into Te Anau would be their next stop, for the ritual ice-cream.

The evening meal back at the Lodge was a feast, a lovely steak casserole in the slow cooker, complemented with carrots, potatoes, onions and mushrooms. After a short resting period, a large plateful of ice cream and peaches to top it all off.

[Day 3]

Sunday saw Dave Chris & Les head off to another river. Weather conditions were still challenging with a strong breeze however this river was in good condition, maybe a bit above normal but clear. One thing that was obvious was that there had been some significant flooding since last year and a lot of pools were gone or changed. As seems to be the case on this river others drove past and fished not far above the group. However they didn't stay long so there was plenty of river to fish. A few fish were picked up throughout the river and the tally for the day was 10 fish. All rainbows between 2 & 3 pounds. Again it was a long walk back to the car, then back to the lodge and home.

A total of 33 fish were caught for the weekend. This sounds good but is well down on what could be expected in good conditions.



Presidents Report by Dave Harris

I have just started two weeks holiday. On Friday I will be heading off on my annual pilgrimage to Te Anau for 9 days fishing. I know its tough but someone has to do it. I have a whole heap of jobs to do before I go, work in the garden, work on cars, check the boat is going (that will happen) but today was just too good and after I had been to the lawyers this morning it was out to the Mataura after lunch. Conditions were good, weather was great but there was a little colour in the water making spotting a bit tricky. I had a good day with a few fish between 1½ & 2¼ pounds coming to the net. Unfortunately there were very few rises and I only saw one mayfly so no need for emergers.

This got me thinking about what I was doing going fishing when I had a lot to do. It is simple, you need to prioritise your activities. A few weeds in the garden will still be there in a couple of weeks (and being bigger I will be able to get a better grip on them), the cars don't need wofs that urgently as I don't have any trips planned for them and I still have two days before I go away so can sort the boat out.

My trip to Te Anau is going to be interesting as my mate Cole has not made it from Canada as he is looking after his elderly mother. I have found someone to join me from the Fly Fishing Forum. He lives in Beijing but is actually from Uruguay so I suspect he will struggle a little with our fishing but I should be able to help him catch some NZ trout. At present he is further up the Island as at last report had not actually seen a NZ trout, let alone caught one.

I am keen on getting to a couple of rivers across the lake in Te Anau but the Ettrick Burn is closed at present (deer culling?). I have not been to the Glaisnock River and hope to get there this year. A trip to the Worsley River is also a possibility although it is likely to be over run by Aussies but both these trips will depend on the weather.

I will let you know how my expedition went later. Meanwhile plan some fishing trips of your own and get out there and catch those fish.

Name This Stream Competition





Last months photo of a stream brought no correct response. A clue is you would be in Western Southland, and is a sidestream off one of the main Southland Rivers.

Answers by email only please to service@eis.co.nz Correct answers will be placed in a draw for a \$20 Hunting and Fishing voucher sponsored by EIS.

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



Coming Events

- 26th Nov [MM] Guest speaker is Linz Withington, slide show, on his recent rip to Niagra Penninsula, Ontario Canada, New York State—USA
- 2nd – 6th Dec  Shift Workers / Retirees mid week trip – (Leader is Rick Gerrard) – {Date to be advised}
- 3rd Dec (CM) Fly Tying
- 8th Dec  **Club Trip**, Catlins – Meet at Fish & Game 7:00am – (Leader is Rick Gerrard)
- 14th Jan 2014  On the River, Tuesday straight after work, Coal Pit Rd
- 19th Jan  **Club Day Trip**, meet at Fish & Game – 7am (Leader is Chris McDonald)
- 28th Jan [MM] [to be advised]

Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- 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
- Librarian Jarred Martin, 33 Willis Street, Invercargill imjavamartin@gmail.com
- Lodge Custodian Rick Gerrard, 44 Watt Road Otatara, 03 213-0920 (H) or txt 0275984322

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, Jarred Martin.

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

Club Sponsors



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.