

# "Ripples"

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club. The club was founded in 1974

June 2016



[www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)



# Southland Fly Fishing Club



## Editors Choice Tippets

### How to release a Fish

The best method of releasing a fish is to leave it in the water and touch nothing but the hook with fingers or pliers. Whatever the method, care combined with speed, will give the fish the best chance of survival.

- Use barbless or pinched hooks
- Retrieve your fish quickly; release it immediately  
Keep the fish in the water
- Use a rubber or knotless cotton net, if one must be used
- Cut the leader if necessary
- Remove the hook carefully
- Hold the fish gently in a natural swimming position, facing upstream until it revives
- Don't pump the fish. That is, don't move the fish back and forth in the water.

Article by FishPal UK



Cover Photo: Les Ladbrook



Excellent fly and photograph by Ray Bergman

### Tactical Dubbing Set

This is great product and a unique dubbing dispenser box from Lucian Vasies at Troutline.

Lucian says 'Based on many requests received from our tiers friends and clients we decided to offer our Troutline Tactical Dubbing Set No1 used in ty-

ing our range of tactical flies. The fibers are hand cut from tanned skins. This type of fur is perfect for making emergers, nymphs and delicate dry flies, the guard hair is nice and shiny and will imitate the legs of the insects.

Check it out at [troutline.ro](http://troutline.ro)



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

John Gierach

## The Spider Effect or How to Tie Better Nymphs by Lucian Vasies

You know that a lot of wet flies and spiders with bodies made of thread and thorax of dubbing behind hackle perform fantastic in water.



The fly pulse and work very well, better than one without that thorax.

A lot of peoples don't understand why and don't bother. Always I try to understand why things happen and for this reason I search for explanations and I try to improve my flies and to make experiments.

I want to tell you a small story about my continuous learning experience in fishing.

Many years ago, when I start tying these flies, I didn't understand what is the reason to add dubbing behind hackle. The dubbing part keeps the hackle open. For sure, in this way the hackle will stay more open compared with the same fly tied without bulky thorax. Being lazy I dropped to make the thorax part and I tied my wet flies as simple as possible. I had many trout on those flies and I considered, in that moment, that my flies are great.

So taking out the thorax made of dubbing could be an improvement?

That was it until one day I met a dear friend, a great specialist in fishing with spiders and wet flies. We went together fishing. He had a lot of fish, at least double compared with me, and he used the same flies (orange & partridge and a local green wet fly).

Cont/...



I was very intrigued why he caught more than me and in the places where I didn't have any success. When we took a small break I asked him why he is catching so many fish and I checked his flies. Those flies were like mine, but with thorax made of dubbing and tied sparser. He was kind and with a smile on his face he explained me why those flies are tied in that way.

The thorax dubbing kept the hackle open as much as possible ( like an open umbrella ), and he played all the time the flies to induce the attack of the fish. Also he used the dead drift technique, very efficient with flies tied like his. From that moment I called it the spider effect and I tied my fishing flies all the time in this way.

After I start fishing with nymphs I began with simple nymphs like GRHE, PT and variants. In time, due to high fishing pressure, it was difficult to catch fish where almost everybody used the nymphing technique.

So I start thinking at my experience and situations I had in the past in different conditions and I start to improve the classic nymphs.

For this reason I start using CDC as hackle for nymphs. I fixed the CDC in different ways until I had a clear improvement in catching fish in rivers where almost the same flies was avoided by fish.

*Editors note:* This is only part of a fascinating and insightful article by Lucian. You can read (and I encourage you to do so) more and many other informative articles at [flytying.ro](http://flytying.ro)

## Foreign Guides Dominating Southern Rivers by Otago Daily Times

More foreign fishing guides are taking advantage of New Zealand's unregulated industry and "dominating" Southern rivers for financial gain, Fish & Game Otago says.

But an Australian guiding company says it respects the fishery and follows etiquette, unlike "some locals".

Otago Fish & Game councillor Adrian McIntyre, of Gore, said more foreign fishing guides, including from Australia and China, were bringing foreign clients to catch trout in Otago and Southland. New Zealand fishers often walked hours to target a remote river and a foreign guide and their clients would arrive by helicopter and fish upstream.

"There are some real arrogant guys out there."

Otago councillor Ian Cole, of Wanaka, said he knew of New Zealand fishers having their day ruined by a helicopter arrival. "A helicopter pitches straight in front of them, with some rich overseas people and the guide says 'I'm fishing up here' - you can't do that."

Mr Cole began guiding between Fairlie and Lumsden in 1992 and the number of guides had increased dramatically. "For the last two years, I've seen unprecedented growth." Foreign guides continually targeted "trophy" trout in the upper Oreti River on consecutive days and robbed New Zealand fishers of the chance to land a fish. "It's a very limited resource and those special places are not abundant."

A responsible guide would spread their impact and never dominate a body of water. Foreigners trout fishing in New Zealand was not the issue; the issue was foreign guides making money from the fishery and sending the profits offshore. "It's bad enough when a New Zealand guide is using it [the fishery] for commercial gain but it's even worse when some overseas people are doing it and nothing goes back. The fishery is there for New Zealanders and people legally entitled to be there."

Cont/...

Otago chief executive Niall Watson, of Dunedin, said Fish & Game Otago often received complaints about foreign guides "dominating" the use of huts and rivers. "We had reports of Scandinavian guides fishing all the back-country waters in Otago on successive weeks and spending days in those valleys before moving on to the next and exerting much more pressure than you might expect from resident New Zealand anglers."

Many of the foreign guides lacked the understanding of fishing etiquette in New Zealand and how the fishery worked. Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre director Antony Boliiancu, of Thornton, said the centre, which was based near Melbourne, respected the New Zealand fishery.

The centre had guides and clients fishing for 134 days in New Zealand last summer, including 67 days in Southland. The centre had several access points to rivers within an hour's drive of its operations base near Mossburn. The centre fished the Waikaia River for nine days during summer. "There is not one occasion where we fished the Waikaia on consecutive days; but on the days that we did fish it, we had two guides on it."

When fishing the Waikaia, the guides would cover up to 4km of water a day, a "tiny percentage" of the 60km of fishable river available. "The fishing can be technical, the fish plentiful, and it's easy to spend several hours on a single pool." A large number of people ignored the etiquette of fishing South Island rivers or were ignorant of it, he said. "They will jump you, or not leave you enough room or, even worse, walk downriver from an access point above into the beat below.

"This is my pet hate and some locals are the worst for it ... walking all day and not seeing fish, only to find out at 4pm that you were following someone that jumped you and caused you to waste a blue sky day is a terrible feeling. Then when you are told to 'get f..... Aussie, Yank, or Jap' when you finally catch up to the person is even worse." Mr Boliiancu wants a fishing etiquette education campaign to target fishers at New Zealand airports, similar to the didymo campaign. As part of a campaign, everyone who bought a fishing licence should be given information on etiquette.

People who bought fishing licences online would be forced to pass a test on etiquette before the purchase could be finalised. "I believe it is crucial for this to happen to ensure that the quality of experience of fishing in New Zealand is maintained."

To be a Department of Conservation concession holder in the Southland region, the centre had to keep detailed records of rivers accessed and fish landed. "For us they are an indispensable record that has helped us to better understand the big picture of the fishery," Mr Boliiancu said.

Mr Watson said Fish & Game was "tightening up" on foreign guides operating in New Zealand without Doc concessions. Fish & Game was working on creating a mandatory guides licence. "It's taken considerable time to agree on how it should be implemented but I



think that process is beginning to free up and I'm not aware of any particular objection by Conservation Minister Maggie Barry." A spokesman for Ms Barry said Fish & Game had told her it was working on a licence for guides but the proposal had not been given to her, or to Doc, for consideration.

Mr Cole said a licence was needed because the fishery needed to be managed better.

Mr McIntyre said the industry was "totally unregulated" and a licence was needed to limit the profit foreign guides made from a resource or New Zealanders. "The fish are everybody's."

## Club Talk - An Adventure in the Russian Arctic by Konrad Richter

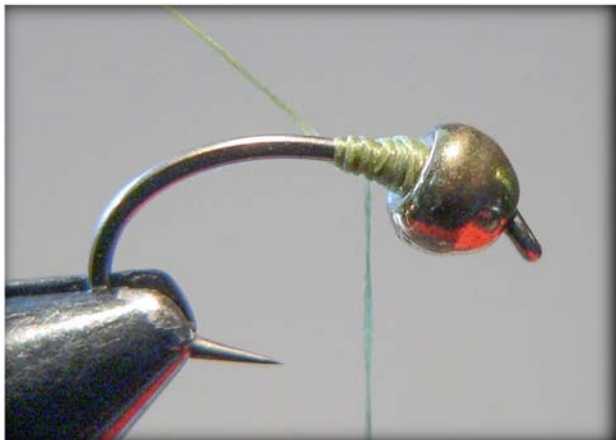
Club member and avid fly fisherman Dr Konrad Richter will give a talk at the June club meeting on Tuesday 28 June. In Konrads spare time he has worked on several trips as a medical advisor on a Russian Expedition ship that is owned by the New Zealand based Family-run company Heritage Expeditions. The ship Spirit of Enderby explores the Russian Arctic and the Bering Strait during New Zealand Winter from north of Japan up to the pristine Wrangel Island in the East Siberian Sea (home of polar bears, walruses and snowy owls), including the western-most extension of the Aleutian Islands (Commander Islands) as well as the Kuril Islands. The talk will give a glimpse into its fascinating human history, arctic exploration and untouched wildlife. Not to be missed!



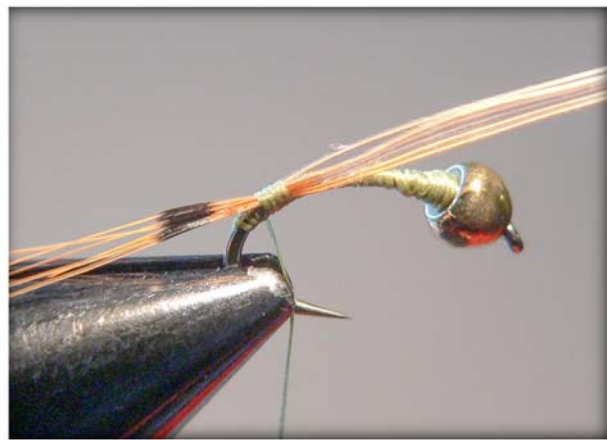


# July Competition Fly - Green Stonefly Nymph by Les Ladbrook

Materials: Black Magic size 14 grub hook of similar, 3.0 Gold bead, Green thread 6.0, Green dubbing, Green wire, Tail fibres.



Step 1—Put the bead on the hook, move up to the eye and starting applying tying thread behind the bead until it builds up a knob that firmly holds the bead in place



Step 2—Cover the hook in a layer of thread down the bend and tie in some stiff feather fibre's which will later be trimmed short



Step 3—Tie in your green ribbing wire along the full shank of the hook (on the side away from you), this helps build up the base. Apply a very thin layer of dubbing to thread and build the body. Wind 3 or 4 wraps of green wire to create the ribbing, and tie off at the head



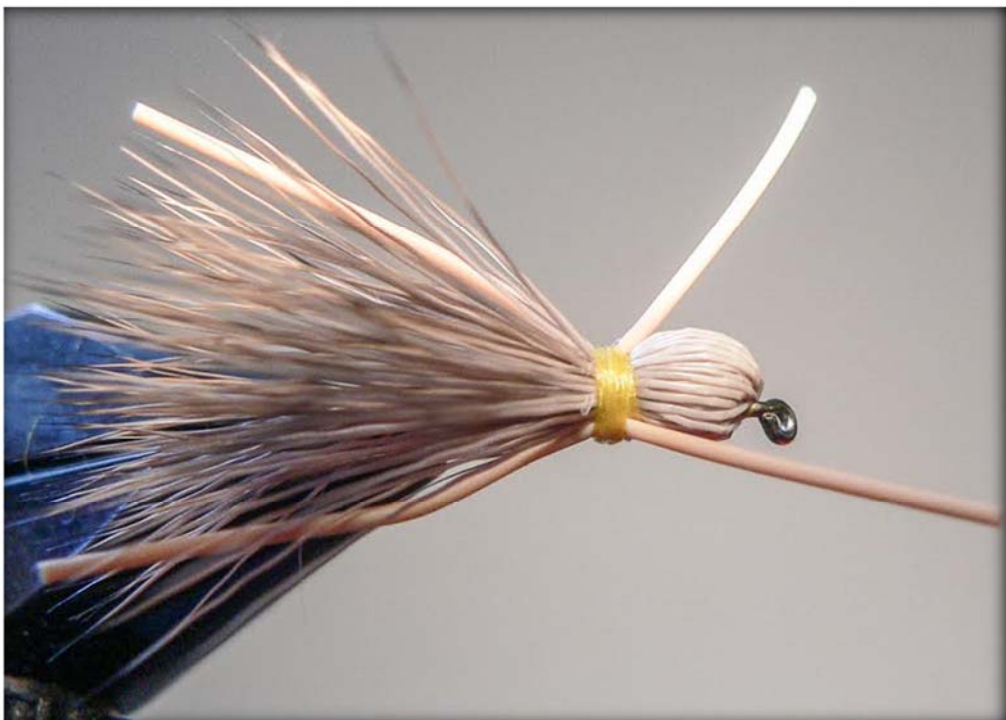
Step 4—Tie off and cement the thread a bit. Trim off the tail fibres quite short (I did consider giving you a bigger challenge using biots, then changed my mind) Leave the fly with rough fibres sticking out all over the place.



## May Competition Winning Fly



There were 6 flies entered in the May competition

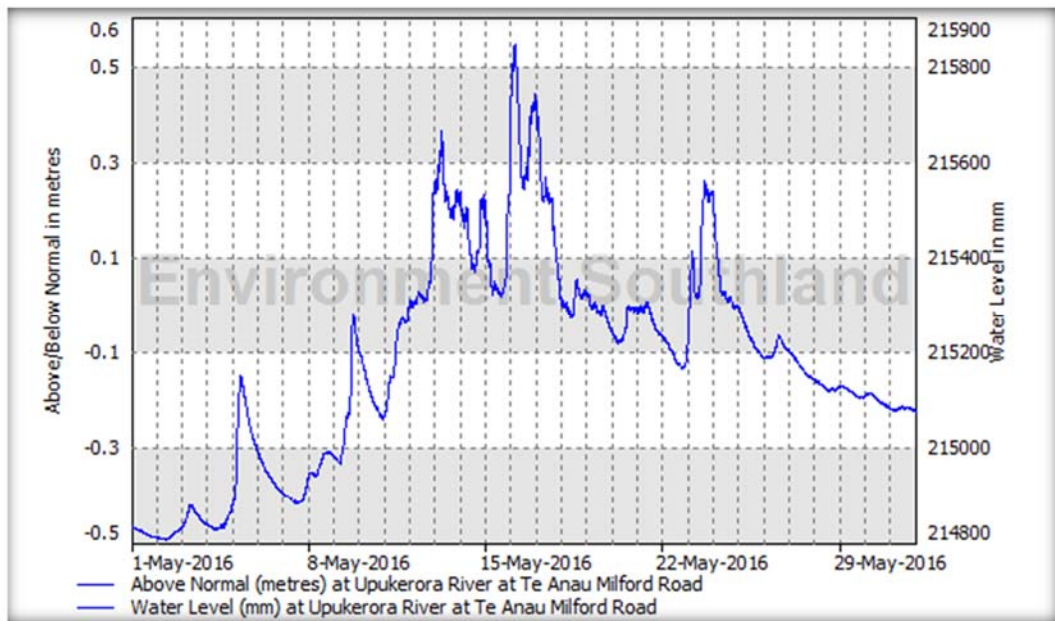


The winning fly by popular vote was tied by Dave Harris



## Final Fling by Dave Harris

As is normal there was a final lodge trip for the season on the last weekend of May to fish the still open high country waters. I had fished the Upukerora River on the first of May and observed that it needed some rain to bring the browns in. The weather had more than obliged with the river getting quite high and dropping slowly during the last week but it was still 250mm higher at the end of the week than it had been at the start of the month.



Those going on this trip were Chris McDonald, Ken Browne and myself. I had been in constant communication with Chris and he had come up with a plan on how to fish the river without having to cross it. This determined where we went on the Saturday but turned out to be unnecessary as the river was relatively clear and quite easy to cross. The weather forecast for Saturday was for it to be overcast and cold but no rain. Fishing was quite good with a few fish able to be spotted and we were into fish in the first pool. We worked our way up the river picking up a few fish here and there and had landed a total of eight fish when we stopped for lunch. The section of river we fished after lunch was much more difficult to spot the fish in and we struggled to catch fish from here on, with just two more fish added to the tally by the time we had to head back to the car. At about this time it started to rain and we had steady rain all the way back to the car. As has become normal for these trips we called into the Railway Hotel in Mossburn for dinner (those mixed grills are a big meal) and to watch the rugby.

Sunday we decided to head into the Von River. We had no levels on this but the Oreti River level at Three Kings looked okay and it comes from the same area. Chris was a little concerned about the ford where the road crosses the Gorge Burn as we have been unable to cross this on a previous occasion but there was no problem. Driving in the weather was a bit damp and cold and just before dropping down into the Von we had a little bit of sleet but this all cleared up once down to the river flats and it stayed dry all day. Once again spotting fish was hard work and there didn't seem to be many fish in the river but we finished the day with five fish. Quite a few more were hooked and lost.

When we got back to the Lodge Chris headed back to town but Ken and I had decided to stay Sunday night and fish the Upukerora River again on Monday. The weather was the best we had had with no threat of rain but it was cold with the temperature being 0°C when we arrived at the river. The river was pretty much the same as Saturday but as we were further down there was more water and crossing were a bit more difficult. We spotted a reasonable number of fish but the browns were generally not that keen on feeding and you had to get a nymph virtually in their mouth to get them to take. We managed to land nine fish with the last one being a rainbow that Ken managed to hook a second time after dropping it the first. We turned back relatively early to try and get back to the Lodge before dark. On the way back to the lodge we struck quite a bit of rain but it had cleared by the time we got to the lodge so we were able to load the car in the dry, turn off the electricity and water and drain the pipes and head away home.

All in all the great way to end the season.

Dave

## From the President by Dave Harris

Well winter seems to be well and truly here so it is fly tying time rather than fishing time.

The high country season ended for me with the May Lodge trip (see report elsewhere) and I had a reasonable weekend. I had hoped to do a bit more fishing during May but the river levels after the first week saw any chance of fishing pretty well gone.

We had our first fly tying day on June 11<sup>th</sup> at Fish and Game but there was not a great turnout. This was followed by the Annual Club Dinner with members and wives dining at Ainos Restaurant along with a fun gift exchange. The next fly tying days is on Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> also at Fish and Game.

We will be scheduling a couple of working bees at the Lodge to bring it back up to standard. The dates should be sorted out by the next Ripples so keep an eye out for these. We will be recladding the Lodge so there will be a reasonable amount of work to do.

At our June meeting we will have Konrad Richter along to speak about his Russian Arctic Adventure. This should be very interesting and it would be good to have a good turnout of members.

## Competitions

### **Fly Tying**

This month's fly is the blowfly as detailed in last month's Ripples. Next month's fly is detailed in this Ripples.

### **Photo Competition**

The photo competition will be at this month's meeting. There are 4 categories and you can enter 3 photos in each. Photos are to be 7" x 5" and must be from this season. The categories are action, trophy, scenic and general. No guidelines, if you think it fits that categories that is where it goes.

### **Member's Photo and Video Night**

Due to Konrad Richter speaking at the June meeting the member's photo and video night has been postponed. New date to be notified

## Name This Stream Competition


Three correct answers last month. The answer was the Mataura at Coalpit Road below the rapid. Ian Michelson won the draw. So a new picture this month by Les Ladbrook. Answers by email only please to [service@eis.co.nz](mailto:service@eis.co.nz) Correct answers will be placed in a draw for a \$10 Hunting & 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

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

28 <sup>th</sup> June	[MM]	Club Talk - An Adventure in the Russian Arctic by Konrad Richter
5 <sup>th</sup> July	(CM)	Fly tying
26 <sup>th</sup> July	[AGM]	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
2 <sup>th</sup> August	(CM)	Arranging the calendar for the next season
7 <sup>th</sup> August		Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am
13/14 <sup>th</sup> August		Club day out, fishing practice

## Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)
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- Editor Johnny Mauchline, 10 Carlyle Street, Matura (021 2877 323) [service@eis.co.nz](mailto:service@eis.co.nz)  
*Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month*
- Librarian Simon Budd, Invercargill
- Lodge Custodian Dave Murphy, 35 Brown Road, Invercargill [dmurphy@southnet.co.nz](mailto:dmurphy@southnet.co.nz) (03 230 4698) or (0276752324)

## 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 Les Ladbrook.

## Club Sponsors



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