

“Ripples”

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

February 2015



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippets

Trout rescued from low rivers

Fish are being stranded and South Canterbury farmers' and households' water use restricted as the region dries out. Trout have been salvaged from the Waihao and Pareora rivers due to the dry conditions, says Fish & Game officer Mark Webb. Although some reaches of many Canterbury rivers naturally dried out in summer, a regular watch was being kept on the Tengawai, Waihi, and Orari rivers and springs in the Geraldine area. Fish & Game supports maintaining river flows where there were competing demands for water. The Opuha Water Ltd irrigation scheme's longest period of irrigation limits continues, although the restrictions have been reduced. Chief executive Tony McCormick said the 50 per cent water take restrictions imposed on December 16 had been dropped back down to 25 per cent.



"This is done through the Opuha Environmental Flow Release Advisory Group (OEFRAG). Farmers were on the 50 per cent restrictions for two weeks and they felt the brunt of it. "A lot of cropping guys drop off towards new year's and there is a natural drop in irrigation demand in late February so the restriction regime has been reverted back to 25 per cent." McCormick said the restriction would return to 50 per cent if the lake level fell to 25 per cent of its capacity. That could occur in about three weeks if current weather patterns continued. Irrigation restrictions would be tightened to 75 per cent if the dry weather continued and the lake levels dropped to 10 per cent.

Orvis Mountain River Tippet Spool Holders

A necessary accessory I believe. Orvis fly-fishing accessories are designed to make life easier for anglers everywhere. Mountain River Tippet Spool Holders clip on to the Mountain River Lanyard or can be clipped on any available D-ring. Made in USA. Check them out at Orvis.com



Cover Photo— Johnny Mauchline

Around the Club



Its been standing room only as the Tassie Devils have been resident at the club lodge for what seems forever.

Self appointed Tassie Captain John Morwood (head cook and bottle washer) has been instrumental in looking after the Aussie hordes.

Apparently they complained about the shower not working. Surely a first for the Aussies!

Exceptionally well tied flies and photograph

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

John Gierach

Fishing Report by Redtag



Interesting fishing over the past month or so with very low water in many streams and the rivers also getting low but that is my preference as the lower they get the fish get closer! However I believe the stream fish have suffered and you can see that by the evidence in their condition which in general terms has been below average. Since then we have had rain and snow in the mountains which made fishing virtually impossible but it is clearing up well now.

We can again look forward to good hatches towards Autumn and as the temperature has been stable around a high of 20 deg the willow grubs are still actively falling in the water which is what we want.



Top fishing has been had in the afternoons and evenings on the river with fish taking wee CDC floating nymphs early in the hatch and then selectively taking emergers then duns and or spinners or any one at any time! Challenging for sure.

Willow grubbing has been difficult to say the least. Not in catching them particularly but in finding grubbers feeding. Temperature seems to play its part as well as wind conditions and the general demeanour of the fish which can be frustratingly difficult to interpret.



My friend Colin who fishes the Mataura river locally and has done all his life (he is 73) recently handed over to me a spot that was handed over to him by an old catholic priest (along with some of his flies). I have to look after that water as he is finding it hard to get around. More responsibilities! My wife will be glad to hear that! I am a fishing guardian yet again! More time on the river less time with her! It could be worse I suppose I might be a philanderer or piss it up against the wall whilst gambling on horses or dare I say it play golf. Unfortunately she does not respond to these arguments well. Any feedback or advice to address this dilemma is welcome.

It has been my 59th birthday this month. I have fished since as long as I can remember. Starting of fishing with my hands in wee burns in Scotland guddling trout when I was 5 to fishing with a fly and maggot for trout when I was 9. I paid for my fist split cane rod when I was 11. I still have that rod. A lifetime of experience. Does that make me a casual angler or an advanced angler. I don't know all I know is I love standing on the bank of my favourite pool on the Mataura waiting for the trout to rise.

Tight lines!



Fly Fishing Course 2015 by Chris McDonald



The 2015 course was again full with two participants gaining entry from the wait list. Everyone turned up keen to learn. Our thanks to Fish & Game for the use of their premises. We had participants from all over Southland and 4 from Dunedin. Mike Weddell went through all the things you need to know about fly fishing in his usual relaxed but very informative manner. After lunch the draw was held for the Vest. The lucky winner was Kelson Sadlier.

Then a bag of our sponsors products supplied by Manic Tackle & Invercargill Hunting & Fishing, was handed out



to each of the 16 course participants by Gerald from Hunting & Fishing. We do thank our sponsors very much for their support, and hope that the course participants will show their appreciation to our sponsors in the future, buying their products. Saturday afternoon casting practice was held on the fields at James Hargest College Senior Campus the park. It was a little windy but not too bad. After the casting session Chris, Dave, Mike and the Dunedin 4 headed out to the river in search of an evening rise – it didn't arrive. Sunday on the river proved very interesting, dashes of sun here and there, mostly cloudy conditions with rain threatening all day. We got away with only one shower just on lunch time so lunch was taken under the bridge. The river was very low. Casting practice was held and fish were caught during the practice session by Kelson Sadiler (he was having a good weekend) and Peter Hilling. The river was quite slippery and there were a couple of dunkings as well. After a leisurely lunch, people were split up into small groups and went fishing with a club member. While some fish were caught, more were lost. Some participants were not keen to finish at 4pm and instead got out the chilly bin and had a picnic on the river.

The truly international flavour of the course was shown by the make up of one group - a Scotsman, Porto Rican, Argentinean, Tasmanian, Canadian, and whatever Ian Michelson says he is. I haven't heard if they caught any fish or had World War 3. I have heard since that some participants have caught fish subsequent to the course so some of them learnt something.

Sixth Sense by Louis Cahill



Do you ever feel like you've got a sixth sense working for you when you're out fly fishing?

I'm talking about an extra sense that seems to give you the power and clarity to sense future fishing success moments before it happens.

It doesn't happen all the time, but when it does, it's one of the sweetest feelings I think a fly angler can witness; calling his/her fish before the cast.

You've just rounded a bend when your eyes are immediately drawn to a perfect looking stretch of water. It's a wide and fast riffle a little to shallow to hold fish, but there's a fallen tree that's condensing all the current into a tight six foot wide flow. Even better, that condensed current is flowing right over a drop-off, into a deep blue pool.

A light bulb in your head goes off as your sixth sense kicks in, and you're certain when your fly hits the water it will only be a few seconds until a trout rises to your fly. All you have to do is call your shot and make a good cast.

Sure enough, you make a spot on cast, and success arrives like clockwork. The surreal sound of a cork being pulled from a whiskey bottle, signals to you a trout has sucked in your fly, and you set the hook, and shout "Man, I love that sound".

I'm sure there's anglers out there that would argue this sixth sense is fictional. That it's being disguised and nothing more than angler confidence or a lucky guess. To each there own, I personally think I fish better believing in the existence of the sixth sense. I love the feeling of reward it brings me, and it never gets old. Fact or fiction, it's the closest thing to utopia with a fly rod in hand, and one more reason I'll fly fish until the day I die.

ginkandgasoline.com

Presidents Report by Dave Harris

Our annual Fly Fishing Course was held on January 31 and February 1. It was a good course with a good span of ages and nationalities. The weather was kind on the Sunday and the river was in good condition. The first fish didn't take long to show up with Mike hooking one early in his casting demonstration. Two of the students managed to hook up during the morning casting practice as well. I am not sure how many fish were caught during the afternoon but one of the anglers I had with me landed one (the other had caught one in the morning). All in all the course was its usual success.

Unfortunately for me the weather took a turn for the worse the day after the course. I have some time off work and the day after the course headed up to the Greenstone River with a young Canadian friend. The river was high and coloured during our very wet walk in to the Mid-Greenstone hut and it didn't look too promising. We had the following two days booked on the river (beats 3 & 2) and the first of these days dawned fine but windy (straight down the river of course). The river was reasonably clear but was still carrying a lot of water so spotting was very difficult. We did manage a couple of fish each. Unfortunately it rained heavily over night and was still raining in the morning. The river was again dirty and we decided that we would not get any fishing in so headed back out. Fortunately the rain eased and we had a reasonably dry tramp back to the car.

Since then the weather has been pretty patchy and with some heavy rain the rivers are still not in great condition. I hope to be able to get out a few more times this month so maybe I will find some good fishing somewhere.

Remember the February meeting is "on the river" at Coal Pit Road. See you there.

Mavora Boat Trip

The Mavora Boat Trip is in the calendar for 21/22 March. Unfortunately I have something else on that weekend so we will go the following weekend (28/29 March). I will head up Friday afternoon and take my boat up to Careys Hut at the top of the North Lake. Last year I made trip back down the Lake in the evening to pick up others and I can do this again this year if needed. If you are keen to go let me know (03)2156068 or dcharris@southnet.co.nz.

February Meeting on the River

The February meeting is on the river at Coal Pit Road on Tuesday 24 February at 6PM. A BBQ will be held and some fishing after. Members are to confirm if they are going. Either call Chris on 0274237016 or mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz

Thanks

Chris

Name This Stream Competition

No correct answer from last months photo so another chance to enter this month. A clue is North West of Lumsden.

This months photo is again by Les Ladbrook. 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

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

24th Feb	[MM]	--- This meeting is "On the river" --- BBQ Tea about 6pm
3th Mar	(CM)	Fly Tying
8th Mar		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game 7am
21/22nd Mar		Mavora Boat Trip (Dave Harris)
31th Mar	[MM]	
3-6th April		Easter
7th April	(CM)	

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 Ken Brown, Invercargill
- Lodge Custodian Dave Murphy, 35 Brown Road, Invercargill dmurphy@southnet.co.nz 03 230 4698
(Leave a message on the answer phone please and Dave will get back to you)

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.