

“Ripples”

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

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www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippets

PRIME MINISTER MUST ACT ON HIS CHEIF SCIENTISTS ADVICE AND PROTECT OUR FRESH WATER

The Prime Minister is being urged to listen to his own science advisor and show strong leadership by protecting New Zealand's fresh water from unthinking development and exploitation. Chief Science Advisor Professor Sir Peter Gluckman has just issued a wide-ranging report on the state of the country's fresh water in which he warns some waterways have already gone beyond the tipping point and changes could be irreversible. Fish & Game New Zealand chief executive Bryce Johnson says Sir Peter's report makes for grim reading.

"Sir Peter's analysis is deeply disturbing and it is shameful the prime minister's own science advisor concludes some waterways are now so badly degraded, the damage is irreversible. "It just shows just how bad the situation is. This is yet another wake-up call and the public should be concerned by Sir Peter's thorough and sobering analysis," Mr Johnson says. Bryce Johnson says the report shows the damage is extensive and widespread. "Sir Peter is warning some waterways are already at tipping point and that it's unrealistic to expect rapid restoration of water quality across the country. "For other waterways, he says repairing the damage will take more than half a century. This is deeply concerning. "What the report provides is yet further confirmation the problem is now too big to ignore – it's now at the stage where it's starting to seriously threaten our environmental, cultural and economic wellbeing." Bryce Johnson is calling on the Prime Minister to listen to his own scientific advisor.

"This government established the office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor. Sir Peter's job is to provide clear, unvarnished analysis of the scientific facts – he's done that and the challenge now is for Mr English to actually listen to what Sir Peter is saying. "It's time for the Prime Minister to show strong leadership with decisive action and long term commitment. This won't please everybody – we can't pretend and it will be easy but it is very necessary and well overdue. "Sir Peter's report may be unpalatable for Mr English, but if he fails to acknowledge the call for action, then he is turning the Office of Chief Science Advisor into a toothless tiger. New Zealand deserves better than that. "The Prime Minister needs to act now and act decisively," Mr Johnson says. Mr Johnson says a good place to start is by taking up one of Sir Peter's key recommendations for better long term planning and strategy. "I wholeheartedly support this recommendation. For too long, New Zealand has bumbled along without thinking about the future and properly planning for coming generations," Mr Johnson says. "It is time to put this right by establishing a futures commission to plan our economic wellbeing within environmental limits. Even better, call it the Commission For Future Generations and encourage young New Zealand to get involved.



"The government says it is concerned about young people not voting – here's a chance to encourage the younger vote by giving them a chance to have a proper say in their own future," Mr Johnson says.

Bryce Johnson says the options facing all New Zealanders are stark.

"New Zealand has to abandon its present path of exploiting the environment and ruining it. Sadly unless there is immediate action, a ruined environment is the legacy our children and future generations will inherit from decades of unthinking abuse and exploitation of New Zealand's freshwater," says Mr Johnson.

"It is time to act and act decisively."

Excellent fly and photograph by Robert Strahl

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

John Gierach

Fishing Report by Redtag



Fantastic stable weather over the last month has resulted in excellent fishing. With the river level low it opens up a lot more water and concentrates the fish. A dream scenario. The water is crystal clear and sight fishing has been outstanding. If you fish any other method other than to sighted fish or to rising fish in the flats or feeding trout in the runs you seriously need your head examined.

Mayfly hatches have been consistent and on most days a steady hatch is coming off most of the day with strong hatches mid morning and afternoon. Don't sleep in as the Autumn hatches start early!



Trout have been feeding on rising nymphs and emergers and duns. It has often been a challenge deciphering exactly what stage of the hatch they are fixated on especially when multiple fish are taking different stages at the same time! Best to concentrate on particular riseforms and then target fish that are consistently taking the same stage of the emergence.

Unweighted nymphs and CDC emergers and duns have been the best option to cast to rising or sighted fish. With many fish on station in shin deep water it is important to get in the best position to cover them without spooking them off their lie. Stalking technique as well as presentation is the key to success. Don't ever cast from directly downstream of fish. Get around them and approach them from across or above.



Fish that are on the move are considerably harder to cover and you have to be agile and move with them as they move quickly upstream and from side to side. This is a magic time of the year on the river and to see a big jack move upstream sticking out its nebs to take duns along the way is a sight to behold.

As I remarked last month get out there while the conditions are favourable. Forget fishing blind and put on a dry and fish dry only. Stalk and sight fish. The season is nearly over. Do not miss the opportunity.

Redtag

Annual Fly Tying Competition Notes by Chris Mc Donald



Ian Michelson discussed two flies at the meeting. This is his orange Adams emerger which has been working well lately on the lower Mataura. As verified by Jason who had been experimenting with orange emergers as well. Ian cannot advise the source of the orange body as he purchases his flies from Kenya. I am a fan of the competition flies we get from Ian and if this one works as well as his red damsel fly I will be very happy.

The other fly was used as a midge on lakes and dams like Poolburn and was used to target fish tailing in the grass edges. The dry fly could be tweaked to attract fish rather than tweaking a nymph that would get stuck in the weeds.

It Pays To Listen

There was a small turn out at the March club meeting. However those present received some gems courtesy of Ian Michelson. Ian discussed his technique and the fly to use when targeting tailing fish on lake edges. Ian and Jason Leishman then discussed how the emerger fishing was going on the lower Mataura and the particular colour of the emerger they were using. I listened and fished the lower Mataura last Saturday afternoon. I had my most successful afternoon of the season and then followed it up with a good morning on the club trip the next day. I didn't have any of the magic coloured emergers but a small bead of the closest colour I had and Les's spider from the Fly Tying competition a couple of seasons ago worked pretty well for me.

You Have Nothing To Fear But Fear Itself by Toney Sisk

... and everything else. Conquering your fears is a lesson handed down by legions of therapists, shamans, doctors, your mother, and troops of reality TV contestants. So where was I when these good words were being thrown my way?

Well, fishing, naturally.

You see, tromping through the woods has taught me that most everything beyond my parked car is out to kill me, if not the bears and snakes and killer bees, then the microbes who'll feast on me later—to say nothing of those shape-shifting aliens (but enough about my nightmares). So here is a list of fears and how I try to conquer them.

Water I fear water because it'll kill you two ways, by its current and by its lack of current. Being in the middle of even small currents bothers me. I've cursed at too many slick rocks in thin currents not to learn better. And slow water harbors quicksand. OK, it's not quicksand, but I hate stepping in mud over a couple of inches deep. If it isn't yanking my leg inviting a fall, it feels suspiciously like the stuff I've seen on survival shows where Bear Grylls demonstrates how to climb/swim from quicksand using only a branch and a spare cameraman. So, why hang around the water waiting for it to kill me? Cuz the fish don't swim in the woods.

How to conquer fear of water You can't. Always be afraid of it. But here are a couple things you can think about. (1) Learn to fish close to your shoes. My biggest fish are always within 15 to 20 feet of me. (2) If you have to step further into the current, assess the conditions downstream. If death awaits you there, don't do something stupid. Amendment to rule 2: If the fish is bigger than your leg, go ahead and do something stupid. You only live once (then again, you only die once). (3) Continue to watch reality survivor TV shows, and tell household members who roll their eyes that your life depends upon it.

Big fish A very big fish pulled me into the water once. OK, it didn't "pull" me into the water. It forced me to run downstream where I slipped on a rock and fell in the river. There is a cost to success. Yet this big fish taught me a valuable lesson—to wit, I don't know much about catching big fish. I guess I have a fear of success since it tends to underscore my incompetence at just the wrong time.

How to conquer fear of big fish Catch smaller fish. also, keep telling yourself your years of practice, high-priced gear, piles of well-read fly mags are the price you've paid for success when you catch anything bigger than twelve inches. Depending.

Cougars All I have to say about cougars is, watch your back. Now, seeing cougars isn't the problem. It's the ones you don't see you need to worry about. And because you never see them, you always need to worry about them. Simple. well, until you're eaten. I've given up a life-long pleasure of taking a nap in the woods. It's been said that at one time in every outdoorser's life, a cougar was nearby, either stalking or just being curious about the idiot waving a stick (No, I don't know the difference).

How to conquer fear of cougars Don't go outdoors. Seriously, there's nothing you can do. The woods are dangerous. Worry about the big fish that is going to pull you under.

Fly fishing Ninjas TV is right. Ninjas are everywhere. You see, they are invisible. So if you don't see one, you know they're there. Like cougars. They have an uncanny knack of catching all the fish near your fly, leaving you wondering, "What the hell? Where'd the fish go? There must be a ninja nearby."

How to conquer fear of ninjas Fish near cougars. Ninjas hate cougars. I suspect they compete with each for the sneaky-shit-in-the-woods category.

Fly fishing zombies Actually, I'm not too afraid of zombies. You can see them coming. They do tend to scare the fish, though, because they walk right through the best holding water without thinking in order to get at my flesh. But they're stupid. You bop them on the head with your wading staff, and they'll pretty much leave you alone.

How to conquer fear of zombies Anything that walks that slowly isn't going to hurt you much. Well, unless they school up. And, no, bear spray doesn't work on them. I've tried.

Bears For some reason I think all bears are cute. I've never seen one that didn't look like a big dog. A very big dog. A dog that can separate flesh from bone like I eat steak ... oh, wait.

How to conquer fear of bears Learn to run faster. Oh, and bear spray. Lots of it. Bear spray works on everything that wants to mess with you, including the ninjas, but not so well on the zombies. I think they consider it a spice, or something. You could wear a bell, but then you'd have to weigh being eaten with looking and sounding like an idiot. I don't have a solid answer to that one either.

Wild boars These could be really bad news. I've only seen them on TV, but everybody there says there bad news. Even Bear Grylls says there bad news, and if Bear Grylls doesn't like them, I'm sure as hell going to avoid them.

How to conquer fear of wild boars Stop watch reality TV. OK, I can't either.

The night I shouldn't fear the night so much. After all, the bigger fish come out then. The trick is to find a spot that you know like the front of your face, and just sit and fish. Fear the loss of battery power for your flashlight, or a blown bulb.

How to conquer fear of night time Practice rummaging around in your backyard. If you find cougars, bears, wild boars, or zombies back there, then you have an excellent opportunity to conquer your fear of those too. Well, if you live.

Heavy flies I fear heavy flies, flies tied with multiple beads and lead tape. They cast like a tomato. They tend to get stuck in my face during errant roll casts.

How to conquer fear of heavy flies Cast tricos all your life.

Spey casters I don't like these guys. They'll show up in the smallest creeks and scare my whitefish. Though I have to admit, in tight quarters, spey casting and its numerous derivatives is sometimes the only trick that'll work.

How to conquer fear of spey casters Wrap yourself up 30 feet of rope and run around in a river. That should do it.

And all the rest ...

Oh, and a few more things I'm afraid of: the mountains that will come crashing down on me some day, the cars that are going to crash onto me over my favorite river, the asteroids that are going to fall through the earth and onto my head, space debris doing the same, plagues of insects that aren't mayflies, caddis flies, stoneflies or any insect that I don't have a pattern for, life in general, death in particular. And one more thing. I've heard that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Wrong! What doesn't kill you, missed you.

Editors Note: Toney has an excellent blog at waywardflyfishing.com

From the President by Dave Harris

The end of April is upon us and that means most of the local rivers will only be open in the tidal reaches from here on until October. The only exception is the Mataura which is open until the end of May from Gore down except for duck shooting weekend (May 6th & 7th). Of course the high country waters are still open until the end of May and most of the lakes remain open all year so there are still plenty of opportunities to get out.

Unfortunately I have been pretty busy over the last month and have only had a few trips out. I have been going to the Mataura looking for all the fish that Johnny and David Murry-Orr tell us are rising to mayflies but I haven't found many. I have found plenty of birds taking mayflies but very few fish rising. The fish are there and I have been able to hook a reasonable number on nymphs (but seem to be dropping most of them) but not on dry flies or emergers. I must be going to the wrong place.

There are still two official Lodge trips to come for the season. These are April 29th & 30th and May 27th & 28th. Generally both have been good trips in the past with good afternoon rises on the April trip (on the Mataura) and good numbers of browns in the rivers for the May trip. If you have not been on a Lodge Trip these are a great way to meet and fish with other members of the Club and generally to go places you haven't been before. If you are keen on going on either or both of these trips let me know as I will be organising both.

Finally our fly tying competition starts at the May Club meeting. Each month there will be a fly pattern described in Ripples for the following month. Your job is the tie one of these flies and bring it along to the meeting. By listing the fly over a month before you need to have it tied gives you time to gather up materials if you don't already have them. The first fly is in this Ripples and should be brought to the May meeting. Remember there will be a \$20 Fish and Game voucher to be won each month and this is drawn from the people who put a fly in. Doesn't matter how good or bad your fly is, you have equal chance of winning.

We have allocated the flies for the annual completion.

1	May	Ian Michelson's orange Adams Emerger (as per the picture on page 4)
2	June	Dave Harris—Fairlight Caddis
3	July	Jason;s Fly—TBA
4	Aug	Spotlight Fly
5	Sept	Ian Michelson's Lakes Emerger

Name This Stream Competition

No correct answer last month. There was some entries that were all incorrect. So the completion goes on.

A clue is this stream is in eastern Southland.

Answers by email only please to info@eis.co.nz Correct answers will be placed in a draw for a \$30 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)

2nd May	(CM)	Fly Tying
14th May		Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game 10am, to the lower Mataura
16th May		Mid-week Trip
27/28th May		Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge
30th May	[MM]	
6th June	(CM)	Fly Tying

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Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month
- Librarian Simon Budd
- Lodge Custodian Dave Murphy, 35 Brown Road, Invercargill 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, 17 Eye Street, Invercargill (just off Clyde Street). [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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