

“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

GOVERNMENTS NEW IRRIGATION FOCUS 'A CYNICAL SMOKESCREEN'

Fish & Game is dismissing as “cynical” and “a smokescreen” the government’s claim it is giving the crown’s irrigation company a new environmental focus. The Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy has just announced Cabinet has approved changing Crown Irrigation’s constitution – so it can fund water storage projects with direct environmental and economic benefits rather than just economic benefits alone.

Intensified agriculture at the expense of the environment?

Crown Irrigation was established in 2013 to invest and advise on irrigation schemes and Mr Guy claims the move to expand its focus is good news for the environment. But Fish & Game says the move is cynical and will provide no environmental benefit.

“This is just a smokescreen for the government to continue its policy of intensifying agriculture at the expense of the environment while appearing to be listening to the growing public anger over the state of our waterways,” Fish & Game’s chief executive Bryce Johnson says. “Despite what the minister is claiming, irrigation and dams aren’t good for our rivers, lakes and streams. Creating more and more water storage projects will only exacerbate our water quality problems by encouraging more and more intensive agriculture,” Mr Johnson says.

“This is a path to further environmental degradation and we need to stop trying to put intensive farming operations like dairying in inappropriate regions with naturally leaky soils and vulnerable waterways. Fish & Game says the government’s apparent change in direction is just semantics and indicates it realises it is exposed by its claims that irrigation schemes and dams provide significant economic benefits. “The reality is that dams provide very expensive water and farmers are reluctant to commit to buying water from schemes like the one proposed for Wairarapa,” Bryce Johnson says. “That understandable reluctance by farmers is why the government is using taxpayers’ money to subsidise these otherwise economically unfeasible schemes.

The government’s latest announcement is desperate stuff and shows it is scrambling to prove its damming and irrigation policies are economically sound when in reality they are being debunked economically and environmentally,” Mr Johnson says. Mr Johnson says with an election only weeks away, the present government would be better to listen more carefully to the public anger over water quality. “The public have had enough. They are tired of having their waterways damned, diverted and dirtied and the present government’s failure to listen is frustrating voters even further. “Surely the government needs to listen to the obvious public mood and come up with a coherent and acceptable water quality policy which heals the damage already done,”

by Grant Dyson, Fish & Game NZ

Cover Photo — Winter sight fishing — Johnny Mauchline



Excellent fly and photograph by Pontus Larsryd

“People get the Politicians and fishing tackle they deserve.”

John Gierach

150 Years Of Brown Trout in NZ by Grant Day (abridged)



October 2017 marks 150 years since brown trout were first introduced to New Zealand. The highly-valued sports fish survived the long trip by sailing ship from Britain to become established as a culturally valuable species.

Brown trout are native to Europe and were first introduced into New Zealand in 1867 from British stock which had been established in Tasmania only three years earlier. The delicate cargo of trout and salmon eggs had been brought by ship from England in 1864, delicately packed in boxes with moss and ice as reliable shipboard refrigeration machines would not be developed until 1877. Only the trout eggs survived the perilous three-month journey to the other side of the world, with all the salmon eggs dying during the voyage. Once in Tasmania, the trout eggs were taken to a hatchery north of Hobart where they hatched a few weeks after they arrived. The trout were then released into the nearby Plenty River, and Tasmania's highland lakes. With a finhold now established in the southern hemisphere, brown trout were bred and then sent to Victoria, New Zealand and South Africa, spawning a new pastime for thousands.

In New Zealand, the first live trout to hatch here was a brown in Christchurch on October 10, 1867.

It was one of 1200 ova that the curator of the Canterbury Acclimatisation Society, Andrew Johnson, brought back from Tasmania. The fish was hatched in a small wooden box, at the Society's grounds in Hagley Park, Christchurch. The lone trout's hatch was followed a few days later by a further two. Just three trout in total but New Zealand had brown trout nonetheless. A year later in August 1868, the Otago Acclimatisation Society, sent their curator to Hobart to procure a supply of trout ova. Returning on the Free Trader, Charles Clifford brought with him 800 ova, of which 724 hatched. In many ways it was this introduction that assured the presence of trout in New Zealand, as the Otago Acclimatisation Society now had a sufficient population from which to establish a breeding supply and remove the reliance on Tasmania.

The Nelson and Southland acclimatisation societies also secured trout ova that year. There is no doubt that the South Island acclimatisation societies, and in particular Canterbury and Otago, were the driving force behind the introduction of trout to New Zealand. In the years that followed the initial introductions, these societies grew their populations of trout, both through further importations from Tasmania and natural reproduction, and began to distribute the fish throughout their regions.

Brown trout are now esteemed by New Zealand anglers and the fishery here is rated as one of the best in the world.

Winter Sight Fishing Photos by Johnny Mauchline



August Fly Tying Competition — Spotlight Fly



Six flies were entered in the August competition which were all very creative. The pattern was John Day's Spotlight Fly which was to tie a fly using all the materials procured and selected from the Spotlight haberdashery store by John Day.

By popular vote there were two winners Dave Harris (Bottom Left), and Julie Cook (Bottom Right)

The September competition fly is the Pheasant Tail nymph by Jason Leishman.

Presidents Report by Dave Harris#

The season is almost on us and I can't wait. I have everything ready, even my licence has arrived so I am ready to go. I have a couple of new lines (and have tried them both at Te Waewae lagoon), plenty of flies etc, all I need now is good river conditions and a nice fine day on opening day.

I am writing this having just returned from a morning tying flies at Hunting and Fishing. Chris was also there and there were quite a few people interested in the casting day, the fly fishing course and in joining the Club. The Hunting and Fishing staff had photos up on their facebook page of a couple of my flies, the casting day ad and me tying within minutes of me getting there (it would have been quicker but they had customers to serve). So thanks to Hunting and Fishing for their support with this.

By the time you read this we will have had our working bee at the Lodge but will hopefully still have another fly tying day at Hunting and Fishing as well as our casting day at Donovan Park. We are at Donovan Park this year because Kilwell (rod manufacturers and fishing gear Importers) had already organised to have a casting day where you could try out Scientific Anglers fly lines on your own rod. It is better to join them than have two casting days on the same day at different places in Invercargill. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend either of these events as I am away for some Fish & Game ranger training for the weekend.

Hunting and Fishing have invited us to have a stand at their fishing night on September 19th to promote the Club and our activities. They will also be providing gift vouchers to anyone who joins that night (and signing up for the course counts as joining) so this will be a great promotion for us. Once again thanks to Gerald and his crew at Hunting and Fishing Invercargill.

The new season calendar is up on the website now so have a look at when we have things on and join in where you can. The monthly day trips all start from Fish and Game in Eye Street and there will be someone there to lead the trip. If you are a beginner these trips are great as it gives you the opportunity to get out with an experienced angler and you will learn a lot. There are four trips to the Lodge planned as normal, two at the start of the season and two at the end. If you want to go one of these come along to the meetings and you will be able to find out who is organising the trip. If you can't make the meeting give either Chris or myself a ring and we will be able to help you out. We also have two away trips to Lake Alexandrina and Poolburn. These are in February and March so keep an eye on Ripples to see who to contact about these. Finally there are mid-week trips every month and I will generally be organising these. Give me a ring (03 2156068 or 027 2016722) a couple of days beforehand to find out what is going to happen.

Finally, we are always looking for speakers for our monthly meetings. If you know of anybody interesting that could come and talk to us please let me know. This month we have a speaker from Fish and Game and at our October meeting Chris McDonald will take us through his 2016-17 season as he was unable to do so at the June meeting.

Have a great opening

Fly Tying Demonstration at Hunting & Fishing by Dave Harris#



I had a good morning fly tying at Hunting and Fishing on September 9. Among the people who stopped to talk was Allister Lindsay with his son. Allister had attended one of our courses in the past but had not managed to do very well with his fly fishing as he went out on his own and found it a bit frustrating (lots of tangles etc). However he is still interested and we had a long discussion about fly fishing, rods and moving on from our course, so hopefully we will see him and his son out with us in the future.

Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

1 st Oct		Opening Day (Sunday)
3 th Oct	(CM)	Fishing Stories & Fly Tying
7/8 nd Oct		Lodge Trip [Weekend at the Lodge]
15 th Oct		Club Day Trip meet at Fish & Game – 7am
24 th Oct		Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
31 st Oct	[MM]	Chris McDonald on his 2016-2017 season
1 st Nov		High Country Opening (Wednesday)
4/5 th Nov		Club Trip [Weekend at the Lodge] - High Country Opening
7 th Nov	(CM)	Fly Tying
12 th Nov		Club Day Trip meet at Fish & Game – 7am
21 st Nov		Shift Workers / Retirees mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
28 th Nov	[MM]	

Club Contacts

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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 St, West Invercargill, Invercargill 9810. [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 Rubber Boat and a set of five Radio's, which can be borrowed by club members, contact Chris McDonald.

Club Sponsors



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