

# “Ripples”

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

November 2022



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



*Southland Fly  
Fishing Club*

## President's Report by Dave

The weather hasn't been all that good for fishing in the past month and the rivers have been up and down quite a bit. The forecast has also been quite pessimistic with the weather generally being better than forecast. This may have looked worse than it is with much of the rain missing Invercargill but still falling as forecast up country. This means I haven't been out as often as I should have been with the October mid-week trip cancelled due to the weather but I have still managed a couple of trips. I had my usual high country opening trip at the start of the month but the Lodge Trip was cancelled due to the river levels, although some may have been fishable on the Sunday. I have had a couple of outings since, with a day trip up to the Te Anau basin and an afternoon on the Aparima. I caught fish on both trips so they were worthwhile. There is a report on the Te Anau trip elsewhere in this Ripples and the Aparima trip was pretty short.

I arrived at the river to find two cars and could immediately see three other anglers so just turned around and headed further up the river to an access I don't think I have been to before. I was late leaving home so had lunch before setting up and heading up the river. It was overcast so spotting was going to be difficult but I usually find fish blind fishing on the Aparima. This was the case with the first fish I landed but then I found a small side stream by some willows and immediately spotted two fish in it. The first was very close to the edge and this presented some difficulty with casting to it. It didn't like what I did and was gone. The other was further out and looked to be in a lot better position. This proved to be the case and it took my nymph first cast. I walked a bit further up the river but didn't see any more fish so headed back to the car and set off for home.

Since these trips I have attended a day of Fish & Game Ranger Training in Roxburgh. One of the presentations was about drift diving the Greenstone River last year. The number of fish spotted was very low. I discussed this with Cohen from F&G Southland on the way home as he had helped his Otago colleagues with the drift dive. There should have been a good number of rainbows in the river at the time of the drift dive but they saw very few. There have not been many rainbows in the Von River when I have fished it the past couple of seasons. Both the Von and Greenstone are spawning streams for Lake Wakatipu so maybe there is an issue with the number of rainbows in Lake Wakatipu. I will follow this up with Fish & Game Otago to see if they have any more information on this.

The November Meeting is our final meeting for the year and we have quite a few events coming up before the next meeting on January 31. Even before the meeting we have a mid-week trip on November 23<sup>rd</sup> leaving my place at 9:00am. If you want to come, give me a ring on 027 201 6722. We have Club Day Trips on December 11 and January 8, both leaving Fish & Game at 7:00am. The December trip traditionally goes out towards the Catlins so is to rivers we don't normally fish. On January 11 we will head out to Coal Pit Road after work for an evening fish and there is a mid-week trip on January 25. Once again if you want to come, give me a ring on 027 201 6722. We also have our Fly Fishing Course on January 28 & 29. We don't have many enrollments for this yet so if you know anyone that is interested in learning to fly fish tell them about the course and suggest they come along. Full details are on our website [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz).

Hopefully we will get some good weather over the holiday period and you will all be able to get out and catch some fish. I have a trip planned to Te Anau before Christmas and will be there for 8 days and I am looking forward to getting on to some of the rivers up there.

## Competitions by Julie

Where have all the fish gone (or at least all the catch cards). Only two fish cards at the October Meeting. Chris won the draw for the Hunting & Fishing voucher.

Remember to get your cards to me before the meeting so you can go in the draw for voucher. You can still put your October fish in, they will just go in the next draw.

## Cover Photo by Dave

Chris with a nice rainbow on November 1.

## High Country Opening by Dave

November 1 is high country opening in Southland and Otago. As usual Chris and I decided to head away for a day's fishing.

As normal we planned an early start and to ensure we remained popular at home so we decided to make our start from the Lodge. This also had the advantage that we were already an hour up the road when we set off. It was off to the Lodge on Monday night and we made our lunches prior to going to bed so we could get away earlier.

The alarm went off pretty early and we were on the road reasonably quickly after we had had breakfast. Conditions looked pretty good as we headed up the road. When we crossed the Oreti it looked a little above normal but once we got to see our river it looked to be in pretty good condition. At the bridge there was a ute (and we were sure we knew who it was) so we couldn't go in there. We were considering the next spot where the road is next to the river but there was a car there as well. I have no idea what time these people get to the river but they must be on the road very early.

We finally stopped at Chris's usual starting spot. Once set up we headed up the road a bit before dropping down into the river. Once down to the river we quickly spotted our first fish for the day. It was keen enough to take my nymph but didn't hook up. It stayed around for a while and Chris had a few casts to it but it finally decided to drift away out of sight.

We headed on up the river, a little worried about some of the crossings we would have to make as there was a reasonably high flow. No fish in the next couple of pools, the difficult crossing wasn't too bad but we got back to the car without seeing another fish. Not a good sign.

We headed back up the river to my normal starting position. Chris headed a way further down while I started pretty much where the car was. I spooked a fish as I approached the pool and it swam off to the other side. I

*(Continued on page 4)*



Perfect conditions on the high country opening trip. One of my rainbows came from this pool.

## High Country Opening (cont)

*(Continued from page 3)*

had a few casts and headed up the pool without seeing anything. I decided to go back down to the bottom of the pool and cross to the other side. This would help pass the time as I waited for Chris to catch up and that rainbow had to be somewhere. As I reached the other side, I spooked another (or maybe the same) fish. It didn't move off quickly and I could still see what looked like a fish a little distance upstream. A couple of casts and sure enough something takes the nymph. After a bit of a fight, I landed a 2lb rainbow so at least I was on the board. As I released it Chris arrived at the pool and we headed on up the river together.

We weren't seeing any fish but with the flow it was hard to see right into some of the pools so we were blind fishing any likely looking water, usually with one of us on each side. After some time, I had a take and came up solid on another 2lb rainbow. As I was fishing a good pool Chris moved on to the next pool where he spotted a good rainbow close to the edge. It was hungry and rose to his dry fly. He soon had a nice 5¼lb rainbow in the net. He was stoked.

We continued up the river and I spotted and landed another 2lb rainbow but that was all we saw. So we headed back to the car.

We thought about going in at the spot we were keen on early in the morning but there was a car there (not the same one that was there in the morning) so we continued back to the bridge. This is usually a meeting point for many of those who have fished the river and a good chance to see how everybody got on. There was no one there and I think they had all called it quits due to the lack of fish. We decided to have a fish here and headed up stream. By this time the wind had got up so it was going to be pretty difficult. It was not an easy walk with a difficult section past a low waterfall but we made our way through. The only sign of fish was one I spooked in shallow water and we eventually made our way back to the car and headed for home.

It was good to be out but there should have been a lot more fish.

## November Club Trip by Dave

Just myself and Chris at Fish & Game on the second Sunday for the November Club Trip. The weather forecast was not great and there was light rain falling when we arrived. If Chris hadn't turned up, I would have just headed home but with two of us there we headed away fishing.

We didn't go far to find a river with only the Aparima actually looking like it would be in good condition when I checked on the Environment Southland web site before I headed out. When we got to the river the tracks had been blocked off with heaps of gravel. We could still get to the river okay and park almost where I normally park but many people drive further up the river and this access had been blocked. A quick inspection showed it wasn't someone just blocking off the access but it was a safety measure as the river had washed the track out.

It was still raining but not too bad so we set up and walked across to the river. With the river and light conditions, we were unlikely to see any fish so would be fishing blind. Chris was into a fish pretty quickly but it came off before he could land it. Just a little further up I had a take that didn't hook up. I did see a couple of fish moving at the tail of next pool but they disappeared and didn't take anything we cast in their general direction. As we moved up the river, I had another take that stayed on briefly and finally landed a small brown. Chris had another solid hook up and as I moved up to net it for him it came off. I then hooked and landed another fish, bigger than the first but still pretty small.

It was still raining so we decided to head back to the car. The rain immediately stopped but we didn't, soon getting back to the car for a late lunch. From the car we could see the next shower coming up the river so we headed for home.

## Day Trip to Te Anau by Dave

With the November Lodge trip being cancelled I was keen to get up to the Te Anau basin and fish one of the rivers that had opened on November 1. This makes for quite a long day trip (and quite a bit of expensive petrol) but I decided to give it a go. I was up early and on the road pretty quickly.

It was quite a long drive and, even with my early start, I was not particularly early getting towards the river. Just before I got to the access point, I passed a Toyota RAV4 going the other way. This was a bad sign as a RAV4 isn't a farm vehicle so it was most likely another angler who had been to the access and found someone else there. Sure enough, when I got to the carpark there was another angler setting up. I decided that I should check his licence before heading elsewhere. The angler turned out to be Te Anau guide Chris Reygaert. He recognised me as I had checked his licence previously. After a bit of discussion, he said he was just checking out the river to see if he should bring clients here and would I like to join him.

Conditions were good and the river was in good condition but typical for the early season it wasn't that easy to see to the bottom of the deep pools. We soon found fish and Chris was first on the board. We continued up the river, catching mainly rainbows but they weren't in great condition and many were pretty battle scared from spawning. Eventually, while walking along a high bank I spotted a brown in shallow water. A couple of casts and it took my nymph and the problem now was how to land it as there were a few matagouri bushes along the bank and that restricted where I could go. I finally managed to drop down the bank and was able to land the fish. Like the rainbows it wasn't in great condition.

We continued quite a way up the river continuing to catch the odd fish before I decided it was time to turn back. It was a long walk back to the car and it was after 6:00pm by the time I got back to the car. Immediately I was back at the car I checked in at home as I knew I would be expected for tea about then and I was still two hours away. Moral of the story, if you are going to be late don't leave your phone in the car but take it with you so you can report in before you are actually late. Still the whitebait patties hadn't been put on so they were good when I finally got home.

It had been an interesting day and we had a lot of discussions about guides and he was interested at what was going on with Fish and Game especially with regard to pressure sensitive fisheries. What did surprise me was that he said he only guided for about 50 to 60 days per year. This was a lot less than I expected. He also said most of his clients were Americans.



Chris Reygaert playing a rainbow.

# Fly Fishing Course

28 - 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2023

Day 1 - Theory & Casting     \$55  
Day 2 - On the River             \$55

**Theory & Fly Casting**—covers the insect life in a stream or lake that makes up what fish eat, where to find fish, how to fish the different situations and fly casting practice

**On the River**—Putting into practice what you have learned

No matter whether you are a beginner in fly fishing or have been fly fishing for some time, there is something in this course for everyone. Tutor, Mike Weddell, is a fly fisherman with few peers. As a competitive caster he has not only won the world professional title, but has been British All Round fly casting champion five times as well as setting numerous world records. The angling columnist of the Otago Daily Times since 1981. Mike Weddell has taught fly fishing and fly tying classes since 1972.

**Enquiries to:**

**Chris McDonald 027 423 7016**

**Dave Harris 027 201 6722**

**For full details go to:**

**[www.SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz](http://www.SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz)**

## Coming Events (MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

23 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Fishing	Mid-week trip - Dave Harris 027 201 6722
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	MM	Monthly Meeting
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	(CM)	Fly Tying
7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fishing	Club Day Trip, Catlins – Meet at Fish & Game 7:00am
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Fishing	Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game – 7am
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Fishing	On the River, Tuesday straight after work, Coal Pit Rd
25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Fishing	Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
28/29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Course	Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel
31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	MM	Monthly Meeting

## Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)
- President Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (027 201 6722) [dcharris@southnet.co.nz](mailto:dcharris@southnet.co.nz)
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- Vice-President Julie Cook, 11 Ruru Ave, Otatara (027 630 2949) [juliecook@actrix.co.nz](mailto:juliecook@actrix.co.nz)
- Editor Dave Harris [dcharris@southnet.co.nz](mailto:dcharris@southnet.co.nz)  
*Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month*
- Librarian Chris Cowie (027 236 9576)
- 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, 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 blow up 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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