

“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

President's Report by Dave

It has been quite a while since I wrote my last President's Report with there being no Ripples in December. There have been a couple of Club Trips since then but some were washed out by the weather or river conditions. I went on the January Club Trip but found no-one else at Fish & Game so was on my own. We had our January afterwork outing to the Mataura with four members present although I didn't actually get my rod out as there were no fish rising.

Coming up we have the mid-week outing on January 25th, the Fly Fishing Course on January 28th & 29th, the Monthly Meeting on January 31st, a Club Trip on February 12th and our Lake Alexandrina Trip now on February 22nd - 27th. There is a mid-week trip scheduled for February 22nd but I will be away on the Lake Alexandrina Trip. This doesn't mean some of you can't get together and organise something yourselves.

As for me, I have had a trip away to Te Anau with Cole. We fished 7 days on this trip but the weather wasn't great for sight fishing with most days being cloudy. Where we could go was also restricted a bit by Cole's inability to walk long distances. I have also made a 4 day trip to Mavora as well as some trips to the Mataura and one of its tributaries. Some of the trips to the Mataura were great as the willow grubs were falling and the trout were taking these. I have been using a yellow foam pattern based on Stu Tripney's pattern and have found that if I treat it with floatant it stays afloat and the trout take it. I have even managed to land most of the takes and haven't lost any flies either by breaking off or catching the willows.

Talking of breaking off I have had some issues with breaking tippet. It started in December when I lost my 5lb tippet and had to buy some more. I bought two spools of my usual tippet and at one stage I had lost every fish I hooked in December. Time to try something else. I bumped into an ex-member in Hunting & Fishing and he told me what he was using without problem. Away I went with great confidence only to find the new tippet was hard to break but the knot strength was poor. More fish broken off. I checked out the two spools of my usual tippet that I had purchased and found one seemed to be much weaker than the other. Back to the usual stuff and no further problems. I also purchased another brand on-line but have not tried that yet.

Finally, it is only just over 3 months until the end of the season for most rivers so it is time to get out there now and catch some fish.

From the Editor

A couple of weeks ago my computer started doing strange things and was getting quite slow. Finally it pretty much stopped working but I was still able to back up all of my files (and Barbara's) to my portable hard drive. It was clearly an issue with the hard drive that the computer seemed to be able to read (all be it slowly) but could not write to it. You could alter a file and it all looked good but it just didn't save.

This came up on a Friday and I was heading to Mavora on the Monday so the chances of getting this ripples out on time were looking slim. I rang Bevan McNaughton, who looks after the server our website is hosted on and he came and picked up my computer on the Saturday to see what he could do. I also headed into town and ordered a new laptop with sufficient performance and capacity to prepare the Ripples.

I got this computer back yesterday (Sunday 22nd) and have managed to get it set up well enough to prepare this Ripples. To make matters worse I had issues with my 2 day old laptop while trying to get it to network to this computer, Fortunately the tech guys at Noel Leemings were able to sort out the issue quickly so I now have two computers up and running with Publisher on them. Still some networking issues to sort but they can wait.

Cover Photo by Nicky Edwards

Dave, Julie and Cole at Mavora

January Club Trip by Dave

A quick few texts indicated that this was too early in the year for most and as expected there was no-one else at Fish & Game when I arrived at 7:00am.

My original plan had been to head up to the middle Mataura and find some more willow grubbing trout. However rain somewhere on Friday night had raised the river level by about 300mm so it wasn't the place to go. Neither the Oreti or Aparima had been affected by the Friday night rain. Second choice was the Upper Oreti but when I arrived at the beat I wanted to fish there was a camper van already there so it was off back down to the Aparima.

While the weather forecast was great it had been foggy and there was still a full layer of low cloud and it was quite cool. Once set up I headed up the river. I hadn't fished this section of river this season and there were some significant changes. The first pool has willows on the opposite bank so is good for spotting even with the low cloud but most of the river had bypassed this pool and the pool was a lot shallower than previously. No fish were seen and no action at the top of the pool where spotting wasn't possible. The river from here had developed into what looked like great trout water but the light conditions made spotting impossible.

I was fishing with a black beetle dry with a hare & copper nymph beneath. At the top of one pool I saw a bit of movement below the black beetle and then realized it had disappeared. I lifted the rod and there was tension on the line with a good brown hooked up on the beetle. A 4½lb brown came to the net. A bit later I was at the top of another pool and the beetle again disappeared. This fish felt a lot stronger but after a prolonged battle the line went slack. Having had a bad run with tippet breakage during December I thought I had another breakoff but the nymph was still there. At no time did I see this fish so don't know how big it actually was. There was a nice looking ripple just above this pool and again the beetle disappeared. This fish came to the net and was a 4¼lb brown that was only 21 inches long. It was a superb looking fish so I decided I needed a photo. Unfortunately, my camera wasn't where it should have been so no photo.

The cloud eventually cleared and it started to get hot. I did spot a couple of fish (as well as a school of about 10 fish that were about 8 inches long) but couldn't get anything to take my fly. With the temperature rising I decided to call it a day and head home for a much needed cold beer. A good day out.

After Work January 10th by Chris

Two days back at work so time to go fishing.

The river at CPR was surprisingly high. High enough that I couldn't wade across the usual spot. Dave and Julie were waiting for something to happen and Tony headed downstream. A carload of fishermen and a family outing arrived to reduce the amount of available water.

I headed downstream past Tony. He had landed one. He left before I had fished back to him and was replaced by a couple of spin fishermen.

Back at the cars Julie had left and Dave had spent his time rangering. Dave left not long after. It was almost dark and a fish finally started to rise on the far side of the river. Despite my best efforts I couldn't cast that far but picked up a tiddler while trying.

As usual right on dark the rises started. In quick time I picked up another couple of fish. It was time to go home and I was only 10 yards from the car. While walking along the bank I heard some splashes. I shone my headlamp on the edge to see a trout half out of the water chasing something on the edge. I kept the light on the fish, unhooked my fly and flicked it out. The fish took the fly and when I lifted my rod I pulled the fish right out of the water onto the bank. Fastest spotting and landing I have ever done.

Four fish for the night all just on or after dark as it cooled down. All were smaller than average for CPR but a fish is a fish. Two on the CDC emerger and two on the PT.

Mavora Trip by Julie

Day 1

After a lovely trip up the lake we arrived, unpacked at the hut and then an investigation of the local surroundings to see where the fish were this year and what has changed.

Day 2

We woke up to a blue cloudless sky, very sunny but all the signs were there for a windy day, and it had already begun to come up. Dave was heading down the lake to pick up John Morwood who is over from Tasmania. They were planning to fish up the river, while Cole and I were planning to fish the western side of the lake. What an interesting and educational day it was. Cole caught a nice rainbow on his second cast. We had a plan to have smoked trout for tea. So, in case we never caught another for the day we decided to keep this one. He was a frisky little jumper and entertained us for some time out in the water. Cole asked me to net it. Well Cole thought my netting was definitely a youtube video in the making! The fish definitely did not want to come into the net, and it was a struggle but ended with success. Next was what to do with it for the day. I had observed fish being held under water by a stake through the gills into the riverbed in the Tongariro. So suggested this. Cole pointed out the risk of an eel or a black billed gull damaging our fish, so he quickly built a little stone dam and made a wooden hut over it for protection from predators. Here it sat in the cool water till our fishing day was over. Dave smoked the trout later that night for tea and we all really enjoyed our dinner of smoked trout, peas, carrots onions and new potatoes.

During the day after Coles initial success, I was highly motivated. Next one I hooked headed well out on the lake had a few rises. I applied tension when he jumped and he broke off - lesson learned, I was crushed. The wind was now up well over 20 knots from the south this time and made it very difficult for both of us to cast in the position we were in. Next, I saw a fish rise 45 degrees from me. I watched his pattern for a while to pick



Julie and fish selfie at Mavora

where he would next appear. I got it wrong, he came over towards me and rose one metre in front of me. I nearly fell in the water in shock, after that however he went back to his pattern and took my fly a few casts later. The hook wasn't in his mouth very well and he took off after a couple of leaps. A few casts later there was a nice rise well out and I decided it needed a double haul. Fine till the matagouri bush behind me reached out and grabbed my third fly for the day. I was so cross at that tree I took Cole's saw to it. Well, I came off worse than the bush and my fly remained hidden in the bush. My hands were bleeding and arms were scratched. Close to giving up fishing by this time. After lunch I was re-energized, and we headed south hoping to find a more sheltered place to fish. Cole, who is a very good spotter, eyed up two lovely fish which I chased up the edge for what seemed like miles over rough rocks. I must have cast 20 times to one of them and he was moving quite fast into the wind and a challenge for me to get in front of him at his fast-cruising pace and to remain out of his vision. Also, hard to keep him in sight. Cole noted the fish continued to circle a weed bed and continued at a fast pace to the next one, traveling close to the shore. I was in

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Mavora Trip (cont)

(Continued from page 4)

hot pursuit and Cole offering encouragement following from behind. Eventually, I got alongside him, we eyed each other for a few seconds, and he decided to head out to deeper water and safety. Another learning experience. Was amazed I got 20 casts in before this occurred. Later on, I caught another nice trout just over a drop off. A lovely rainbow, phew, felt I'd started finally to redeem myself. Cole caught another nice trout and then we saw Dave heading back to pick us up. We were both exhausted from the wind and heat and ready to go to the hut and call it a day. What an enjoyable day. Roll on day three.



Julie and Cole getting ready for a day's fishing at Mavora

Day 3

Woke up to fog so a bit later heading out. Variable winds so cruised around trying a few different spots. I had a few more hook ups and lost them getting very frustrated with fishing. Thinking what is happening here why's it breaking. I was taking great care with my improved clinch knot. Was using a ten-foot tapered leader no tippet as was long enough. After lunch I changed to our club comp black beetle as my favourite Royal Wulff was being rejected, shortened the leader and added tippet. This worked and I quickly landed two more lovely rainbows renewing my enthusiasm for the sport. Another learning curve was trying to keep a fish wet, do a selfie and return the fish for release but that's a story for another day.

Day 4

Saw at least 12 trout this morning - some inspected my beetle and turned away. Another took my line and broke off, this time I believe it was my lifting instead of lowering the rod when he did his third jump. To be sure it wasn't the tippet I changed it to another brand. Unfortunately, no more takes. But I have seen plenty of action over my time here. Final count for me was three landed and I was stoked and six hooked and broke off.

Has been wonderful to get back up here and have the opportunity to fish with two great anglers. Deeply grateful to Dave and Cole for including me in their trip. Also, for the tips n tricks I've been shown to improve my fishing in this region. Thank you to you both. I will leave it to them to tell their stories.



The lake was low and it was very dry at Mavora



Another of Julie's fish

Te Anau Trip by Dave

This was the 31st year that I have had a week plus fishing in Te Anau. Initially it was in November but has slipped back and this year it was mid-December. Cole joined me again this year and we only fished four rivers this year with four days spent on the Mararoa and a day each on the Eglinton, Upukerora and lower Waiau. We caught some fish but not great numbers or great size. Best fish of the trip was taken from a tributary and was a 4¼lb rainbow Cole took on one of my black foam beetles. Unfortunately the weather was generally cloudy making sight fishing difficult but you have to live with that.

Lows of the trip were a broken rod (my CTS Affinity X) and Cole losing one of his trekking poles after he dropped it into the Mararoa River and it floated away. The broken rod was caused by a heavy nymph impact while casting into a very strong wind. The lost trekking pole became a high when I found it in a little pool three days later about 3km downstream from where he lost it.



A couple of the beautiful spots we visited during our Te Anau Trip. Best fish came from the stream at the top.

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

28/29 th Jan	Course	Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel
31 st Jan	MM	Monthly Meeting
7 th Feb	CM	Fly Tying
12 th Feb		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game - 7am
22 nd Feb		Mid-week Trip
22-27 th Feb		Lake Alexandrina Trip
28 th Feb	MM	This meeting is "On the river" --- BBQ Tea about 6pm
5 th March		Teviot Fishing Competition
7 th Mar	CM	Fly Tying
12 th Mar		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game 7am

Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz
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- Vice-President Julie Cook, 11 Ruru Ave, Otatara (027 630 2949) juliecook@actrix.co.nz
- Editor Dave Harris 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 (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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