

“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

Well, that is just about it for the season. A few days left on those rivers that close on May 31 and then all we have left is the lower reaches of the rivers and the lakes.

My season on the main rivers had a great finish. I managed to get out on the last four days of April with the delayed mid-week trip and the April Lodge trip. There are reports on both these trips elsewhere in this Ripples. The fish I landed in the Aparima on these two trips were in great condition.

May has not been so good. I managed an afternoon on the Mataura above Mataura with Gerda but there were very few fish rising. In fact I only saw one that was rising occasionally. It liked the look of my parachute adams and came to the net. From here the weather hasn't been great but I kept looking at river levels and weather reports. I finally decided I needed to head to the Te Anau area in spite of the rivers looking to be a bit high as there was more heavy rain forecast. I decided to use the binos to check the river before heading down the hill and it was still far too dirty to fish. I checked out the lake at the river mouth but there was a strong wind blowing down the lake and casting would have been extremely difficult. The only option left was the Upper Waiau. The flow was a bit high but there was no other choice but to fish here or to head home. I checked out the river at Balloon Loop but the flow there has moved to the accessible bank in recent years making fishing difficult, so I headed for Queens Reach. I made a pretty half hearted effort initially before moving a bit and getting set up properly. It didn't take long before I had a hit on the fly but it didn't stay on long. A second fish stayed on long enough for me to get my net out but it came off as well. By then it was lunch time and there was some light rain falling so I went back to the car for lunch. By the time I had finished lunch the rain had stopped so I headed back to the river. I also changed flies as the one I was using had had its barb flattened when I had to extract it from my finger on the April mid-week trip. Back to the river and another hook up. Before I had time to think that this one would stay on with the slightly bigger hook with a barb, it was gone. Much shorter time than the other two. Finally, I got a good hook up and a nice 2½lb rainbow came to the net. All these fish fought hard (all rainbows) and they had a pretty strong current to help them out as the river was flowing at about 260 cumecs.



One of the superb brown's I caught on the on the last day of the season on the Aparima.

What have we got coming up? There is a mid-week trip scheduled on May 24th and the May Lodge trip on May 27th & 28th. Hopefully the weather will co-operate for these. If you want to come on either give me a call on 027 201 6722. We also have our first Fly Tying day coming up on June 18th. This will be held at the Fish & Game Office, 17 Eye Street starting at 9:00am. If you are keen to learn how to tie flies this is a good opportunity and you don't have to have your own gear, the Club has some you can use. Come along any time during the day as we will be there until about 4:00pm (apart from lunch time).

May Lodge Trip 27th & 28th May

The May Lodge trip is scheduled for May 27 & 28. We plan to fish some of the rivers that are open until the end of May. At the end of the trip we will have to close the Lodge down for the winter.

If you are keen on coming on this trip give Dave a ring on 027 201 6722

Cover Photo by Gerda

Autumn on the Mataura. Dave just above Mataura early May.

April Mid-week Trip by John

Having just arrived back in town after a long absence I was keen to get some fishing in before the end of season. The Club midweek trip was scheduled for Wed 26 May. A storm had come through on the weekend and attending the club meeting on Tuesday night it was raining hard. Dave said it was mainly coastal and that the rivers had come up a little however not much. There was the two of us wanting to go. We decided to leave it to the Wednesday morning to check conditions. A subsequent text from Dave in the morning suggested we leave it a day to settle and head out on the Thursday instead. It would turn out to be a good decision.

Meeting up with Dave we headed out to the Aparima. He suggested a spot and on arriving we noticed the river was up a little and a bit coloured but fishable. We had put the "Fishing upstream" sign on the dash and started heading off when a vehicle pulled up. It was Chris, a guide Dave knew quite well, he introduced himself to me and took with his client off to find a new access point.

Crossing the river was quite doable however there was a lot of algae on the rocks making it slippery, it reminded me of the importance of having good studs or bars on the wading boots, it was one foot in front of the other soft shoe shuffle for the rest of the day.

I was fishing slightly ahead of Dave, and I knew I had to adjust my rig to the local conditions. My rod was set up for still water fly fishing with an 18 foot leader. I had deliberately not altered it before arriving as I wanted to see what was in front of me and adjust accordingly. I spent quite a bit of time fiddling with shortening the leader and selecting the right flies. I had an indicator fly on with a gold bead nymph.

We passed a ripple and Dave had just finished saying "They're out there" and he was on. He hooked up on the nymph under his indicator dry and showed a lovely bit of fishing to bring a solid 4 pounder to the net. It was dark coloured in good condition. I still didn't feel happy with my set up and knew the flow was too fast for the bead headed nymph. I needed to get heavier. In the meantime, Dave hooked up, another solid fish in great condition a little darker in colour this one. I think around 3.5 pound from memory.

Crossing over a few times and checking the back flow areas and eddies Dave did spot a couple as we went along, however they weren't sticking around for us to cast to them.

Coming to another slower stretch we saw some birds swooping on mayflies and a few fish started sporadically rising. I was feeling a bit better in tune with my set up now however I felt my nymph had to be down even further for this depth. I stopped to adjust again.

Dave was on again with another good solid fish that lead him on a merry dance. He played it beautifully with the right amount of sideways pressure as the fish let him know he wasn't ready to come in. Dave eventually got him in the net. Another good condition fish around 4.4 pounds, I think.

I felt good with my gear now, the right sized leader, tippet spacing and weighted nymph. I started casting to a few rises, nothing yet.

In the meantime, Dave was on once more, the same indicator dry and gold bead head nymph. This fish went on a dance as well. Getting him to the net Dave called around 2.5 pounds. It had fought just as hard as the heavier ones.

While Dave was adjusting, I hooked up, a good heavy fish. It had taken the nymph. I started playing him with all the space he needed. A last minute run and ping he was gone. Bust off. It made me question my knot tying (although I was confident with the knots) the strength of tippet, and my pressure applying techniques. Never mind I was happy to get into a solid heavy fighting fish.

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April Mid-week Trip (cont)

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We agreed that was a heck of a lot of fun and decided to move up again. I had retied and as we approached an even slower section Dave spotted one and said have a shot, he was kindly wanting me to catch one. A couple of casts and this fellow came over to look at my nymph. I saw him take it and hooked him up. A few splashes around as I started to play him, and ping he was gone. Another bust off. Never mind I was still happy to get the action. After putting on some heavier tippet I followed Dave up to a ripple where he had seen one and had a go. No deal.

Moving up to a new stretch with a faster flow there were some fish slurping mayflies off the surface next to the far bank. I persevered with the dry indicator and the nymph. There were no more takers. In the meantime, Dave had missed a few just a little upstream, with one in particular not too far out giving him a hard time. He had swapped his nymph for a parachute adams with this particular fish having an aggressive go at it. We decided to head back as it was getting on and we still had to walk back through several crossings and drive home.

As Dave turned towards me the fish he had been casting too was still there, in the same spot, rising again. Dave had another cast, it came up and took the parachute quite aggressively, it was gone. It had straightened the hook this time.

It was definitely time to go, walking back to the car we agreed it had been a great day out. Especially with the inclement weather the previous days. Dave had four good fish in the net however also missing 4 or 6. I had two bust offs, both good fish.

The day reminded me of why I love fly fishing, the problem solving on the river, adjusting to what's in front of you, and you never know until you go! A great midweek day out all round.

Competitions by Julie

Fish Competition.

I will still accept cards for the fish competitions up to the May meeting.

Fly Competition.

The fly for May is the spinner as in the April Ripples. The June fly is the Alexandrina detailed in this Ripples. If you are not coming to the meeting and want to enter a fly get it to me (or someone else who is coming) prior to the meeting.

Fly Tying Day - June 18th

The Club is holding the first of its two winter Fly Tying Days on June 18th at the Fish & Game Office, 17 Eye Street. We will start at 9:00am and finish about 4:00pm. While some members will be there all day (other than when we head out to find some lunch), you can come along any time during the day. Whatever suits you.

The day will cater for all levels of fly tying ability from beginners to expert. We will be able to show the beginners how to tie the most basic flies and if any real experts show up they will be able to show other members some more advanced techniques.

If you haven't tied flies before or don't have any gear don't let that stop you coming along. The Club has both gear and materials available for you to use.

If you are a beginner we will start off with the simplest nymphs, the hare & copper and pheasant tail. While simple to tie these are also some of the most effective nymphs. If you have a bit of experience we can show you some more complex flies that are effective here in Southland.

April Lodge Trip by Dave

There was not a lot of interest in the April Lodge Trip. However, I decided to go on my own and get three days fishing in.

I set off early Friday morning, heading to the Lodge and getting unloaded, power & water on and then headed on to Garston to meet up with Dean, a NZ F&G Councillor from Westport, who was down for a few days fishing on the Maitai.

We had a choice of accesses and selected one not far from Garston. The river looked to be in good condition and Dean said he had a good rise the day before. We spotted a number of fish. Most of which disappeared pretty quickly. Dean did manage to hook a couple on a CDC emerger but both dropped off. I headed back to the Lodge to cook dinner while Dean headed back to Kingston and then on home to Westport the next day. I managed to get Sky up on the TV via my computer to watch rugby and then Formula 1 qualifying.

Saturday dawned foggy and cold. I decided to head to the middle Maitai, hoping the fog would be clear in that direction. The fog did clear but there was another bank in the region I intended to fish so I changed my plan so I could fish in the sun. By the time I had got changed and set up the fog was closing in and as I walked to the river it closed in. I decided to stay at this beat and started heading up the river. I was a bit surprised to see quite a bit of colour in the water when it had been clear upstream the day before. At the top of the first ripple I came to, I spotted a fish. I flicked the line out and first cast I was on. Not a big fish but a good start to the day. Unfortunately, the hook pulled just as I was going to net it. I continued up the river but the sun was pretty low in the sky and it made spotting fish difficult, especially heading up a high bank that was casting a shadow over the edge of the river. I hooked and landed a couple of fish, neither being very big but was hopeful that there would be a good afternoon rise. No such luck. There were a few fish rising and a couple had a go at my dry fly but I think they were very small and they didn't hook up.

After a slightly frustrating day it was back to the Lodge and then on to the Mossburn pub for dinner. It was a popular place and they had the back dining room open and for the first time ever, that is where I dined. After a good meal it was back to the Lodge but I had to be a bit conservative with Sky as I had used most of my mobile data. Still watched more Formula 1 qualifying.

Sunday dawned clear and cold. I decided to head back to the Aparima where we had fished during the mid-week trip on Thursday. By the time I got to Mossburn it was a lot warmer (10°). I got to the access, set up and headed up the river. The first fish came in the first pool with it taking a gold bead head hare & copper. Next pool and I had a very aggressive take on my royal wulff. It hit so hard that before I could even think about striking it was taking line. That was two on the board. I continued up and landed another on my nymph before lunch. After lunch I arrived at the ripple where I had spotted a fish on Thursday that wouldn't take my nymph. It was somewhat more co-operative this time and came to the net. In the pool above this ripple there were a couple of fish starting to rise. I landed three in this pool including one that was against a high bank on the other side of the river and I was sure my fly was starting to drag but that didn't worry this fish. A bit further up the river there used to be a pool that always had rising fish so I started to head up. I then spotted another angler towards the top of where this good pool should have been. I suspect he saw me and must have felt guilty about coming down on me as he took off up the river. The good pool was no longer there but there was still a bit of a back water with a rising fish in it. I put the dry out where I thought he might see it but first pass he missed it. He was soon back further away and heading back towards me. This time he saw my fly and came to the net.

I decided that was enough for the day so headed back to car then on to Lodge to pack up and head home. All the fish I had landed for the day were in excellent condition and weighed between three and four pound.

It was a great Lodge trip with really good weather and on the Sunday some very co-operative fish rising well. Pity you all missed it.

Peter Morse Presentation by Julie

The Southland Fly Fishing Club and Fishing Friday joined forces to have an afternoon with Peter Morse (MCI) certified Master fly caster. Peter comes from Leura in NSW. He happened to be in Southern NZ chasing trout and kindly agreed to come down from Balfour for the day to support fly fishing in the South. Not many in the world can match Peter's experience as a caster. He holds the Mel Kreger honours award and has caught over 120 different species on his fly rod over the years.

15 people arrived at Donovan Park despite clashing with the King's coronation and opening of the Duck shooting season. They came from Roxburgh, Mossburn and other outlying areas as well as locals including club members. Running something like this you never know how many are going to turn up and we were certainly pleased to have 15 attend. The weather was better than anticipated and it all went very well.

It was a diverse mix of fly fishers from beginners, intermediates to advanced, who all had one aim and that was to take their casting to the next level. In three hours Peter had the ones that were just starting learning the basics, while the more experienced were able to have tuition on fine tuning their casting. Even very experienced fly casters sometimes pick up bad habits over the years and it was a great opportunity to have someone of Peter's calibre to show techniques to fix what may have been holding them back.

Peter spoke on the IFFF and where to find great online teaching casting videos. Being a brand ambassador for Sage and Rio we learned a little of Peter's preferred lines and rods.

Peter had a relaxed and patient approach and everyone had an opportunity to cast and ask questions. We learned from observing others, having a go ourselves and taking home homework for individual improvements.

Peter used the principles of 5 essentials to a good cast being "the method used by the IFFF".

The feedback I received from those attending has been very positive with every participant taking at least three things away to work on.

I was working on casting tailing loops on demand. A very useful skill when teaching. Hmm, very easy when not intended but I found very challenging to master. Peter gave me the analogy of stopping at a red light with a boy racer next to you and flooring the car on take off then seeing a police car and a very quick slow down. It's going to take me a bit more practice on this one.

Overall a very successful afternoon.



June Competition Fly by Dave

Alexandrina streamer

This fly is inspired by the grey ghost. I was asked at the last boat show if I could tie some grey ghosts but replied that I didn't have any suitable feathers. I thought about it for a while and decided to tie what was basically a grey ghost with the feathers replaced by white congo hair. When one of these was tried on a floating line it refused to sink so it needed some weight. For this year's trip to Alexandrina I decided I wanted to try something different to the orange rabbit that I had caught all my fish on during previous trips. For this I decided to add a brass bead (as I had used on the orange rabbits) to imitate the juvenile koaro that are the rainbow's favourite in this lake. I only used it on my last day and was successful with it. When we were trying to sort out the June fly at the last executive meeting Gerda asked for this fly and with no other suggestions here it is.



Materials:

Hook	Black Magic B10 or C10
Bead	3.8mm gold brass bead
Thread	Black Unithread 6/0
Tail	Red dyed hen's feather
Body	Silver mylar
Wing	White congo hair
Flash	Rainbow sparkle Krystal Flash

I bought my congo hair from America but www.iloveflyfishing.kiwi has it in stock but not in white. I am sure one of the other colours like glow white would be just as good. While I used rainbow sparkle Krystal Flash any similar colour will do.



Slide bead on to hook and mount in vice



Run thread to the bend of the hook and tie in tail



Build up the thread so it is reasonably even and tie in mylar along the top of the hook



Wind the mylar forward in overlapping turns, silver side out.



Tie in a small clump of congo hair making sure it is even on both sides of the hook. It should be a little longer than the tail



Finally tie in two strands of Krystal Flash on each side, the same length as the tail, whip finish and coat head with cement or uv epoxy.

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

24 th May		Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
27/28 th May		Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge
30 th May	MM	Fly tying competition starts
6 th June	CM	Fly Tying
18 th June		Fly Tying day
27 th June	MM	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
4 th July	CM	Fly tying
25 th July	AGM	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)

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 (027 201 6722) dcharris@southnet.co.nz
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz
- 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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