

“Ripples”

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

September 2023



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

Not long to go now, the new season is almost here, I think I have almost everything ready, favourite rod repaired after breaking the tip, new vest, new net on my landing net and quite a few flies tied. I still need to check exactly what flies I have and the aluminium traction bars on my boots need some attention. I still need to decide where to go on opening day but that depends on weather and river conditions. As I write this the rivers are up quite a bit but there is plenty of time for them to get back to normal.

September has been busy with quite a few things happening. We have had two fly tying demonstrations at Hunting & Fishing and there is still one more to come on their Angler's Night on September 21st, There was the International Women's Fly Fishing Day, the September Club trip and the Lodge Working Bee.

As well as the demonstration at Hunting & Fishing we still have our casting day at Queens Park on the 24th before the season starts. I also have some non-fishing activities that will take up all day and both evenings on September 22nd & 23rd.

The September Club Meeting (26th September) was scheduled to be held at Hunting & fishing but this has changed. The Meeting will be at Fish & Game as normal but we will have a get together at Hunting & Fishing the following Tuesday (October 3rd) at 6:00pm. There will be a presentation from Manic Tackle, one of the leading fishing gear wholesalers in New Zealand (and one of the sponsors of our Fly fishing Course).

Our first Lodge Trip for the season will be on the weekend of October 7th & 8th (contact me on 027 201 6722 if you want to come) and our first Club Trip will be on October 15th, leaving Fish & Game at 7:00am.

Fly Tying Demonstrations by Dave

We held two Fly Tying Demonstrations at Hunting & Fishing on September 2nd and 16th. Gerda and I did the first demonstration and had some interest but more would have been good. We did give away some information on the Fly Fishing Course next January but it was a relatively quiet day. Chris and I did the second demonstration and again it was a quiet day. We did have a long conversation with a group of anglers that Chris had bumped into on the Upukerora River a few seasons ago.

In spite of the days being quiet it is still worthwhile trying to raise the Club profile. We do have another demonstration at the Hunting & Fishing Anglers Night on September 21st. There will be a lot more people at this one and we will get a chance to speak about the Club and the Fly Fishing Course so this should be worthwhile.



Gerda and Dave tying flies at Hunting & Fishing on 2nd September



Chris talking to anglers at Hunting & Fishing on September 16th

International Women's Fly Fishing Day

This is a day to encourage lady anglers globally to connect and share their love of fly fishing. It is also to encourage other women to have a go at this sport.

International Women's Fly Fishing Day is a worldwide initiative to encourage women to take up fly fishing. It is hoped this day will grow and grow. The women behind it are Pamela Dunlop USA, and Maddy Kelly in Ireland. I was lucky enough to meet and fish with Maddy when fly fishing in Ireland in 2020 and she told me of her and Pamela's dream to get this day off the ground. I agreed it was a great idea and admired their work in encouraging women into fly fishing. So I offered support and encouragement to encourage women in New Zealand to take part.

September 2020 was the inaugural IWFFD, and has grown here and across 23 other countries over the past 4 years. We are seeing increasing numbers and countries taking part each year and this is very exciting for the future of fishing.

On this day women are asked to post on social media at 11am (in their time zone) pictures of them fly fishing, tying flies, reading a fishing book or watching a video on fishing, even art and jewellery is included and is showcasing women's love of the sport of fly fishing. NZ is the first country to hit 11am and post. So we start the day rolling and it becomes almost 2 days of women connected by fly fishing around the world posting photos of their activities.

Here in Invercargill, Rose, Gerda and myself went to Te Waewae Lagoon and had lovely day fishing together. Weather was warm, wind somewhat annoying but fun was had by all of us. We would have had more women with us this year but some had to work and Amy was excused as she was busy giving birth to a delightful little 8lb 8oz boy and Grandmother (who was also planning to come) was giving support to Amy. Congratulations Amy and Chris and Roseanne.

Coming back to the fly fishing day for women, many ask why have it and what are the barriers to women in fly fishing? Not an easy question but Maddy Kelly and Pamela Dunlop, who have taught women fly fishing for many years state the following: "Fly Fishing has always been a male dominated sport and this makes many women uncomfortable entering into it. However the more women see women out there fly fishing the more barriers are broken down and women are encouraged into having a go and discovering a love for the sport."

Women are also often afraid to put themselves out there. Maddy and Pamela explain it as men going into an interview and looking through ten job requirements and seeing one that they can do and would often say, "hey I can do one task well, so I could do this job". Women on the other hand would say, "there are nine tasks I can do and one I can't so I would not be suitable for this job." This view can hold women back. Another barrier is safety. Majority of women do not enjoy fishing alone. It can mean walking along lonely riverbanks kilometres from anywhere. This and wading alone causes many women to feel anxious for safety reasons. This is quite different from most males who fly fish frequently alone and without concern for their well being.

Important from these reports to be aware of these barriers for women when encouraging daughters, girlfriends, cousins and other female friends out fishing and to make it a fun day. Understanding this will build numbers of women fly fishing. Taupo club in the North Island is addressing these issues and their numbers of women who fish is growing rapidly. There are all female fishing groups happening all over the world and this is a positive sign.

It is very exciting that our first NZ team of fly fishing women has just headed over to compete in Canada last week and we are all watching and wishing the Fly Ferns well representing New Zealand.

Cover Photo by Dave

Gerda, Julie and Rose at Te Waewae on the International Women's Fly Fishing Day.

September Club Trip by John

Sunday 10th September was the designated outing to Te Waewae Lagoon. It was a first time for me so I was looking forward to exploring a new place. It was forecast possible inclement weather with showers and wind. As we met up at Fish and Game we counted the numbers. There was myself, Dave, Chris, Issac, Nathan and Zanda, a nice effort. Issac and myself jumped in Dave's car and took off while Chris waited for Nathan and Zanda to arrive. Chris ended up going back to his place to regroup which was a good thing as he'd left his lunch behind in the garage!

Dave mentioned he had been to the same place the day before with some of the ladies. It was a good weather lovely Saturday with 18° and clear skies although they hadn't caught anything. Arriving at the lagoon and parking up amongst the fishing shacks we sussed out the layout, it was overcast with surface wind ripples and a bit murky. My initial thought was 'Eeww avearge. We set up with heavier rods to compensate for the wind. I was using a 6/8 short rod. Floating lines for the shallow water. Chris had a hole in his leaky waders which we patched with UV glue. Dave reminded it was a good idea to carry a roll of multi purpose duct tape as most waders leak at some point. True enough.

This was the first time out fly fishing for Nathan and Zanda so Dave and Chris took the time to give them some guidance. I had a cast around the island in the shallows and up the small inlet while people went off in different directions to explore. There was no action for me so I sat down to wait, and got into the "pigs in blankets" my sister had made for me that morning. They were pretty good so I had another, thought about having a third, then tried to leave the rest for lunch. People wandered back with mixed results, Chris had a hooked a small one and lost it while Isaac and Zanda had hook ups or follows and all had seen fish. Dave had landed a one and half pounder right up against the bank further up. Nathan had hooked a fish although lost it. A commendable effort for his first time out with a fly rod. Sensational. My catch was sausages wrapped in bacon, a very good catch.

While we were having lunch a traveller who was flying solo (Kyle) struck up a conversation. He had a good knowledge of fishing and stated he only fished around during winter. Dave put his Ranger hat on and respectfully checked his licence. He was compliant and held a winter licence. This was smart as it was only \$80 at the time for the period he went fishing. Kyle went on to catch a nice fat perch on spinning gear. He was keeping it for dinner which was a sound idea as they are an invasive species and best not put back.

As Dave was the only person who had landed a fish so far we casually wandered along to the bank where he had been, spreading out to get some space. I had taken off the white bait fly I made up and replaced it with a green damsel/woolly bugger variant with a gold bead. The bead wasn't necessary due to the shallow water



John with a nice Te Waewae brown in his net

however I left it on. Hooking up quickly at my feet I landed a one and half pounder in good condition. Shortly after I hooked another small one which danced a bit on the surface, I quickly got it in and released it.

Wandering along the bank I noticed a bit of activity between the weed beds, it was murky however there was movement. It was tricky as even though it was quite shallow there was a bit of wind swirling around on the surface and the tide was moving. We had dodged the forecast showers and the sky cleared up. This was a bonus. We were left with the wind.

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September Club Trip (cont)

(Continued from page 4)

There was sudden splash further up followed by some expletive language. A person who will be unnamed forever had fallen over as he got stuck in the mud. Trying to get up he fell over on his bum again, which was NOT funny.

Wandering back to the cars I came across a likely looking spot between the weed. Casting out I hooked up, a heavier fish. Getting him on the reel and giving him some space to tire out I let him run for a while. Inside the net he went three pounds, a nice fish in very good condition. I kept him in the net below water to show Nathan and Isaac before the release. Zanda had wandered off chasing a fish he had seen.

Dave then suggested early home time and all agreed. It had been fun as everyone had some action. Chris hooked up, Dave landed one, Nathan hooked up, Zanda had several follows, Isaac had hooked four, and I managed to land three. After we said goodbye and departed Dave checked out a few access roads leading down to the coast and the lagoon, always a good idea for next time.

Another good fun day out. A recurrent reminder why I love fly fishing, it takes your mind off the bill's. (Although Chris disagrees). And also a reminder that even though it might look miserable weather-wise initially, it might be different at the destination and if you don't go you don't know.

Something I thought was interesting is the day before had been much better conditions, clear skies, sunshine and less wind. Our day had been less favourable however we managed to get some action. Conclusion- it's worth going anyway.

As previously mentioned that was Nathan and Zanda's first time on the water with a fly rod. A very good effort indeed, hopefully they are hooked for life like the rest of us.

Lodge Working Bee - September 17th

The Lodge Working Bee was held on September 17th. I took Gerda up while Chris and David arrived separately. There wasn't a lot of significant work to do but we found a couple of more items that need to be sorted out that we couldn't fix on the day.

Gerda and Chris concentrated on cleaning the inside of the Lodge while David and I spent most of our time outside. The kitchen was given a good going over with the pretty much everything cleaned and the rest of the interior also well cleaned. Outside there was weed killing around the building, the deck was swept and the outside of the big window cleaned as well as the exterior swept of spider webs. The ball cock in the tank was adjusted but we won't see how effective this is until we get the water turned back on (I couldn't get hold of the farmer) and the broom growing out the back was all pulled out. There seemed to be a lot more small broom plants than in recent years but hopefully we got them all. Some had to be dug out and that is actually quite difficult in the very stony ground. I failed to sort out the sensor light and we found a hole chewed through the carpet in the bunk room (where there used to be an outside door). There is also a broken board on the deck that needs to be replaced.

Hunting & Fishing Anglers Night September 21st 6:00pm

Hunting & Fishing are holding their annual Fish Night on September 21st at 6:00pm. We will be demonstrating fly tying and will also get a chance to speak to those present to tell them about the Club and promote both our casting day and next year's Fly fishing Course.



September Club Meeting

The September Club Meeting (September 26th) was going to be held at Hunting & Fishing but this has been changed. It will now be held at Fish & Game at 7:30pm as normal.

Special Meeting at Hunting & Fishing - October 3rd 6:00pm

Instead of having our September Meeting at Hunting & Fishing we will be having a special meeting there on October 3rd at 6:00pm. We will have a representative from Manic Tackle to speak to us and Hunting & Fishing staff will go through what is new for the season. We need a good turnout to make this worthwhile.

Casting Day - September 24th

We are holding our annual Casting Day at Queens Park Cricket Ground on Sunday, September 24th starting at 1:00pm. Come along and get your casting arm all sorted out for the coming season.

Competitions by Gerda

Fly Tying

There was a good entry of seven diving beetles for the August fly tying competition including first time entries from Nathan and Zanda. Dave's fly was the winner.

The September fly is the timberlake emerger as shown in the August Ripples (even if it was not actually named). This is the last fly for the year.



Dave's winning diving beetle

Fishing Competition.

The Club Fishing Competitions this year take the same form as in the past. This is an honesty competition where you hand in your cards at the monthly meetings (or any other time you can find me). You were given 7 cards when you paid your subscription and that is one card for each month of the season. You can put more in but you will need to buy more cards from the Secretary to make it through the season.

There are 4 sections – heaviest brown, heaviest rainbow, total weight and condition factor. The first two are easy to figure out, total weight is the total for one fish per month (hence the seven cards) and the condition factor is based on the length and weight of the fish. All entries at a meeting go into the draw for the Hunting & Fishing \$20 gift voucher.

Condition factor calculation is:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight} \times 100000}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}}$$

Weight is in pounds and length is in inches

If you use metric instead of imperial measures it looks like this:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight} \times 3612.8}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}}$$

Weight is in grams and length is in cm.

A very good fish gives a condition factor of 60 – 70. If this calculation gives numbers over this, I get very suspicious of the data.

If you don't measure the length of your fish it is still eligible for all sections except condition factor.

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

21 st Sept		Hunting & Fishing Annual Fish Night
24 th Sept		Casting Day at Queens Park 1:00pm
26 th Sept	MM	At Fish & Game 7:30pm
1 st Oct		Opening Day
3 rd Oct		Special Meeting at Hunting & Fishing 6:00pm
7/8 th Oct		Lodge Trip (contact Dave 027 201 6722 if you are coming)
15 th Oct		Club Trip Meet at F&G 7:00am
26 th Oct		Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
31 st Oct	MM	At Fish & Game 7:30pm
1 st Nov		High Country Opening (Wednesday)
4/5 th Nov		Lodge Trip - High Country Opening (contact Dave 027 201 6722)

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
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- 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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