

“Ripples”

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club

The club was founded in 1974

July 2014



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippetts

Dairy success at environment awards

Fish & Game NZ is welcoming the success of Mid-Canterbury dairy farmers Mark and Devon Slee taking the top Balance Farm Environment Award last night. "Dairying has never won the top national award before," says Fish & Game chief executive Bryce Johnson. "In winning the coveted Gordon Stevenson Trophy Mark and Devon are demonstrating that environmentally sustainable and profitable dairy farming is not only possible but up there alongside the other farming categories that have previously won the top national award. "The challenge for the dairy industry now is to capitalise on this success story and ensure it reaches the rest of the dairy sector."

Mr Johnson believes the dairy companies have a special role to play here. "The dairy companies must become more directly engaged in requiring an agreed baseline standard of environmental performance from their suppliers.

The Balance Farm Environment Awards are a great opportunity for the rural sector to display to the rest of New Zealand the good work being done by landowners. "While I am often told there are many good 'farming and environment' stories out there, recent public opinion surveys clearly show the primary sector is not good at telling them. "Fish & Game would gladly endorse good environmental performance but, like the general public of New Zealand, examples need to be put out there for everyone to see and the likes of Fish & Game to provide complementary comment."

Orvis Click and Pawl reel

Simple design and flawless construction make this the perfect click-and-pawl fly reel for nearly any freshwater fishing situation. A minimalist's dream, the all-new Battenkill features a classically styled, yet technically enhanced, four-position click-and-pawl drag system that is adjusted internally and is designed to work in tandem with the palm of your hand on those sizzling, screaming runs. Constructed with a narrow spool for less line stacking on retrieve and a larger spool diameter for higher line retrieval rates. The ultra-lightweight fly reel design balances perfectly on shorter rods. Machined from heavy-duty bar-stock aluminium for added durability. Easily adjustable left- or right-hand retrieve. Highlighted by laser-engraved logos. In black nickel.



I personally love these reels. Its all you need for trout fishing. Available at orvis.com for US\$98

Cover Photo— Les Ladbrook



An exceptionally well tied fly and photograph

Around the Club

Club member Ian Michelson is now in the 'Top End' of the Great West Island and apparently catching tuna whilst avoiding salt water crocodiles. Good luck with that Ian!

Fly tier extraordinaire Jarred Martin has kindly tied up some superb salmon flies for my trip to Scotland, Wales and Canada. Really looking forward to fishing with these superb flies. Will they do the trick?

For my trip to Wales in September I have touched base with the Bodelwyddan Game Anglers and have had excellent feedback from the Chairman Paul Hughes. They have water available in the Conwy river and tributaries for salmon, sewin (sea trout) and wild brown trout.

Always good to feel welcomed by other clubs worldwide.

"People get the Politicians and fishing tackle they deserve."

John Gierach

Annual Competitions 2013-2014 by Dave Harris

Fly Tying

Entries in the fly tying competition down a little on last year. We had 7 people who entered the competition including one junior and three people managed a fly every month. As usual there were some fine flies produced by the members. This year competition was dominated by one person who was top scorer on three of the five nights. This resulted in a considerable spread of points.

Fish Competition

Fish numbers entered in the last season's fish competition were up two on last year's entry with 70 fish entered, 61 browns and 9 rainbows. There were only 11 fish over 5lb this season caught by 4 members and another 2 fish of 5lb. These fish were 11 browns and 2 rainbows. These fish came from the Upper Oreti River (2), Borland Burn, Spey River, Waituna Lagoon, Otago, Mataura River, Clinton River, Mararoa River, Aparima River, Eastern Southland, Eglinton River and a Mataura tributary. They were caught on green stonefly, pheasant tail, royal wulff, blowfly, adams (2), para cicada, black streamer (2), brown nymph, para beetle, tan/olive streamer, and an unnamed fly. Only four members entered a fish every month and this was equal to last year. The winner's total this year at 43 lbs with second and third a little way down. The winner's fish came from the Upper Oreti River (2), Borland Burn, Eglinton River, Clinton River and Waituna Lagoon (2). Flies used were para cicada, black streamer (2), brown nymph, para beetle, tan/olive streamer and yellow streamer.

The heaviest browns (2) were the same weight as last year's heaviest at 8½lb with second close behind at 7½ lbs. The best rainbow was 6¼ lbs, well down on last year's monster. Best condition factor was down on previous years at 48.59 and was a brown from the Mataura River.

The big fish were caught all through the season this year with no particular month standing out.

Junior Angler

We had significant reduction in the number of juniors taking part in this year's events. The Junior Trophy is awarded to an angler who entered both the fishing and tying competitions as well as taking part in a number of Club activities.

Club Trophy Presentations

Presentations of the club trophies for the competition winners will be at the July club meeting.

The July meeting is the AGM so please come along and nominate and vote for the executive and committee members.

AGM

As Rick is now working away from home and unavailable over the coming season we need a new custodian for the Lodge. If you are interested please put your name forward.

Committee members and any members are encouraged to bring a plate with some supper and nibbles.

Photo Competition winning entries

For the second year we had a one night photo competition at the June monthly meeting. Members could enter up to two photos in each of four classes, general, trophy, scenic and action. This attracted a reasonable number of entries and winners were decided by member votes. Kindly sponsored by Hunting & Fishing Invercargill where all the photos are now displayed.



General Photo winner— Dave Harris



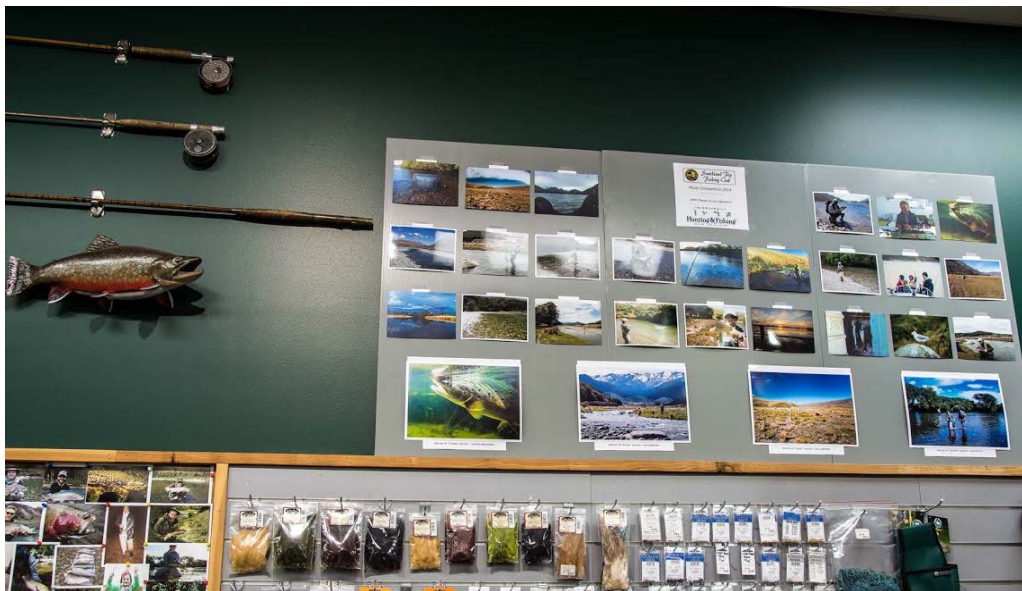
Action Photo winner— Les Ladbrook



Scenic Photo winner— Les Ladbrook



Trophy Photo winner— Johnny Mauchline



All the entries displayed at Hunting & Fishing

Season summary from the President by Dave Harris

Another season of fishing is over. Hopefully you all managed to spend plenty of time on the river or lake and caught plenty of fish.

As is usual for Southland there were some difficult conditions to deal with. There were also some good days that provided good fishing conditions. There was a big variation in river flows, from high flood to drought conditions.

Again this year we held a fly fishing course with our usual tutor Mike Weddell from Mosgiel. Once again we received generous sponsorship support from Invercargill Hunting & Fishing and Manic Tackle, we thank them for their support and trust that people will support them in return. The course was again over subscribed. The weather was good both days this year. There were a number of fish caught during the Sunday on the river. I hope those who took part enjoyed the course and have continued on with their fly fishing. Feedback on the course was positive as usual.

- Still on the teaching theme we held our usual casting day at Queens Park just prior to the season opening. We had a better turn out of the public than the previous couple of years
- On the membership front Chris McDonald was awarded Life Membership of the Club. He still continued his duties as Secretary Treasurer, doing a good job as usual
- Rick Gerrard continued as custodian for the Lodge and has ensured it is up to scratch. We finally managed to find suitable conditions and the new roof was fitted to the Lodge. The annual invasion of cluster flies occurred again and this looks likely to continue to be a problem in the future. The Lodge was well used during the season with good patronage throughout the season
- Johnny Mauchline continued as editor for the Ripples this year with assistance from Les Ladbrook
- Les Ladbrook continues to look after the club web site, keeping it up to date. This web site contains vital contact information, newsletters and the club calendar
- Jarred Martin continued his job as Librarian, adding a number of new titles to the library
- The Club weekend trips could have been better supported but several members had some good fishing while on these trips

The Club competitions had similar interest to previous years with a similar number of fish entered and four people put in cards every month. The number of big fish was down and the size was also down on previous years. Largest being 8½ lb. The fly tying competition attracted about the normal number of entries and was dominated by one member unlike last year's close competition. Three members managed to enter a fly every month. Again the junior trophy will be awarded this year but there was much less competition this year. We again had a one night photo competition at the June Monthly meeting increasing the number of categories to four. In spite of the extra category the number of entries was down which is a bit disappointing. Congratulations to those who took out the trophies this year in the annual competitions and the photo competition.

Sponsorship of the fish, fly and photo competition was from Invercargill Hunting and Fishing with EIS also coming on board for the additional class in the photo competition, printing the Ripples plus sponsoring the monthly "Name That Stream photo".

Unfortunately a number of Club Day trips had to be cancelled due to weather/river conditions. Those who did go on the Club trips enjoyed themselves and caught fish in all sorts of conditions. The weekend trips had about the normal support but unfortunately the May trip for the last weekend of the high country season had to be cancelled, again due to weather and river conditions.

We had fly tying days in August and June. These attracted about the usual support but there was room for plenty more. Those who attended the fly tying managed to tie a good number of flies including most of those required for next year's fishing courses. The annual Club dinner that followed the June fly tying day with the usual participants and those who attended enjoyed their dinner and exchange of gifts.

I would like to thank those who helped out with running the Club during the past year. Special thanks go to secretary/treasurer Chris McDonald for his ongoing work, Johnny Mauchline for keeping us all informed with his excellent newsletter, Les Ladbrook for looking after the website, Rick Gerrard for looking after the Lodge and Jarred Martin for managing the library. Thanks also to all the other committee members for their support during the year and to the members who helped out on the fishing course.

Last I would like to thank our sponsors –Corys Electrical, Invercargill Hunting & Fishing, Manic Tackle and EIS.

Fly Tying day at Fish & Game

Sunday 20th July
09:00 - 16:00

Come along and have some fun, get some help with your fly tying questions or issues

June Fly Competition



Les Ladbrook tied this fly from a Jarred Martin pattern and was voted best fly in the June competition by members.

Fly fishing with stealth—8 common mistakes by Kent Klewein

How often do you think anglers miss opportunities catching trout because of the lack of stealth? The more educated trout populations are in a stream, river or lake you're fly fishing, the more important it is for fly anglers to mimic the way a hunter stalks game in the field. I estimate that I give away upwards of 50% of my trout catching opportunities due to my lack of stealth. Below are 8 common mistakes fly anglers make on the water that blow their cover and success.



Fly fishing with stealth is one of the best ways to increase your catch rate. Photo Louis Cahill

1. MOVING TOO FAST IN AND OUT OF THE WATER

Trout are amazing at picking up on the subtle movement of objects around them. Movement is often perceived by anglers as being more important than noise by trout when it comes to them detecting danger. Eagles, osprey, heron and anglers all fit the bill for danger by trout when they see movement. Don't just pay attention to your movement in the water either, it's just as important to pay attention to the movement we make out of the water. I've got a wild trout stream a couple miles from my house where the trout are known to spook from anglers walking along an access road high above the river 50 feet or more away. Make no mistake, trout can see very well out of the water, particularly if the water is calm and clear.

2. TOO MUCH NOISE EQUALS UNSATISFACTORY STEALTH

Never be in a rush to get into position so you can make a cast into that tasty looking trout water. If anglers move too quickly, they're going to increase the noise they make during their approach and greatly increase their chances of alerting trout. Studies show that sound can travel as much as 70% farther underwater. With metal studs and metal tipped wading staffs the norm these days, we're making more noise than ever on the water. A rule of thumb that I use on the water to help me maintain stealth during my approach is to move twice as slow as my gut feeling is telling me to.

3. LEAVE YOUR BLING AT HOME

One of the worst things a fly fisher can do to alert fish to their presence is wearing brightly coloured clothing and flashy bling on the water. When you wear bright clothing you're going to stick out like a beacon to trout. I know this is fly fishing 101 stuff but I continue to see anglers ignoring this every year on the water and felt obligated to mention it in this post. Flashy jewellery (*watches, necklaces and rings*) is another no-no on the water. New Zealand guides are notorious for having their clients leave their flashy bling at the car before they hit the water. If the sun catches your flashy accessories just right, it can cause bright flashes of light to hit the water and alert trout.

4. STAY AS FAR AWAY FROM THE TROUT AS YOU CAN

It's amazing how fast anglers can find themselves standing out in the middle of the stream right on top of trout shortly after they've started fly fishing a spot. I call it the shuffle foot syndrome. Many novice fly fisher's shuffle their feet during their false casting, which draws them in closer and closer to the trout without them realizing it. The closer you position yourself to trout, the more likely you're going to miss out on catching them. Don't fall victim to the chronic shuffle foot syndrome. Pay attention at all times where you're positioned relative to the trout and make sure you have your feet anchored to the stream bed when you're fishing. It's also important to note that when anglers are wading from one spot to the next that they should always wade as far away from the trout as they can. When possible, stay out of the water when repositioning. This will decrease the noise you're making when you're wading and keep you off the radar.

Continued...

5. KEEP THE SUN IN YOUR FACE WHEN POSSIBLE

Pay attention to where the sun is located in the horizon and what side of the water you're approaching a hole to fish throughout the day. Doing so, you'll greatly eliminate the chance of your shadow being cast on the water and alerting fish. Moving shadows that are cast onto the water by anglers during wading and fly casting will almost always spook trout to some level and make it harder for you to get them to eat your fly.

6. DON'T LINE THE FISH WITH YOUR FLY LINE

Pay attention to the distance and the angle of your presentation cast. Both can blow your cover by you landing your fly line too close to the feeding trout. Try to work trout with just your leader when possible (*lengthen it if you needed*) and try to target trout from a 45 to 90 degree angle if you can. This will make it much easier for you to just drift your flies over the trout and not your fly line also.

7. DON'T HIT THE FISH ON THE HEAD WITH YOUR FLIES

Most of the time if you land your fly rig too loud on the water or too close to a trout you'll end up alerting or spooking it. A lot of the time this happens because the angler didn't have enough fly line stripped off their reel in the first place before making their initial cast, and that has them ending up falling short of their target. Fly anglers have two main objectives when they've moved into position and are ready to make their first cast. The first objective is to get their fly/flyes to land where the trout will be able to spot them during their drift. The second, is to cast far enough ahead of the trout so the sound of their rig hitting the water doesn't spook the trout. Pay attention to both of these when you're on the water fly fishing and you'll catch more trout.

8. DON'T FLY FISH LIKE YOU'RE FIRING A MACHINE GUN

When fly anglers are dealing with educated trout and small strike zones that require pin-point accuracy and drifts, they often will find more success if they focus on making quality presentations over quantity. A prime example of this would be when a fly angler has spotted a trophy trout but can't get it to bite. A big mistake rookie anglers make in this situation, is firing one cast after another, over and over, like their firing a machine gun. I've found the more times you cast over a big fish the less chance you'll generally have of catching it because you'll usually alert the fish at some point to your presence from the repeated casts. Next time you find yourself in this situation, take your time and make one presentation and drift at a time, then pause for a minute or two in between. You'll find by slowing down, your focus will increase, your accuracy will be much better and you'll greatly decrease the chances of the trout getting spooked. I've witnessed anglers on Flat Creek in Jackson, WY landing giant trout when no one else was because they had the discipline to locate a big trout and only make one cast to it every 15-20 minutes until they caught it. That's probably a little bit overboard, but there are situations when trout will stop feeding for several minutes when they've witnessed danger.

Check out more informative articles by Kent Klewein at ginkandgasoline.com

Name This Stream Competition

Last month's photo of a stream brought no response. A clue is (draw a line across Southland at Lumsden, and search for a river somewhere north of Lumsden)

Answers by email only please to service@eis.co.nz

Correct answers will be placed in a draw for a \$20

Hunting and Fishing voucher sponsored by EIS.

If you have a photo of a Southland stream you would like to include in the competition please email the Editor.



Coming Events

- 20th July Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am (Sunday)
- 29th July [AGM] Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
- 5th August (CM) Arranging the calendar for the next season
- 26th August [MM] Meeting at Hunting & Fishing

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 (03 215 6068) dcharris@southnet.co.nz
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- Editor Johnny Mauchline, 10 Carlyle Street, Matura (021 2877 323) service@eis.co.nz
Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month
- Librarian Jarred Martin, 33 Willis Street, Invercargill jmjavamartin@gmail.com
- Lodge Custodian Rick Gerrard, 44 Watt Road Otatara, 03 213-0920 (H) or txt 0275984322

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, 159 North Road Invercargill. [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, Jarred Martin.

A blow up Rubber Boat and a set of five Radio's, which can be borrowed by club members, contact Les Ladbrook.

Club Sponsors



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