

“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*

Editors Choice Tippets

Fish & Game wins Ruataniwha Dam High Court appeal

Fish & Game and its environmental allies have won their High Court appeal against the way the Board of Inquiry into the Ruataniwha Dam made decisions. The High Court considered the appeal from Fish & Game, Forest and Bird and the Environmental Defence Society in early November and Justice Collins released his decision today. In the decision, Justice Collins says the Board of Inquiry into the Ruataniwha Dam made overarching errors of law in the way it set rules on nitrogen levels leaching from farms after accepting submissions from the dam's promoters when the board had finished its hearings. Justice Collins says this meant the Board of Inquiry created a "factual fiction" and failed to give proper effect to the Resource Management Act or the 2011 National Freshwater Policy Statement. He has directed the Board of Inquiry to reconsider and change the rules on nitrogen levels, as well as amending the conditions of consent for the Ruataniwha Dam. Justice Collins awarded costs to Fish & Game and Forest and Bird. Fish & Game Chief Executive Bryce Johnson says winning the High Court appeal is a victory for both the environment and natural justice. "Essentially the judgement says the rules of natural justice were not applied when the Board of Inquiry considered new evidence from the Regional Council and the Regional Investment Company which was not made available to the other parties," Mr Johnson said. "The Board of Inquiry's original draft decision was very good and Fish & Game was disappointed the board then decided to change that decision after listening to new arguments from the dam's promoters behind closed doors." "We had no idea this was happening and it is galling that natural justice should be flouted in this way by public bodies", Mr Johnson said. "Back room deals which compromise the environment are just not acceptable". The Ruataniwha Dam project in Central Hawkes Bay has been dogged by controversy after revelations that the original proposals to dam a tributary of the Tukituki River could turn the whole river toxic downstream of the dam. "This has been a complex and technical issue and we can only repeat that the Hawkes Bay Regional Council needs to return to protecting and enhancing the environment, not allowing a major increase in pollution which it admits will result from the Ruataniwha project," Mr Johnson said. Fish & Game's Environmental Manager Corina Jordan says today's High Court decision has national implications for all local bodies. "This is a good day for the environment. The decision shows regional councils have to deliver on environmental outcomes, such as improving water quality by ensuring rivers are healthy", Ms Jordan said. "If they don't, then they are going to have to go back and re-consider", she said.



Justice Collins awarded costs to Fish & Game and Forest and Bird. Fish & Game Chief Executive Bryce Johnson says winning the High Court appeal is a victory for both the environment and natural justice. "Essentially the judgement says the rules of natural justice were not applied when the Board of Inquiry considered new evidence from the Regional Council and the Regional Investment Company which was not made available to the other parties," Mr Johnson said. "The Board of Inquiry's original draft decision was very good and Fish & Game was disappointed the board then decided to change that decision after listening to new arguments from the dam's promoters behind closed doors." "We had no idea this was happening and it is galling that natural justice should be flouted in this way by public bodies", Mr Johnson said. "Back room deals which compromise the environment are just not acceptable". The Ruataniwha Dam project in Central Hawkes Bay has been dogged by controversy after revelations that the original proposals to dam a tributary of the Tukituki River could turn the whole river toxic downstream of the dam. "This has been a complex and technical issue and we can only repeat that the Hawkes Bay Regional Council needs to return to protecting and enhancing the environment, not allowing a major increase in pollution which it admits will result from the Ruataniwha project," Mr Johnson said. Fish & Game's Environmental Manager Corina Jordan says today's High Court decision has national implications for all local bodies. "This is a good day for the environment. The decision shows regional councils have to deliver on environmental outcomes, such as improving water quality by ensuring rivers are healthy", Ms Jordan said. "If they don't, then they are going to have to go back and re-consider", she said.

Cover Photo— Johnny Mauchline



Exceptionally well tied fly and photograph

Around the Club

The Club held the February meeting on the river at Coal Pit Road once again.

A BBQ was once again the order of the day with top class steak and sausages and trimmings cooked up by Chris McDonald who coped admirably during the thunderstorm that interrupted proceedings!

A good turnout from members and two guests from Australia and one from Scotland.

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

John Gierach

Fishing Report by Redtag



Fishing over the past month or so has been up and down just like the rivers. Consistent easterlies have not helped either as they keep the fish down. However some good fishing has been had with hatches not uncommon when the conditions are right and the last of the willow grubbers in evidence in the quiet corner pools.

Spinner falls have also been heavy at times with the fish rising steadily to the feast. I have finally found a fly that I am confident with and it has been most successful to date. Pods of rising fish feeding on naturals can often be difficult customers in a spinner fall but with the right presentation and no drag of a good fly it can be an exhilarating experience to hook up. The fish in the river are astounding in their strength resulting in strong runs down to the backing on occasion. I was even accused by an old fishing partner who was fishing lower down the pool of foul hooking a fish so strong was its run. It wasn't. It was just big and full of muscle and spirit. The 'mad Mataura rise' always has its surprises.



A long time US visitor to Mataura died here in town last week. I was kindly given a few of his flies. Black Copper John nymphs size 16. The fly is a fantastic pattern and I have christened it the 'Alaskan' in remembrance of him. I was fishing a small river just a day after his passing and came across 2 sea runners in a clear deep pool. I had been fishing dries but knew I had to change to nymphs for these big fish moving deep and very slowly together up the pool. I hooked and lost the first one but firmly hooked the other which turned out to be my best fish of the season so far.



We can again look forward to good hatches during Autumn as the temperature drops and the mayfly nymphs stir on the bottom readying to hatch before winter. This is often an excellent time on the river and the odd rough day does not deter them. In fact cloudy overcast and showery weather is best as long as the wind is coming from the south west and is not too strong.



I got a new fly vise. A Dyna King Voyager II. Really pleased with it as it is a rotary which makes trimming up a lot easier. Looking forward to winter and tying up some new patterns and old favourites. I have been stocking up on CDC and barbless wide gape hooks for emergers and nymphs and the vise is handling them beautifully.

Tight lines!

Tassie Devils Southland Tour—2015 by John Morwood



Based at the Lodge we enjoyed a great trip in late January and through February.

Rob [guest from Devon UK] and I were joined by fellow members Allan, Ken and Bill as a result of the weather postponed Hollyford trip. Flooded rivers had us off to South Mavora Lake where the trout were on display leaping after Damselflies but proving to be very elusive. So the best prospect proved to be polaroiding cruising fish that were feeding sub-surface. The bright sunny conditions helped spotting particularly against the forest background. JM was overjoyed to catch his first fish at this water after several unsuccessful visits – a beaut 4lb brown! It was a fabulous day out in beautiful surroundings.

There was great food, wine and camaraderie back at the Lodge in the evenings. And bacon, eggs and black pudding breakfasts.

In late February we were joined by members Joe, Sean and Pat.

Generally we found a lack of willow grubbers, which in recent years had provided a large number of highly visible feeding trout, so now we had to develop other skills and techniques – such as looking for nymphers and pursuing mayfly risers. Whenever the light allowed, we would carefully scrutinise all the riffles, seams and drop offs, surprising how many fish hold there! Great to see a trout slide over to take the BH nymph and tighten to that live weight! And with the cooler weather we found some emerger/dun hatches in the mornings and spinner falls in the afternoons [never fished the evenings as a full day on the river was quite enough for the old bones!]

Wait and watch was also a very useful approach. Trout are not out and about all the time so we propped on the likely spots. Slow down and get in the zone.

We fished a variety of rivers but only a few of the many available in Southland, catching a pleasing number of fish, which were all released. We found the younger fish in the two to two half lb bracket, were athletic and in very good condition – a pleasure to catch but the older, larger ones were generally fair only. Chatting to well informed residents suggest this is a result of the cool, wet spring, lack of feed, willow grubs, etc?

Best patterns were the ever reliable Para Adams, emergers, bead head PT nymphs, blowfly and cicadas.



Each season is different. The glorious Uncertainty. What a treasure Southland is. Guard it well.

Jocka's Poolburn Vignette by John Morwood & Johnny Mauchline



WITH LOVE WE REMEMBER



From this to this
"A life lived to the full"



Guard of Honour
Jocka's shooting friends are invited to form a Guard of Honour by the Hearse.

Invitation
Jocka's family thank you all for your love and support and warmly invite you to join them in the Hall for a dram and a cuppa following the service.



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**DAVID JOHN WILLIAMS
(JOCKA)
1945 - 2012**



Rod for Sale

This is a brand new never been used Kilwel Innovation 9' 6wt rod. It is a 2 piece with no bag or tube.

Selling on behalf of a friend it is Kilwels premium rod and casts beautifully. I would buy it myself but I have too many rods already!

If you are interested contact the Editor.



Presidents Report by Dave Harris

A quick look at the calendar tells us the season is nearly over. My fishing right through the season has been tough. Just about every time I go out the weather turns against me with wind and rain or it has already done the damage with rain discolouring the rivers.

The February "on the river" meeting and barbeque was well supported but we had to hide in the car while the heavy showers cleared. Chris made a good job of the cooking but the fish were a little reluctant to show themselves. The finally did show right on dark but seemed to be still feeding below the surface. By then only Chris and I were still there. A couple of fish came to the net. I wasn't too worried as I had had a good day further up the river although I only saw two fish rising during the day. This seems to have been the pattern on the middle reaches of the Mataura and is probably due to the high river levels early in February wiping out many of the mayflies.

Unfortunately I have only had one outing in March, a 4 day trip to Mavora with Ken Browne. Once again conditions were difficult with quite a bit of rain and windy most of the time but we landed a few fish. Ken managed a nice 6¾lb brown which took his dry fly first cast. He was very pleased with this as it was his biggest trout yet by a good margin.

Unfortunately it will be late April before I get out fly fishing again as I have a heap of other things planned. Hopefully you will be able to get out and catch some more fish before the end of the season. Don't forget the Lodge weekend at the end of April (25, 26 & 27) for a final go at the main rivers.

Competitions

It is nearly time for this year's fly tying competition to start and we will need to select some flies to tie. We need to sort this out in time for the first fly to be shown in the April Ripples.

We will discuss the patterns at the March meeting so have a think about what you think would be a good fly pattern for the competition.

Name This Stream Competition



No correct answer from last months photo so another chance to enter this month. A clue is North West of Lumsden.

This months photo is again by Les Ladbrook. Answers by email only please to service@eis.co.nz Correct answers will be placed in a draw for a \$30 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

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

31 th Mar	[MM]	
3-6 th April		Easter
7 th April	(CM)	
12 th April		Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game 7am
25/27 th April		Lodge Trip (End of Season)
28 th April	[MM]	
5 th May	(CM)	Fly Tying

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
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) ChrisM@mdp.co.nz
- 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 Ken Brown, Invercargill
- Lodge Custodian Dave Murphy, 35 Brown Road, Invercargill dmurphy@southnet.co.nz 03 230 4698
(Leave a message on the answer phone please and Dave will get back to you)

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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