

# “Ripples”

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

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[www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)



# Southland Fly Fishing Club

## Editors Choice Tippets

### Water storage and Irrigation—Fish&Game

#### **New Zealand's natural freshwater resources:**

Are finite.

Are a public resource.

Underpin the Kiwi outdoor lifestyle and our 'clean and green' brand.

Are being polluted and depleted by agriculture.

The adverse effects of agricultural intensification are well understood and are unambiguously evident in the increasing deterioration of water quality and quantity in an increasing number of waterways.

The irrigation industry wants to see the estimated 650,000ha of irrigated land increased to in excess of a million hectares within the next two decades.

If water storage schemes are to provide for greater agricultural intensification, it must be at no further harm to the natural environment which has already suffered too much damage.

Therefore, Fish & Game supports water storage for agricultural use provided both the direct and indirect freshwater environmental effects are benign

#### **Land Use Intensification:**

In addition to its specific focus on freshwater habitat and recreational opportunity outlined above, Fish and Game has a broader requirement for good environmental management. The land use intensification that results from water storage projects must be subject to an overall environmental assessment which takes account of the following questions and avoids remedies or mitigates any potential adverse environmental effects:

Are the impacts of land use intensification on aquifers, spring-fed streams and downstream water bodies sufficiently well-understood that appropriate on-farm practices and remedial investments, if needed, can be defined and required before the project is committed?

Have the environmental externalities of land use intensification been fully accounted for and charged to those causing them? Relevant externalities include greenhouse gas emission increases and nutrient leakage to sensitive downstream water bodies.

Did the site selection process include consideration of alternative storage sites, and did the outcome of that process optimise the use of water resources and storage sites on a regional basis?

Has there been effective engagement and participation of all interested and affected parties in the site selection and environmental assessment process?

*You Can Download a copy of F&G position statement on Water Storage and Irrigation at [fishandgame.org.nz](http://fishandgame.org.nz)*

#### **Cover photo :**

*Photo competition winner — Action — Paul Incani*



Exceptionally well tied fly and photograph

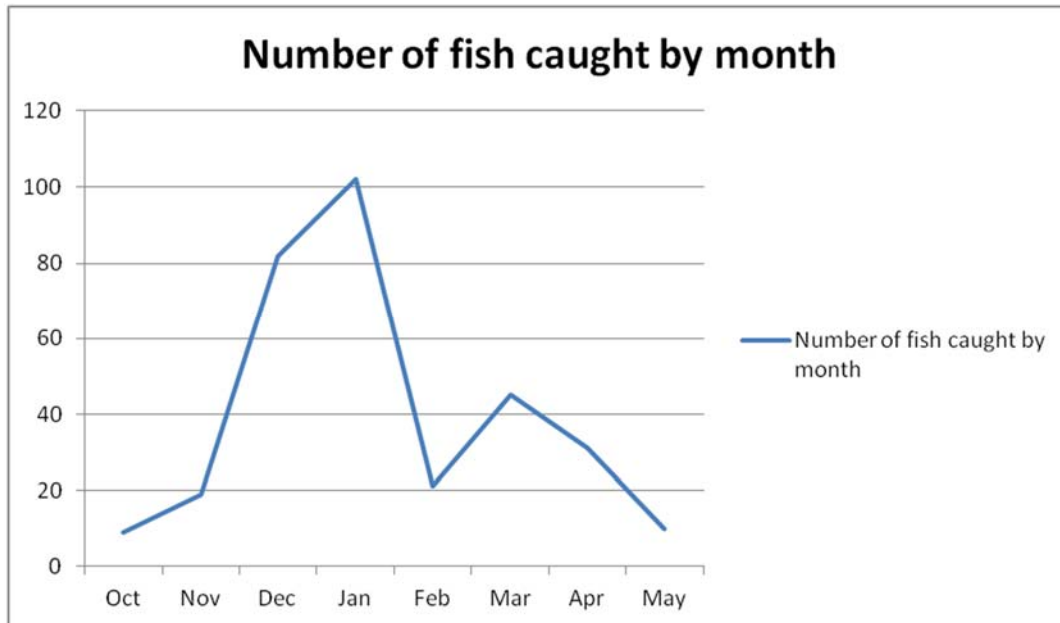
"People get the Politicians and fishing tackle they deserve."

John Gierach

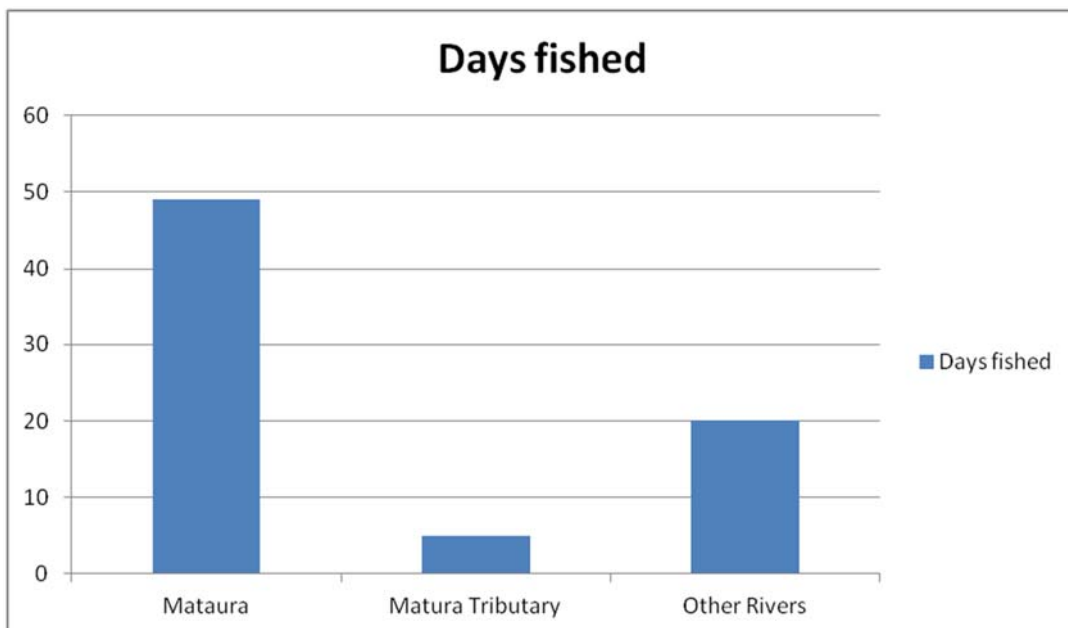


## Season Fishing Report by Redtag

The season is over and I have to say it was an interesting one! According to the records in my diary I caught 319 fish this season. Given that the previous best season (2014) was 470 this is an average result. There are a number of reasons for this I believe. The weather played a prominent part as it always does but the unstable conditions proved to be a problem during the prime months of insect activity. High floods during late January and February made fishing virtually impossible and the impact of flooding through autumn continued resulting in lack of time spent on the water. Most fish were caught between December and early January.

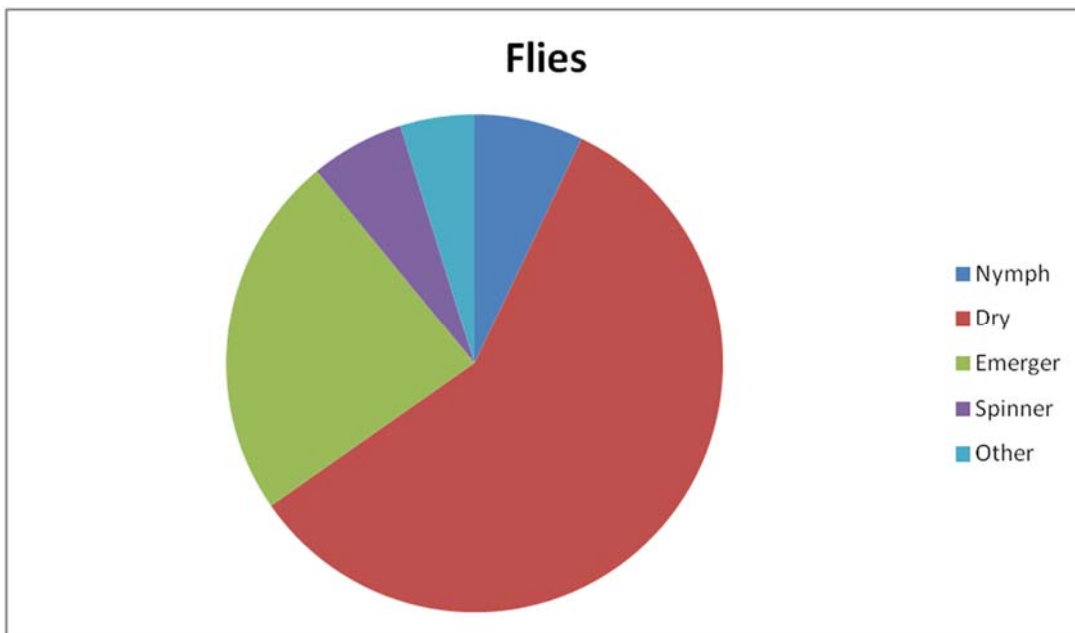


Total number of occasions spent fishing over the season were 74 (last season was 108) This equates to 4.31 fish caught per trip. (Last season 4.35) Most week days this would be a couple of hours fishing locally after work with weekend day trips away and holidays over the Christmas period. Given that there are approximately 180 fishing days through the October to end of April season we can assume that the 116 days not fished were primarily due to the inclement weather conditions, flooded rivers and wifely matters which was a significant factor this season.

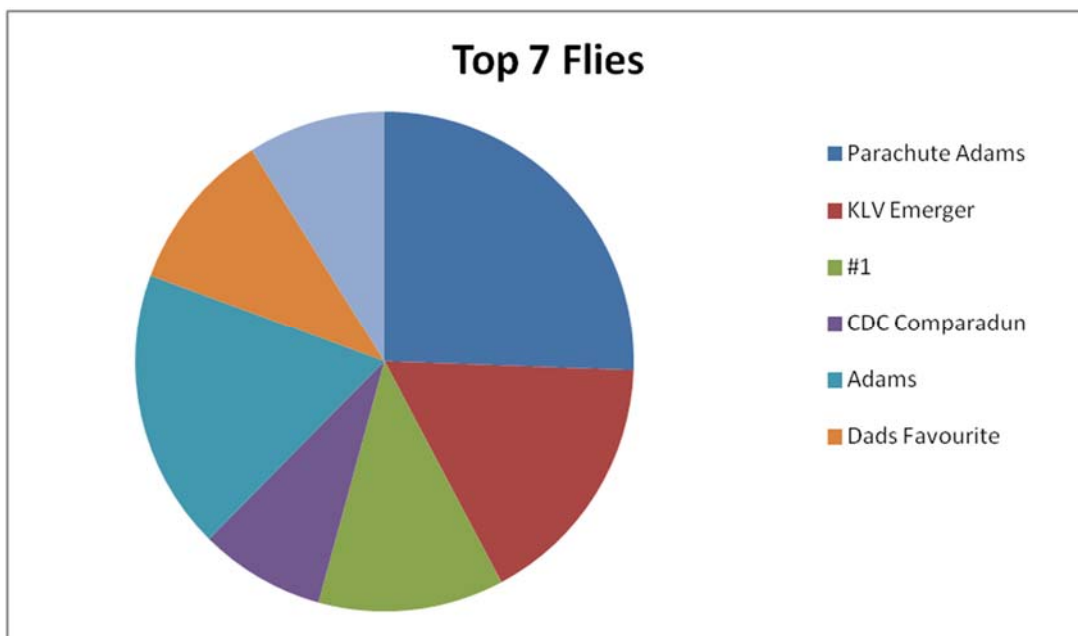


Locations fished reflect the local after work sessions primarily on the Mataura and tributaries with further trips to Otago and the West Coast spring creeks

Most fish were caught on dry flies and emergers which indicates the type of fishing undertaken. With the exception of a very few fish caught blind fishing all fish were either sighted or were rising fish. This is the techniques I prefer and have again perfected this season . This has led me to be a more selective fly fisher and has meant that much more time is spent studying the water and slowly approaching each opportunity stealthily with a focus on patience, persistence and presentation. I have no interest in blind fishing as I grow older. Must be old age creeping in.

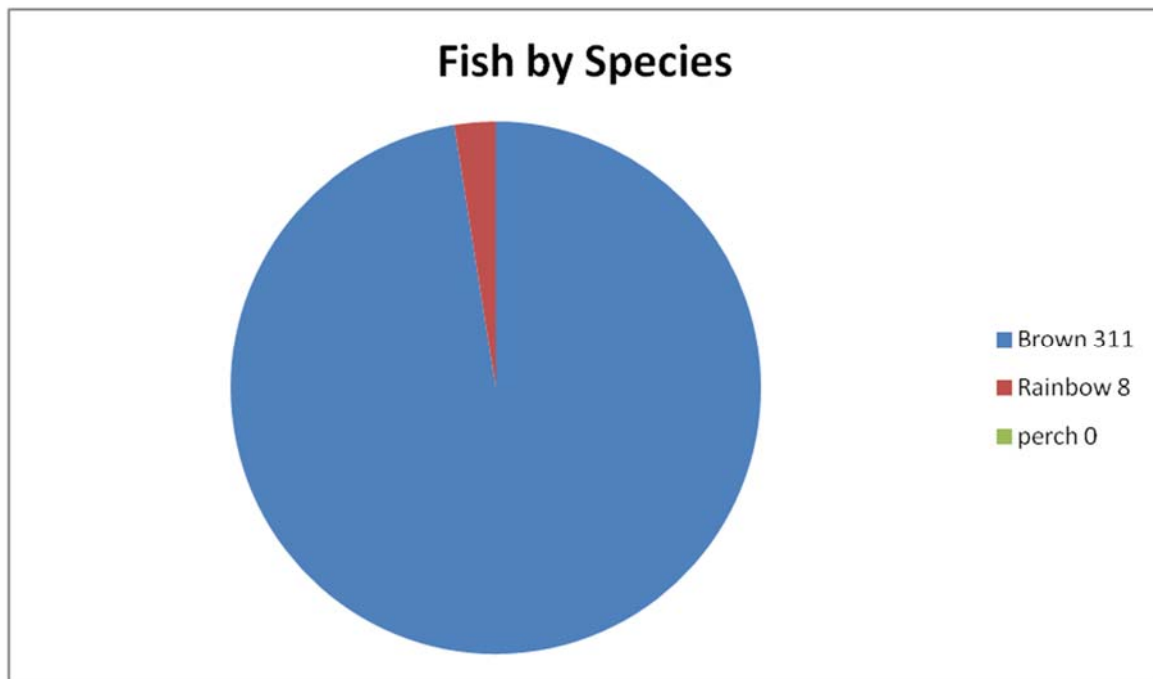


Flies used by type vs fish caught indicate that dry flies are the main flies used and include traditional, parachute and terrestrials fished up or down stream. Emergers are generally CDC patterns fished either on or in the surface film across to rising fish. Nymphs are generally tungsten bead heads from size 18 to 12 fished up or down stream usually early season. Other flies include dragonflies, damselflies, cicadas and wets fished to spotted or rising fish.



Top fly for the season is once again the Parachute Adams. I am very particular about the pattern which I tie from a pattern bought from a tackle store on Vancouver Island. It has to be very slender and sparsely tied. Size 16 being the favourite on the Mataura. I now have a selection of variants that are proving successful on selective fish. The KLV emerger has again been a great success and a new CDC emerging nymph pattern further developed during the season is also proving an excellent fly. Top secret fly the #1 is an excellent willow grubbing fly. The CDC Comparadun has its day but the Adams has accounted for many fish this season especially in other rivers with size 10 and 12 being especially successful. I also have a new spinner pattern that is at last effective in the pool.

Given the rivers mainly fished browns have been the predominant catch for obvious reasons with only a few rainbows again caught this season.



Best brown of the season was 8 lb caught in an Otago stream and best rainbow 6 lb caught in North Otago. Although I didn't catch many large fish this season 19 were over the 4 lb mark. (Last season 21) Best trip was on a West Coast spring Creek with 9 fish totalling 31 1/2 lb. Best session was 15 fish caught in an Otago stream on an Adams with the largest being 3 3/4 lb.

Highlights of the season were:

Whilst not being the best season for willow grubbers I still had exceptional willow grubbing sessions on local rivers and streams. Conditions through early summer were good with long hot days resulting in fantastic fishing to these selective feeders and I am glad to say I mostly came up trumps with fly selection being less important than presentation and observation overall. Two old Aussie codgers I reluctantly accompany from time to time also had some success on the willow grubbers. Or so they say!

Missing the take on 2 rather large potential double figure rainbows and hooking up and losing a fish in a splendid North Otago stream and then watching my compatriot cast to 3 enormous double figure rainbows whilst I was sitting high up above the wee mountain stream and spotting for him. He missed the takes also so I didn't feel so bad but it was wonderful sight to see fish of this size rising to large duns in crystal clear water. One of these days! This secret location is our Christmas day fishing trip and we reserve this stream every year which is virtually untouched by anglers. The fish are as wild as the heather and their spirit is outstanding!

Some good sessions spent with a good friend on an Otago lake with big browns rising freely to large bushy dries and taking corixa under a sighter was excellent fun. Lots of inebriated bullshit talked around the table in the fishing lodge which was kindly offered by a work colleague whose family built the lodge in 1979. Good times.

Apart from partnering up with a couple of good friends that I put up with obligingly on occasion, fishing alone is always my preference. I find that I get into that zone where I feel complete with no distractions. With few exceptions I had splendid days of relaxed fishing stalking trout and learning new lessons every day.

However interesting fly fishing statistics may be it is not what fly fishing is all about. Keeping records in a diary can be fun and it does give an overview that can be helpful to future success in many ways but the joy of being able to fly fish for wild trout in NZ rivers and streams irrespective of results is a privilege and a passion that every fly fisher will recognise. I look forward to the coming season and experiencing once again quality time spent on the water.

## Fly tying Competition—June



There were 7 entries for the June competition which was to tie a Spinner to a John Day pattern

The winning fly was split by popular vote between Johnny Mauchline and Chris MacDonald



Chris McDonald



Johnny Mauchline

## UK fishing trip report 2 by Ian Michelson



Club member Ian Michelson is currently fishing in the NW of Scotland. He has been fishing Loch Hakel for wild brown trout and although the fish have been small has been having a great time. The photo below is Ian's general opinion of fishing in the UK! Enough said!





## From the President—Season Report 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 a good number of fish. Even for Southland the weather conditions were difficult for much of the season. Rivers were high and dirty for much of the season but very low for the late summer. However there were also some good days that provided good fishing conditions.

We held our normal fly fishing course with our usual tutor Mike Weddell from Mosgiel again this year. 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 very good turnout of public and we were busy all afternoon.

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. David Murphy took over as custodian for the Lodge and has ensured it is up to scratch. The annual invasion of cluster flies occurred again and this looks likely to continue to be a problem in the future. Attempts to block their access have so far been unsuccessful. 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. Ken Browne took over as Librarian.

The Club weekend trips could have been better supported but several members had some good fishing while on these trips. The Club competitions had much lower interest than previous years with a much lower number of fish entered and only three people put in cards every month. The number of big fish was down and the size was also down on previous years. Largest being 8lb. The fly tying competition attracted about the normal number of entries and as with last year was dominated by one member although this resulted in a first time winner. Three members managed to enter a fly every month. The junior trophy will not be awarded this year due to the lack of juniors. We again had a one night photo competition at the June Monthly meeting increasing the number of categories to four. To increase numbers members were able to put in three photos in each category. This resulted in a reasonable number of entries. 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, plus sponsoring the monthly "Guess the River photo".

Again several of the monthly day trips were cancelled due to weather or river conditions. Those who did go on the Club trips enjoyed themselves and caught fish in all sorts of conditions. The weekend trips had slightly less support than previous years and conditions were tough on some of these trips.

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 was the usual fun night 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, David Murphy for looking after the Lodge and Ken Browne 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 and fly casting day.

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



Photo competition winning entries



General — Dave Harris



Scenic — Chris MacDonald



Trophy — Paul Incani

# Annual Competition Report by Dave Harris

## Fish Competition

Fish numbers entered in the last season's fish competition were well down on last year's entry with just 37 fish entered, 32 browns and 7 rainbows. This reflected the tough conditions endured through the season. There were only 5 fish over 5lb this season caught by 2 members and another fish of 5lb caught by another member. These fish were 5 browns and 1 rainbow. These fish came from a Mataura tributary, a spring creek, Otago, the Pomahaka River, the Von River and the Opihi River. They were caught on copper john, parachute adams (2), Alaskan, corixa and an unnamed fly.

Only three members entered a fish every month and this was one down on last year. The winner's total this year was 36 ¾ lbs, well down on last year. Second and third a little way down. The winner's fish came from a Mataura tributary (2), the Waikaka Stream, Otago (2), the Waiwera River and the Pomahaka River. Flies used were parachute adams (2), adams, willow grub, corixa, red humpy and an alaskan.

The heaviest brown was a little down on last year at 8lb. This was well clear of the field. Heaviest rainbow was also slightly down on last year at 6lb. Best condition factor well up on last year at 62.09 and was a spring creek brown.

The big fish were caught right through the season this year with December standing out.

## Fly Tying Competition

Entries in the fly tying competition were down a little on last year with a total of 22 flies entered over the 5 months. We had 8 people who entered the competition and three people managed a fly every month. As usual there were some fine flies produced by the members. This year's competition was dominated by one person who was top or top equal scorer on four of the five nights. This resulted in a considerable spread of points and a first time winner of the competition. Please note the August fly is a Spotlight fly and John Day will give the pattern and materials at the July meeting

## Photo Competition

For the second year we had a one night photo competition at the June monthly meeting. Members could enter up to three 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.

## Name This Stream Competition

No correct answers last month so again this month's photo is by Les Ladbrook.

Answers by email only please to [service@eis.co.nz](mailto:service@eis.co.nz)

Correct answers will be placed in a draw for a \$40 Hunting and Fishing voucher sponsored by EIS.


This river can be found by driving towards Edendale.

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)

- 28<sup>th</sup> July [AGM] Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> August Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am
- 4<sup>th</sup> August (CM) Arrange the calendar for the next season
- 8-9<sup>th</sup> August  Club day out, fishing practice
- 25<sup>th</sup> August [MM]

## Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)
- President Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (03 215 6068) [dcharris@southnet.co.nz](mailto:dcharris@southnet.co.nz)
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) [mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz](mailto:mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz)
- Editor Johnny Mauchline, 10 Carlyle Street, Matura (021 2877 323) [service@eis.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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, 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



### **Disclaimer:**

The opinions or views expressed in this newsletter, are those of the respective authors, and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Southland Fly Fishing Club. The Editor takes no responsibility for the factual content of this publication.