

"Ripples"

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

January 2016



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippetts

TIPPETAC

I have been using this marvellous wee invention and it works a treat:

Tippetac was invented by fly fishermen just like you. We got tired of doing the fly line retrieval dance while standing in the river, changing a fly. So we came up with this innovative solution.

Tippetac has essentially two functional elements; a rubber piece with the wedge and slit, and two super strong, rare earth neodymium magnets.

The magnets primarily function as an attachment mechanism. Place the rubber piece (with attached magnet) on the outside of your waders, jacket, pack etc. Place the separate magnet behind the material to attach Tippetac. We've found that placing it on the right side of the chest area (for right handers) works best. It also works great on top of a waist pack. Experiment until you find the place that works best for you. The magnets also function to temporarily hold flies. You will find it's a great place to quickly store a fly or two as you change out your rig..



The rubber wedge and slit were carefully designed to make it easy to slide your monofilament leader/tippet in and out without damage. When you're changing out a fly, just slide your leader/tippet into the slit of Tippetac before you clip it. Then, clip your fly and tie on a new one. Tippetac keeps track of your line...hands free until you are ready to cast again. No more looking around for your line while the end floats 30' down river. You can also use the slit to hold clipped tippet, double rigs, etc. Once you begin to use Tippetac, you'll wonder how you ever managed without it!

Available from dohiku.eu

Cover Photo: Johnny Mauchline

AROUND THE CLUB

Club member Ian Michelson visited fellow Australian member John Morwood to fish in Tasmania recently. *From John:*

Tassie is going into a drought due to the El Nino and rivers already at summer lows and shallower lagoons in the Western lakes drying up! However a few waters still fishing well, Ian was over for 5 days and we had 2 days of good sport on Penstock to dun & spinner risers. Also a good day on O'Dells in the Western Lakes polaroiding cruisers. The return walk was 6 kms plus fishing, yes Ian did it! Mind you he did retire early that night. He got fish every day. I enjoyed his company and he said he had a good time.



Excellent fly and photograph by Akira Takahashi

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

John Gierach

Fishing Report by Redtag



Fishing has certainly improved since before Xmas with good conditions and stable flows on most of the streams and rivers. The odd stiff NW wind has been a bane at times and the NE has kept fish down at times also. However the fish have been feeding well and there has been plenty of insect activity on the river. Flows are low and the river is very fishable indeed and I have been able to access the very productive Summer Pool for the first time this season.

I spent some time in Otago over Xmas and new year and had good fishing but the rivers were very warm and fish activity by midday decreased as the hot weather brought the water temperature up. Some good rainbows were caught in the mountain streams and some very productive ponds.



A lot less willow grubbers around so far this season and not as many galls on the willow leaves. Still you can find the odd grubber if the conditions are right and the grubs are falling in the water.

There has been some excellent technical fishing on the river of late with plenty of fish out and good steady hatches of fly during most of the day. Not always easy to identify what the trout are taking but in general small natural emerging nymphs and CDC duns are successful. Some of the evening spinner falls have been spectacular with spent fly blanketing the water. This makes it especially hard to catch feeding trout as your fly is one amongst hundreds but concentrating on just one fish at a time helps. It is important to attempt to predict their movement which at times can be very scattered but its the challenge that is exciting and the reward is satisfying.

Tight lines!



High Country tales by Sarah Smith



Here's a couple of pics from a recent trip to the Glenntanner Stream near Mt Cook (what a tough day with that view!).

Second one is a nice brown I caught in the Manuherikia near Alexandra a week or so ago. I managed to catch two fish from the one pool (this one + a smaller one).

We now own a bach in Cromwell, so I'm having a lot of fun fishing in Central Otago. Looking forward to a return trip into the Nevis over the Xmas break.

Cheers

Sarah Smith



5 tips to improve your fly fishing by Bob Wyatt



1. Use a good outfit.

It's not just a matter of price, but unless you get real joy out of not spending money, a cheap outfit will not give you the pleasure a really good one will. And the pleasure of a good outfit is not imaginary, it's physical. Save up, trade up, whatever, but there is so much really good tackle available these days that fishing with a poor outfit just makes no sense

2. Have more than one outfit.

There are few things worse than being undergunned or overgunned for the fishing you want to do. Unless you fish only one water, and fish with the same methods every time, you are going to need at least one more outfit.

You wouldn't play golf with one club. So, get serious, and double, or triple your fun. When its time to fish the big cone head streamer, or the tiny dry fly, its great to have the appropriate tool for the job.

3. Don't fish too light.

Fighting a big fish on a tippet that's too light is nothing to brag about. Sure, it takes some deft handling to keep from breaking off, but the extra time it takes to land it is a sure fire way to kill a fish. Trout are not as leader shy as they are cracked up to be, and leader material these days is twice as strong for its diameter as it was twenty years ago. Work on your line management skills to avoid drag and line shadow instead, and get the fish in the net while its still kicking.

4. Practice your casting.

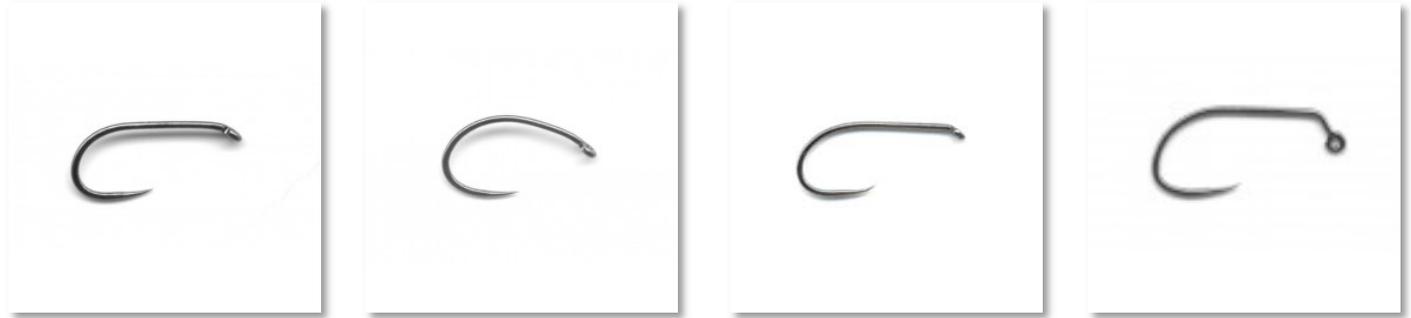
Be the best you can be. When it comes to fly fishing, most of our failures are due to poor casting skills. Practice makes perfect. Make those fancy presentation mends and accuracy casts second nature, so you don't even think about it. Practice for distance, and work on your double haul, but don't turn every practice lesson into a pissing contest. Button off on the power. Get out the hula hoops and get the fly in the middle.

5. Fish like a Heron.

Charging up the river to get to the best pool first is a good way to miss a lot of good fishing. Lakes and streams have far more fish in them that are visible, and trout, especially big trout, are very sensitive to movement, Fish like a heron. Dead slow and stop. You'll see more of what's going on in and around the water, enjoy your time on the water even more and, importantly, catch more and larger fish.

Bob Wyatt is a recognised angler, author and artist. You can buy Bobs most recent book 'What Trout Want: The Educated Trout and Other Myths' on Amazon. (***Blog article courtesy of Epic rods at swiftlyfishing.com***)

Dohiku Barbless hooks



Frustrated by the lack of availability of high quality designed barbless hooks Slovakian fly fishermen Alojz Donoval and Kamil Kubicek decided to produce their own. Dohiku have now been producing Barbless Hooks since 2006. Their friend Igor Hribik was the first to fish and to test the Dohiku hooks lending much important feedback on the quality and design. Together these Slovak fly fishermen designed the hooks distinctive shapes and through their shared knowledge and experience created unique original barbless hooks. Fly fishing is more than just fishing for these men it is their way of life and passion. There are 52 hooks in the Dohiku range and they are exported all around the world.

The hooks have evolved since the original designs and this development continues with much enthusiasm. Dohiku barbless hooks are guaranteed by the Dohiku company to be the original hook specification and designs. Many companies who sell barbless hooks buy their hooks from a manufacturers catalogue and then rebranded them.

That is not the Dohiku way. Dohiku hooks are original and what sets Dohiku hooks apart from the rest is that they have been exclusively designed by Dohiku experts in Slovakia and tested by top fishermen. They are manufactured by Dohiku from selected Japanese and Korean quality controlled factories. Dohiku hooks are made from high carbon steel which is hardened and tempered according to an exacting formula that makes them durable and ensures a long life of sharpness. Of course, they are chemically sharpened.

Dohiku are genuine customized hooks specifically designed for many different applications.

In 2009 Milan Styk a friend of the original partners joined Dohiku to ensure the high quality of these unique hooks. Milan is a great fly fisherman as well as an excellent businessman and his skills have helped to promote the hooks. Now the Dohiku Barbless Hooks are recognized throughout the world and this is due in part to the efforts of Milan Styk.

Editors Note: I have been using barbless hooks for some years now and find them to be of an excellent design with good gape and penetration that catches fish. They also facilitate easy catch and release which is important if you value the life of the fish (unless you are keeping it for the smoker). Another bonus is they are a joy to tie flies with. I have purchased Dohiku barbless hooks and they are excellent quality and value and the delivery time and customer support and service is excellent. Try them out at dohiku.eu

From the President by Dave Harris

Once again we will not have a guest speaker at our January meeting. It is good to have guest speakers at meeting but I need some help with finding guest speakers. We don't need one for February as we will be fishing instead of meeting. I think we have one more lined up for the near future but we need to find more. Let me know if you have any ideas.

Now we are in the middle of summer fishing should be good although the river levels are tending down. Unfortunately the cold spring still seems to be bugging us with still little insect activity. I was out on the Mataura today chasing willow grubbing fish but they were few and far between and there was very little insect activity. Mind you it was a cool overcast day after overnight rain. However it was an interesting day as I was fishing with one of our Australian members and he fishes for willow grubbing trout in a different manner to what I am used to. I actually learned a lot. This shows the advantage of going out with others – no matter how experienced you are you can still learn a thing or two.

At the end of January we have our annual fly fishing course. The course is again fully booked out (and we didn't even put an ad in the paper) with 16 people registered. We will need some assistance with the casting on Saturday afternoon and on the river on Sunday. If you are available but not going to be at the January meeting let Chris McDonald know so he is aware of who is coming.

Meanwhile get out there and catch those trout. I have an eleven day trip to Dunedin this month for a vintage car rally so will miss a bit of fishing but that is life. It is a choice I have made.

Letter to the Editor by John Day

I cannot let our friends rant in the November Ripples go without comment.

Whilst I agree with him that dry fly is the ultimate artistic and skilful way to fish for trout and certainly our founder Norman Marsh must have agreed with him, there are other most enjoyable ways of catching trout and probably the rant was a bit tongue in cheek.

My experience of nearly 20 years fishing the lakes, rivers and streams of the Bay of Plenty have given me plenty of excitement and frustration using lures, nymphs and dry flies.

We all know it's possible to sight fish at the lake edge especially if they are chasing smelt.

Where would we be without the writings of Hintz, Parsons, Halford or indeed the famous Sawyers pheasant tail. If you are starting out in the sport try them all find one you enjoy and go for it. It may take nearly 50 years but you will enjoy the journeyman.

Name This Stream Competition

One correct answer last month. The correct answer was the Waikaka identified by John Morwood.

So a new picture this month by Johnny Mauchline. Answers by email only please to service@eis.co.nz Correct answers will be placed in a draw for a \$10 Hunting & 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)

- 26th Jan [MM]
30/31st Jan Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel.
2rd Feb (CM) Fly Tying
6-8th Feb Waitangi Day Weekend Trip to Gunn's Camp
14th Feb  **Club Day Trip**, meet at Fish & Game - 7am
23th Feb [MM] --- This meeting is "On the river" --- BBQ Tea about 6pm
1st Mar (CM) Fly Tying

Club Contacts

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Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month
- Librarian
- 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, 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

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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