

“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

Southland District Council Appeal Move Defies Logic

"We're obviously very disappointed", says Southland Fish & Game chairman Graeme Watson.

"The Environment Court process was robust, with the Judge and Commissioners undertaking a very detailed analysis of the evidence over four weeks of hearings".

"Southland District Council (SDC) didn't only have one or two aspects of their consents declined, they were comprehensively refused in every aspect that was in dispute. They were even criticised for not assessing the proposal against their own plans".

"SDC consultants have misrepresented the Mararoa option throughout, which flows right through their economic analysis too.

The Judge recognised that, but unfortunately the community keeps hearing figures from SDC consultants who only analysed what was a worst-case scenario for the Mararoa route.

They're comparing apples with onions".

"We did all we could to avoid Environment Court and even offered to contribute funding towards the alternative Mararoa option. To now be dragged to the High Court is frustrating, knowing it's costing time and money that would be better spent developing the alternative."

"We've tried to be moderate in our comments thus far, but it's time Southlanders recognised what a debacle this whole project has been, from Deloitte's identifying a lack of expertise in the scoping and design of the trail options, to massive budget blow outs, to an unnecessary Environment Court case and now to the High Court."

"The Environment Court judgement reviewed all the SDC's evidence and concluded that the Mararoa offers viable alternatives, without any significant difference in projected economic benefit to Southland.

It's a pity that SDC didn't respect this Judge, accept the robust decision and move on.

Instead they seem hell-bent on the Oreti, irrespective of the economic consequences to ratepayers and Southland as a whole".

Cover Photo: Les Ladbrook



Excellent fly and photograph by Noriyuki Kuwata

Sage Circa

In the hands of a seasoned caster the CIRCA simply comes alive. Cast are methodically smooth and graceful, yet crisp and purposeful. The CIRCA's wider loop and telltale sensitivity give you the precision control needed for delicate presentations. When you first pick up a CIRCA, you'll swear your hands and eyes are playing tricks on you; it simply can't be this slender and light. This little rod is the definition of "fishy", and if you're not a slow-action fan yet, you will be soon.



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

John Gierach

Fishing Report by Redtag



After a reasonable start to the season weather-wise last month has been hard going to say the least with probably the worst November in the last 10 years. With the river up and down like a yo-yo and gale force winds resulting in virtually unfishable waters locally it has only been the headwaters and some small streams that have been fishable over the past few weeks. Even the fall back spots have been unfishable unless you are keen to blind fish in strong winds which I am not. Been there done that.

Consequently there has been few fly coming off the water and only the odd willow grubber feeding. I met a young boy fishing one of my favourite spots with a bubble float and fly who keeps his fish and tells me they are full of willow grubs so the fish are certainly onto them but not showing as far as I can see.

So hopefully it can only get better but at the time of writing the long range forecast is for more of the same.

Fishing has been confined to a few local streams that clear quickly and are holding a good head this season because the rains have kept the streams up and the fish are not falling back into the main river as they do in 'normal' conditions.

All have been sight fished and caught on parachute or CDC dries. I had one fish in the 2 lower photos that after a bum cast downstream of its position it turned around and chased the drifting fly for 3 meters before taking it right under my rod tip!

I will be heading off to distant waters over Xmas and new year and hope to connect with good conditions and free rising fish.

Redtag



Dry Fly Fishing Techniques



DRY FLY FISHING TECHNIQUES

The surface-floating dry fly represents an insect (or in the case of popping bugs for bass, a frog or other surface-swimming creature). Although dry-fly fishing is challenging, it is simpler than wet-fly (subsurface) fishing. Once the fly is on the water, dry-fly fishing is a two-dimensional game compared to wet-fly fishing, which is three-dimensional. But wet-fly fishing does not require the degree of casting skill that dry-fly fishing requires, so many people take up the wet fly first.

Dry-fly fishermen use the same basic technique to fish a dry fly whether or not fish are rising. In both cases, the fisherman casts to a specific target - the rising fish or a spot in the water where a fish might lie. If no fish are rising, the fisherman must read the water to determine from its speed, depth and general character where the fish are located. In other words, he fishes not to rising fish but to spots where the fish should be.

THE REACH CAST

One of the special casts you need to eliminate drag is the reach fly cast, which you make like a normal forward cast, but after the fly rod has stopped, while the line is still travelling, you extend your rod-arm to the side of your body. When the fly cast is complete, the fly should land at the target and the line should lie on the water, angling across current from your fly rod tip to the fly. By moving the rod to either side of your body, you can angle the fly line across the current whether the current runs from left to right or right to left. This cast demonstrates a basic principle of fly casting: After the power has been applied to the forward cast, you can't change where the fly will go, but you can change the position of the line between you and the fly. Think of it as making a normal cast and then using the rod to lay the line on the water out to the side of your body.

When you are upstream and across from a fish, make a reach cast that finishes with the arm and fly rod extended to the upstream side of your body. Then, as the fly drifts downstream, move your arm and fly rod downstream at the same speed that the fly floats downstream. Your reach allows the fly to drift drag-free, because everything - fly, line and rod - move downstream together.

You can obtain a drag-free drift of 20 feet or more with this method. The drift starts with the fly rod tip 11 to 12 feet upstream of your body (rod length plus arm length), and ends when the fly rod tip is the same distance downstream of your body. Of course it's imperative that the fly floats over the fish during the drift.



PARACHUTE CAST

A variation of the reach cast, called a parachute cast or parachute mend, can help induce slack in the leader and prevent drag. To execute the parachute cast, make a forward cast aimed slightly higher than normal, and wait for the fly line to straighten over the water. When the fly line straightens, smoothly move the fly rod tip up and back toward you before the fly line settles to the water. The parachute mend is essentially a reach cast made back toward your body, rather than to one side. I use the mend when I'm directly upstream of the fish and fly casting downstream.

The downstream dry-fly method is especially useful for fishing adult caddisfly imitations. Caddis often skitter and twitch on the water's surface and this method allows you to manipulate the fly by tightening the line briefly to imitate the movement of the natural.

Unfortunately, when you use the downstream method, it's sometimes difficult to set the hook when the fish takes. The striking motion can pull the fly out of the fish's mouth. Wait until the fish takes the fly and turns down before you set the hook. The technique requires restraint.

HOW TO DRY-FLY FISH

The basic dry-fly procedure goes something like this:

Use the right tackle. Dry-fly fishing is usually done best with fly lines of 6-weight and lighter. These lines land gently and reduce the chance of frightening fish, and rods designed to cast them have softer tips than rods designed for heavier lines. The softer tips cushion the lift on the fine fly tippets you use when fishing small dry flies.

Select an appropriate fly. If fish are rising, you must determine what they are eating. Put your nose down near the water, take a good look, and try to catch a sample of the insect or insects floating on the surface. A small aquarium net makes it easy. Choose a fly from your box that is similar in size, shape, and color (in that order) and tie it on your fly leader or fly tippet.

Pick a target (a surface-feeding fish). Remember that obstructions in the stream can cause the currents to swirl and change direction. The fish face into these swirling currents, which are not necessarily from upstream. In this situation, cast so the fly lands where it can float toward the fish's head first. Wind can also blow a fly into the fish's view.

Deliver the fly to the target, or if you are on a stream to a spot a few feet upstream (or upcurrent) of the target.

Allow the fly to float over the target, with the fly behaving like a natural insect (dead-drift or slightly twitching). The fly should act like a natural insect once it is on the water. This usually means that it should free-drift downstream with the current as if unattached to a fly leader. Because your fly is attached to a leader, the current acting on the line makes the fly skate unnaturally across the water creating "drag." Dry-fly fishermen can spend most of their time trying to eliminate drag.

Content courtesy of [Fly Fisherman Magazine](#)

Bridge Browns By Paul Incani



One exciting part of fly fishing, for me, is to stop at all bridges I drive over, that span water, and look down for trout. I always look up stream first then downstream. Reason, if you see a trout downstream and they spook, there is a chance that it'll go upstream and spook any other trout there.

I have caught many trout from many bridges, mainly just upstream from them. There is a particular bridge that I have crossed numerous times, but only seen two trout below it or one trout twice, below it. This is the story on me and the Bridge Brown.

One bridge I cross, expands a major Canterbury river, that for some reason, seems always to be in discolour, even when upstream access shows the river to be clear. I only stop and look down from this bridge when the river is in discolour. Just above this bridge is a small stream, that enters the river and is always clear.

Now all avid fly fisherman knows that discoloured water is hard to fish, until you find a clear stream entering it. Trout will line up at these confluences, as they provide a clear water feeding zone as well as providing clear oxygenated water without particles getting caught in their gills.

Towards the end of last season, as I crossed this bridge, I slowed down and looked down stream, was that a trout I saw? Ever curious, I parked the Disco, back tracked to the bridge and peered over the side. Downstream from the confluence, there was a big black shape, moving slowly in the current feeding. I watched it for a few minutes to make sure it wasn't spooked, then went back to my car to rig up. Ten minutes later I was pushing through the willows that grew next to the run that the fish was feeding in. I emerged downstream from him.

Go Pro on and running, check. Flies tied and ready, check. False cast line out, check. Snag willows on back cast, check. Hmmmmm. Pulled line and snap tippet, Check. I looked up at my flies tangled in the tree. Placed my rod on the ground walked up to the willow and pulled down the branch that had sucked in my tandem rig. The branch broke cleanly, and it fell onto the bank. Some how the flies dislodged, but for all the worth of me I could not find them.

Okay, go Pro off, check. Re-tie rig, check. Go Pro on, check. Step into water away from trees, check. False cast, check. Luckily for me I was still 10 metres downstream from the trout and hadn't disturbed him with all my antics.

I slowly moved up towards the feeding brown. Black as the ace of spades and feeding his head off. Sometimes the whole of his head was coming out of the water, supported by big broad shoulders. I cast my nymph emerger rig upstream and slightly to the side of him. After about 5 casts, he saw the fly and took the emerger. Lift rod slowly, check. Hook fish, check.

As the hook bit home, off he went upstream and into the current, using his vast bulk turning sideways into the current, he allowed the force of the water to act a fulcrum to his advantage, putting plenty of strain on my Sage rod and 4 lb maxima tippet. After a struggle of 3 minutes the trout moved off to the side just where the water changed colour. There must have been a drop off there, as the line rubbed against a rock and snapped. Off he disappeared into the murky water.

“Hmmm must look at the Go Pro recording tonight to check if anything shows up” I thought to myself as I wound the line in and headed back to the car. It wasn’t a complete waste though, as I had fished a similar spot further downstream, where another clear stream entered the river, catching 3 brown trout to 5lbs. But nothing the size of this guy, “he’ll keep’ I smiled to myself.

The Go Pro video was inconclusive as to any rock snagging my line.

Luck would have it, I was heading back this way again 6 weeks later. The river was in the same condition and after stopping off at the first stream, I was able to catch one brown and lose another, where the confluence of stream and river met.

Onto the bridge I progressed, slowing down as I passed over. Looking out the Disco’s window I saw another big black shape in the same spot as last time. The advantage of driving a Disco, is that you sit up high so get a clear view of the water on both sides of bridges you cross.

I parked the car, grabbed my rod and fly gear and headed off down below the bridge. Emerging from the willows I was able to spot him feeding in the clear water just off to the side of the main, discoloured flow of water.

Go Pro on, Check. Fly on. Check. Away from willows, Check. I had a mayfly emerger on, cast above him and slightly to his left. He took the fly first pass and as I lifted the rod, felt the weight of him as he slowly but strongly moved upstream into the current. After a good strong fight of the trout trying to push down stream past a cliff, which would have stopped me from following him, I was able to guide him into the net in just under six minutes.

After checking the weight, I was able to set up my camera and take some selfies of me and Salmo Trutta. He came in at 8lbs even. As you can see from the photo he was in great condition. With a big hump across his back and broad shoulders.

I believe that this was the same trout that I lost 6 weeks earlier, as these big browns are territorial and only move from their homes, to spawn or if pushed out by a bigger brown.

So the score is one each and I’m looking forward for my next trip out that way and hoping that the river is discoloured, again.

Lodge Update:

The water is back on at the Lodge

Request for used waders

Hello there,

I am a costumer based in Wellington looking to buy beaten up retro waders. If you could ask around your fishing community maybe some one will have a pair squirreled away unused and unloved that I could purchase.

That would be lovely.

Yours, hopefully Gaby

Contact: gaby.simpatico@gmail.com



From the President by Dave Harris

I was a little surprised when Johnny asked me for this report as he doesn't normally publish Ripples in December. However this year he has decided that he has enough copy so wants to publish.

Late in November I headed to Te Anau with my Canadian friend Cole Shirvell. This was the 25th year that I have had a fly fishing trip to Te Anau in November. Unfortunately I think this trip broke the record for bad weather. Of the nine days we had only three that were really suitable for fly fishing. On the other six days it was very windy, some days were cold and river conditions were poor. We persevered and fished at least part of every day. However we didn't find or catch fish every day and it was looking pretty grim for numbers after 5 days of bad conditions. However three good days in a row made the tally look a little better and we were well above the record low for this trip. During two of the three good days we found other anglers (at least the second lot were only looking before heading to Queenstown to fly back across the ditch). We spotted the other lot's car in private land a couple of kilometres up from the public access we had used so decided to head somewhere else. There was another rental car at this access so we decided heading downstream was the best bet and finished up having not too bad a day.

Johnny mentioned the pressure that is coming on from some interests with regard to overseas anglers in the last Ripples. Since then I have received an email (as a Fish and Game Councillor) from a concerned anglers group with regard to overseas anglers. This group is based in Otago and its members include some well-known anglers. This group is concerned with the ever increasing pressure on our fishery, particularly the high country rivers, from overseas anglers, both guided and unguided. Their website (<http://kiwianglersfirst.nz/>) has the article written by Nick King that was in the last Fish and Game magazine. This has some suggestions of what they want to do but no real detail. Any changes will be difficult as all Fish and Game regulations have to be approved by the Minister of Conservation. This makes it difficult to introduce any regulations that may reduce the income from tourism as the Government is very keen on tourism. Also you just need to look at how long it has taken to not get a guide licence introduced to see how difficult these things can be.

With regard to the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail, Southland District Council have decided to appeal the Environment Court decision to the High Court. However any appeal can only be on the grounds of legal errors in the decision. The Environment Court decision was very strongly in favour of the Fish and Game case and looks pretty robust legally so SDC will have a difficult cast to get the decision reviewed.

Lake Alexandrina trip:

Finally, we are having a club trip to Lake Alexandrina on the last weekend of February. I have booked the South Canterbury Anglers Club hut at the South end of the lake for 25th, 26th & 27th February. Fishing in Lake Alexandrina is normally undertaken from row boats (no power boats, including electric powered, are allowed on the lake). I think we will be able to use the SCAC boats but will have to take life jackets. There is also a few other good places in the area to fish, both rivers and lakes (and canals if you feel that way inclined). If you are interested in going on this trip let me know.

Name This Stream Competition

No correct answers last month. So the draw now increases to \$20. A clue is a river in Northern Southland.

The picture this month is by Johnny Mauchline.

Answers by email only please to info@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)

- 15th Jan Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game – 7am
- 17th Jan Mid-week trip
- 17th Jan On the River, Tuesday straight after work, Coal Pit Rd
- 28/29th Jan Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel.
- 31st Jan [MM] Monthly Meeting

Club Contacts

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- Website www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz
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- Editor Johnny Mauchline, 10 Carlyle Street, Mataka (021 2877 323) service@eis.co.nz
Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month
- Librarian Simon Budd, Invercargill
- 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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