

“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

SMITH'S ELECTION LOLLY TO SAVE RIVERS

Environment Minister Nick Smith announced that freshwater improvement projects covering over 100 rivers and lakes across New Zealand are to receive grants of \$44 million from the Government, but outdoors people see it as simply a quest to buy more votes and gain popularity. NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers (NZFFA) president Graham Carter saw it as an "election sweetener" while Tony Orman spokesman for the Council of Outdoor Recreation Councils of NZ (CORANZ) said it was "an election lolly."

"The Government has an ambitious plan to improve water quality in our rivers and lakes that involves stronger direction to

councils, tighter regulation and funding to support projects. Today we are announcing grants of \$44m for 33 projects which, with Council and other contributions, will see \$142m invested in over 100 lakes and rivers."

"The 10 largest water bodies that will benefit from this investment are the Wairoa River in Northland, Lake Whangape in the Waikato, Lake Tarawera in the Bay of Plenty, the Manawatu River and Lake Horowhenua in Manawatu-Wanganui, Lake Onoke in Wellington, the Waimea River in Tasman, the Selwyn River in Canterbury, Lake Wanaka in Otago and Te Waituna lagoon in Southland.

"The priority for this \$44m investment has been projects that will contribute towards the Government's goals of improving the swimmability and ecological health of waterways. It will fund the fencing of waterways from farm animals, planting along streams, development of wetlands, sewage reticulation and water storage to increase minimum flows. There are also initiatives in the package to eradicate water weeds, remove pest fish and to retire marginal land adjacent to waterways."

"Smith has finally admitted that he was wrong without actually saying so and belatedly acknowledged that he and the National Government have got it drastically wrong," said Graham Carter, NZFFA President.

"It rather interesting that after months of denials and refusals to accept the dire state of our waterways that Smith just before the elections comes out with this proposal that looks like nothing more than an election bribe," he added.

Tony Orman said after three terms, nine years with the accelerated depletion of river flows and declining quality, government was very belatedly acting.

"The horse has bolted and stable-master Smith has failed," he said. "Yet just a year ago he was saying rivers were safe for swimming with a gross picture in newspapers showing him wallowing in the Manawatu which the Cawthron Institute deemed one of the world's dirtiest rivers."

NZFFA Facebook page

Cover Photo: — Dave Harris — Boat Show Fly Tying Display



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

John Gierach

Increase The Visibility For Dry Flies by Lucian Vasies

After 40 year age is starting to be more and more difficult to follow small flies on water. Our first step is to increase the size of the fly.

Sometimes is very frustrating because the number of catch is reduced drastically but dry fly fishing is our passion and is difficult to renounce.

Grayling fishing with dry flies is more demanding compared with trout fishing and small flies are imperative. I tried to use parachute flies but not all the time these flies work.

When I go in Poland for Autumn and Winter fishing with dry flies I need to use flies tied on size #16 down to #22.

When the light is poor these flies are almost invisible. So in tying evenings I tested different ways to increase the visibility for dry flies.

For parachute fly I started to use wing post made of coloured CDC in yellow, pink.

For Classic hackle flies instead of wing I add a small bunch of CDC as wings. Will create a good contrast, good enough to be noticed on the water.

For dun flies tied with CDC, usually the smallest flies used and tied down to #22 I add at the CDC wing a few barbs of white CDC or yellow CDC. The fly became rapidly very visible on the water.

I hope that you find interesting these info and I invite you to try this technique. Is not difficult and in my opinion will help a lot on the water!

Check out Lucians blog at flytying.ro for more info on fly tying and fly fishing



July Fly Tying Competition



Seven flies were entered in the July competition which all were of a good standard . The pattern was Dave Harris's Damselfly Nymph. By popular vote Dave Harris got first prize (top centre).

The August fly is the Spotlight Fly by John Day. Club members who attended the July meeting were given selected tying materials by John to come up with a creative pattern.



Excellent flies and photograph by Thomas Roos

Dohiku have a full range of excellent tying threads available..

I have been using them for over 2 seasons now and they are strong and durable and very well priced..Check them out at dohiku.eu



Annual Fish Competitions 2016 - 2017 by Dave Harris



Johnny Mauchline receives the Presidents Trophy from Club President Dave Harris for the biggest brown trout of the season.

Johnny also received the Masters Cup for best weight overall of trout caught over the season.



Jason Leishman Receives the Bill Brown Trophy from Club President Dave Harris for the Best Condition Factor trout of the season.



Dave Harris receives the Fly Tying Trophy from Club Member John Day the Arthur Gorton Memorial Trophy for the Fly Tying competition

Editors Note: Not pictured is Chris MacDonald who won the Allan White Trophy for the heaviest rainbow trout this season.



Our seas, our rivers, our lakes, our beaches, our land all belong to the people of New Zealand. Our access to and enjoyment of our natural environment is a given; it's part of our heritage, our culture, our way of life and it's why tourists come here.

Our unique outdoor environment has provided food, recreation and social benefit for generations and it should continue to do so, forever, without question, without compromise.

The Outdoors Party wants your vote on 23 September 2017 so we can take the following High Five Principles into Parliament:

OUR MARINE FISHERIES

Recreational anglers, not trawlers, enjoying and managing our inshore fisheries for abundance.

OUR FRESHWATER

Our rivers and lakes should be clean, full and unmodified for peoples' recreation, sustenance and enjoyment.

OUR LAND

Our public land and its game animals are valuable resources to be properly funded and protected from commercial development for everyone, for ever.

OUR SAY

Recreational users of our land, water and seas must have a greater say in its protection, management and access.

OUR FUTURE

We want a Futures Commission to help us decide our capacity for growth of our population, economy and infrastructure within environmental limits.

Our Mixed Member Proportional voting system affords us TWO votes: One for a member of Parliament to represent our local interests and one for political parties that we think would collectively best represent the interests of the country at large.

Such a system is purposefully designed to embrace a broad range of interests and beliefs. Such a system is the ideal opportunity to have your outdoor passions and pursuits, such as hunting, angling and tramping represented.

Support the only political party who is 100% focussed on the outdoors and the environment. Find out more about us on www.outdoorsparty.co.nz and www.facebook.com/nzoutdoorsparty

Making Our Outdoors The Heart Of New Zealand

Editors Note: SFFC does not necessarily endorse the views of the NZ Outdoors party



Presidents Report by Dave Harris

Well it is not too far to the opening of the fishing season but we have quite a few things on before the start of the season.

We had a stand at the boat show, as normal, and attracted quite a bit of attention. We had some who are keen on joining the club and a lot of interest in the forthcoming casting day and the Fly fishing Course in January. We had a total of six members tying flies and talking to the punters at the show. Thanks go to Jason, John D, John R, Julie and Chris for their time. Three of these members were tying in public for the first time and all did very.

Our August meeting is at Hunting and Fishing in Leet Street. This will give you a chance to stock up on what you need for the coming season. The meeting starts at the usual time of 7:30pm. Some of us will be back at Hunting and Fishing for a couple of hours of fly tying on both September 9th and 23rd. We have scheduled a day trip (probably to Te Waewae Lagoon) on September 10th, meeting at Fish and Game at 9:00am. The following weekend, September 16th & 17th we have scheduled a Lodge working Bee. Finally, the last Sunday of September is always our casting day. This is normally at Queens Park but this year we will be at Donovan Park. The move is because Kilwell have a casting day of their own at Donovan Park on that day for people to try Scientific Anglers fly lines and they will have a number spooled up for people to try on their own rods.

Also coming up is the Rise Fly Fishing Film Festival in Gore. This is at St James Theatre on August 28th and I will be going up and expect to see a number of our members there.

My preparations for the new season are going well. I have a couple of new fly lines to try and they are already on reels ready to go. I have replaced the tip ring on one of my rods as I had bent the old one and, with the fly tying days over the winter and some tying time at the boat show, I have a good stock of flies. So pretty well ready to go. I do, however, have a rod to build up for Julie before the casting day. The handle, reel seat and tip ring are on so I just have to bind on the rings and epoxy the bindings and fit the fighting butt she has requested. I can't get the rod in my rod building kit with a fighting butt on so this will be the last job.

Christmas Island (CXI) 24 Years On by Ian Michelson



I had such a great bone fishing trip to Christmas Island April 1993 that I avoided going back because I wanted to remember it as it was then. However this year my curiosity got the better of me and on July 11th I met up with a friend Peter McWhirter from Christchurch in Nadi en route to catching the midnight flight to CXI.

Needless to say on arrival it was quite obvious that there had been many changes since my last visit. The increase in the population, the private vehicles (which were never there previously) ATMs, fuel stations and the increase in the number of accommodation options to name but a few. However it is still very much a third world country surviving on aid from many corners of the world and the roads are still the worse for wear We took toothbrushes .clothes pegs, and crayons and colouring books for the kids. The way these people live is quite an eye opener even though their lot has improved in the intervening years from my last visit.

I caught the dreaded lurgy on the plane and was quite ill for a few days (I still fished for some of each day). Had it got any worse they would have sent a plane 4 hours from Hawaii to medi vac me out. Appropriate travel insurance is a must .

We stayed at Akari House. The food is adequate but unfortunately always overcooked .The air conditioning struggles somewhat overnight sometimes making sleeping difficult. The windy days are a blessing from a temperature point of view but can make casting a trifle inaccurate on occasions.

The only thing I definitely did not like was the "tipping culture "which has been introduced by the Yanks. We did not tip the "recommended amounts "as I found them ridiculous and I know that many other Australians think likewise. I do think that this could have a long term effect on the numbers of visiting New Zealanders and Australians because if the recommended amounts are followed we are talking an extra \$50 plus per person per day. There are already murmurings among the guides about those who tip more than others with the unfortunate undertones that better tippers will get more than the rest of us. It creates a very unpleasant atmosphere and in my opinion will cost them dearly in the long run.

Whereas in 1993 with a total of six fishers on the island one never saw another fisher except for ones" immediate companion. This time boats and fishers from other lodges were evident. However the area is so big that it never became a problem other than the feeling of isolation was not there as much. One definite improvement is the speed of the boats which take you to the flats in the lagoon . Something that took nearly three hours in 1993 now only takes a few minutes. Travelling by road to the Korean Wreck area at the south end of the island is still 1 1/2 hours plus and a proverbial pain, though well worth the trip.

The bone fishing at CXI is still outstanding compared to many other worldwide destinations even though the average size is less now than it was previously. The bones at other destinations are often of a greater average size but at CXI one sees many more fish each day. In my opinion having the opportunity to cast at up to a hundred plus bones a day is much more fun than only having 6-10 fish per day to fish to. Unfortunately I kept hitting the fish on the head and spooking more than I ever caught. Even so I got 150 -180 over the 14 days fishing.



The best decision I made was to ditch my 9 weight and fish with a 6 weight outfit. I had bought a 6 wt Reddington Behemoth reel for \$150 and it was more than adequate even though it only had 140 meters of backing. Realistically one could get into trouble with fish over 5 lbs but anything up to that is no problem. A 12 inch fish will take up to 50 meters of line on their first run (especially if you fish in "angel gear" as I do). The bigger fish are exponentially stronger.

The week after we left they had very poor light for the whole week and did not see anything like the numbers that we saw , so as with all fishing the weather is paramount. One shares a guide between two people .I much prefer to fish on my own, so Peter fished with our guide most of the time. However the guides do decide where the fishing is to be for the day and there is a vast difference between a good guide and the vast majority of the rest.. When I started to feel less ill I rissold the bloke we had who was doing no more than going through the motions. I requested Tyrone who I knew from 24 years ago . The size and number of fish went up dramatically.

I also caught giant trevally, goat fish, golden trevally and barracuda. I managed to hook a trigger fish but got broken off. The triggers are seriously spooky but are very strong and great fun. Targeting them is particularly useful in poor light conditions as they are easy to see.

We went outside the lagoon to target milkfish one morning, but I could not get excited about throwing a fly into a shoal of many thousands to hook a fish in deep water that would take over 2 hours to land.(not quite sight fishing as I know it as they are all swimming along with their mouths open shoveling up weed matter). After a few minutes we went back to chasing bones again.

Dick of the trip award is a tie between Peter going without his rod one day and me being with the guide carrying the 9 weight set up for targeting triggers. We came upon a dozen 20 to 25 lb trevally heads down feeding around a trigger. We got within 15 meters of them and guess who had left all of his trevally flies in the boat!!

Overall I am very pleased to have made the trip this year and would seriously consider going again. I enjoy all sight fishing and CXI is all about that. However I find saltwater fly fishing does not have the finesse of fly fishing for trout . Sight fishing for bones and the fun that they are once hooked, has its own magic , but personally I much prefer fishing for "willow grubbers".

I would say that if you can see your way clear to visit CXI it is something all fly fishers should experience . The costs though considerable are but a fraction of other destinations but undoubtedly good value and I will guarantee that you will certainly never forget the experience.

Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

29 th Aug	[MM]	Meeting to be at Hunting & Fishing
5 th Sept	(CM)	Fly tying
9 th Sept	Demo	Fly Tying demonstration @ Hunting & Fishing
10 th Sept		Club Trip (winter) Fish & Game 9:00am
16/17 th Sept		Lodge Working Bee*
23 th Sept	Demo	Fly Tying demonstration @ Hunting & Fishing
24 th Sept	Sunday	Casting Day at Donovan Park 10am

Club Contacts

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- Website www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz
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Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month
- Librarian Simon Budd
- 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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