

“Ripples”

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

January 2018



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippets

Fonterra confirms industrial dairying now unsustainable

Fish & Game is welcoming Fonterra's first ever sustainability report in 16 years on its environmental performance, saying it shows the corporate dairy giant is scrambling to respond to public demand for better water quality.

Fonterra says its just-released report demonstrates a "new level of openness" and recognises people are concerned about the impact it is having on the environment.

But Fish & Game's chief executive Martin Taylor says it just reinforces the status quo and is too little, too late.

"Fonterra's sudden acknowledgement that it needs to operate sustainably and environmentally is long overdue," Mr Taylor says.

"This company has been around for 16 years and in that time we have seen cow numbers soar, irrigation explode and water quality plummet. "Fonterra's failure to address these issues sooner means dairying as it exists at the moment is unsustainable." Martin Taylor says Fonterra needs to take hard decisions, now.

"Single handedly, Fonterra has badly hurt New Zealand's clean, green image. Only recently we have seen this country described by leading British environmentalist Sir Tim Smit as being like a beautiful person with cancer," Mr Taylor says.

"The environmental damage caused by industrial farming will harm marketing opportunities for billion dollar industries like tourism, beef and lamb farmers, apple growers, kiwi fruit orchardists and vineyards.

"Why should these people be paying the cost of the environmental damage caused by a few thousand dairy farmers?"

"Make no mistake, the present dire situation has been caused by Fonterra's single minded focus on increased production at all costs, aided and abetted by weak regional councils."

Martin Taylor says Fonterra is now confronting a major change in direction.

"If Fonterra is sincere about reversing dairy's environmental impact, it must accept its present farming model is unsustainable and that dairying must pay for the cost of cleaning up its pollution.

"The only way forward is fewer cows, less water use and less environmental harm," he says.

Martin Taylor says Fonterra's sudden scramble to acknowledge New Zealanders' concerns over the state of their rivers and lakes shows people power at work.

"New Zealanders are fed up with the fall in water quality and that's why it became one of this election's defining issues. Public anger is now at a level where Fonterra's social licence to operate was under serious threat

"Public patience has run out and the corporate dairy industry is now trying to catch up and rescue its credibility."



Cover photo by Johnny Mauchline - The Spotter

Excellent fly and photograph by Kenji Nakamine

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

John Gierach

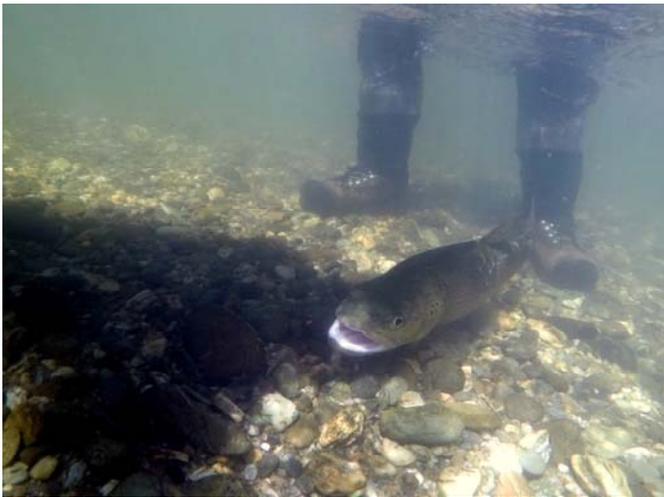
Fishing Report By Redtag



Amazingly stable weather over the holiday period resulted in good fishing on the rivers and streams. Having had little rain the low water allowed easier access to some of the generally unfished spots on the river. Higher overall temperatures warmed the water up but there was still plenty of fish out and about. Hatches and spinner falls haven't been as prolific but the willow grubs came on and the fish responded. Never easy to catch these grubbers but persistence and patience pays off.

I spent some time away in Otago over Christmas and had an excellent time catching exceptionally well conditioned rainbows (not in the canals!). I kept one (top photo left) and made Gravlax (Scandinavian cured fish) which was delicious.

Long hot days focusing on willow grubbers in the streams were a highlight with some top browns caught and released.



Many of the smaller streams have been weeding up in the hot weather and fishing has been tough going as the fish can easily bust you off in the weeds. I spent a day fishing a wee stream that I have fished over many years and it is sad to see the extent of the weeds that are now almost completely covering the water bank to bank with only the tiniest channel in-between. The increase of intensive farming on this waterway is unquestionably having a detrimental effect.

A significant flood has come down the river in the last few days and is now abating. This will freshen things up and hopefully result in renewed insect activity that will bring the fish on to the fly.



January and February can often bring the doldrums to the river as the water temperatures increase however there are plenty of opportunities casting to sighted fish in the riffles and under the shade of the willow trees if the fish come out and cooperate.

Tight Lines

The Natal Fly Fishers Club by Andrew Fowler



In South Africa, the riparian zone bordering just about all fresh water, belongs to the land-owner, and he has the fullest right to deny access to anyone and everyone. There is no law that secures the right of a fly-fisherman access to water anywhere, and public access is only a feature inside a game park, where one can pay an entry fee or a rod fee. So you will find no roadside parking beside a lake or river where you can pull over and fish, flashing only a license as your defence. As a result, in our country fly-fishing has the potential to be the preserve of the wealthy or well connected.

But in the town of Pietermaritzburg, in the province of Kwa-Zulu- Natal (formerly known as simply "Natal"), there exists a fly fishing club, like many others throughout South Africa. Our Club, The Natal Fly Fishers Club (NFFC), is a 45 year old institution which serves as somewhat of a bridge between landowners, most of whom are commercial farmers, and the common fly rod wielding man. The club committee (all volunteers) are want to trawl the beautiful Midlands area, visiting pubs, dropping in on farmers, stopping at the roadside to look out over water, or to scan maps trying to identify the owners of the blue dots and lines. In so doing, the club has built up, and maintained access to some 45 or so waters across an area covering about 100kms X 50 kms. Most of the waters are Trout waters, but there are venues with Bass and native warm water Yellowfish too.

The Trout are confined to the cooler upland regions above about 1,200 metres ASL, so they are to be found between the hills to the west of Pietermaritzburg and the escarpment of the Drakensberg mountains, which tops out at 2,500 to 3,000 metres ASL. So members, after booking on an online system (accessed with a members username and password), typically drive 50 or so kms out to their water for a day trip. The "Dams" as we call our small man-made lakes, are mostly small ponds, as the Americans would call them, and are stocked annually, mainly with Rainbows, but some Browns too. Fish range in size from the recent "stockies" up to 5 or 6 pounds at best, with a rare 8 to 10 pound trophy. Our waters are largely catch and release, in that only fish under 40cms or over 60cms in length may be kept from the dams, and all must be returned in the streams. The streams are all small freestone waters, which are rain fed, and are therefore susceptible to droughts, and suffer our very dry winters. As a result the Browns that are caught there are on average about 12 inches in length. However, in good times, such as we are experiencing now, after a drought 18 months ago that thinned the populations, fish of 16 to 22 inches are surprisingly common.



Our water temperatures bottom out at around 7 degrees C in mid winter, and spike at around 20 to 22 degrees in high summer. Air temperatures drop as low as -8 degrees on a frosty winter morning, but are up in the high teens by mid day in winter. In summer the night time temps will stay above 10 or 12 degrees for the most part, and will peak at 26 to 32 degrees in the Trout fishing areas. Rainfall occurs between September and April, and the rivers are open during that time.

Our membership fees, for each of our approx. 500 ordinary members is a scant ZAR715 per annum (about NZ\$80), and this allows you unlimited fishing during the year. Guests, who must be accompanied by a member, fish for the equivalent of NZ\$18 per day, which is about the going rate for a rod ticket at most South African venues.

So South Africa, and our neck of the woods, is hardly a destination splayed on the covers of glossy magazines around the world, but we have what we think is some mighty pleasing fly-fishing.

If ever you are planning a trip to South Africa to fish for Trout, early April would probably be the safest time to plan your travels, as the streams are still open, but the weather is settling down, and the days are comfortable and beautiful. If you are ever in our parts you should look us up at the NFFC: we love taking international guests fishing and showing them what we have to offer.



Andrew Fowler
Chairman
Natal Fly Fishers Club

www.nffc.co.za

For more info you can also visit my private blog at :

www.truttablog.com

Club Trip to the Mataura - January 14 by Dave Harris

Five members met at Fish & Game on January 14 for the monthly Club Trip, Chris, Julie, Paul Dane & Dave. We headed for Riversdale, allowing us to pick up Joel in Gore on the way through. The weather was perfect (maybe a bit warm) with lots of sunshine and little wind.

We split into three groups with Julie and Paul heading furthest up while the others headed to the same access with Chris and Dane heading up and Dave and Joel heading down. This was Danes first trip with the Club and unfortunately he was only able to stay part of the day. The river was very low and still had a little colour in the deeper pools but spotting conditions were very good.

There were very few fish rising in the current or pools but a reasonable number rising under the willows (to willow grubs of course). Some of those spotted in the runs were happy to take a dry or a nymph but plenty of others just ignored our flies. As normal those under the willows were very fussy and refused virtually all offerings. Many different patterns were tried without success.

All up 15 fish were landed with some doing better than others. It was a good day in very hot conditions.



Joel with a nice Brown from the Mataura - Photo by Dave Harris

Presidents Report by Dave Harris#

Well, what a summer we are having. I can't remember a summer like it for dry warm weather. That doesn't mean it's all good, some of the rivers are getting very low and there is quite a build-up of algae in the rivers. I hate to say it but we actually need a good flush down the rivers even though that will mean a few days lost fishing.

I haven't been out as much as I could but I have been doing other things so have still kept busy. The only river I have fished in the last couple of weeks is the Aparima and it is particularly low as it missed the last lot of rain that made the Mataura and Oreti unfishable for a couple of days.

The fishing on the Aparima was pretty slow with not a lot of action and no sign of rises to mayflies. Some sign of rises to willow grubs but I haven't caught anything on a willow grub in the Aparima recently. Last time I was on the Mataura was between Christmas and New Year and while they weren't rising except to willow grubs (but not my artificials) those in the faster water would still rise to a brown beetle.

We have the Fly Fishing Course coming up on the weekend of January 27 & 28 and this is before our next Club Meeting so we need some volunteers to help with the course, both at the casting on Saturday afternoon and on the river on Saturday. If you are able to help give Chris McDonald a call. If we don't get enough ringing we will have to start ringing around.



The weekend after the Course we have our trip to Lake Alexandrina. Some will be going up on the Friday and returning on the Tuesday (it is Waitangi Day) but I will be going up early Saturday morning as I have something else scheduled on the Friday night. If you are keen on coming on this trip let me know so that we can sort out the food for all. We will be staying in the South Canterbury Anglers Club hut at the lake outlet. There is a boat to go with the hut but I think Alan may be taking his as well. As well as the lake there are a number of interesting rivers not too far away so it won't be only lake fishing.

Make the most of the fine weather and get out there and catch some fish.

Dave.

Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

- 23rd Jan  Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
- 27/28th Jan Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel.
- 30st Jan [MM]  Lake Alexandrina Trip*
- 2-6th Feb  **Club Day Trip**, meet at Fish & Game - 7am
- 11th Feb (CM) Fly Tying
- 13th Feb  Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
- 20st Feb  --- This meeting is "On the river" --- BBQ Tea about 6pm
- 27th Feb [MM]

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) mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz
- Editor Johnny Mauchline, (021 2877 323) johnnymauchline@gmail.com
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, 17 Eye St, West Invercargill, Invercargill 9810. [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



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.