

“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

The Public's Waterways by Graham Carter NZFFA

Recently former Minister of Primary Industries Nathan Guy was bleating the new government is holding back regional New Zealand through its opposition to water storage projects which he says help grow jobs in the regions, boost exports and provide environmental sustainability. By his utterances Guy shows the lack of environmental stewardship of the previous government. Contrary to what Guy says, the Government deserves congratulations. It is supporting regional development by its opposition to water storage projects that will severely damage environmental sustainability and in the long term erode economic returns. Guy hasn't worked out that a NZ's exports depend on the clean green image. Dry river beds and algae infested stagnant pools from once pristine trout rivers such as Canterbury's Selwyn, are a bad advertisement for exports and tourism. Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor's says that irrigation projects are 'unnecessary' and should not be subsidised and that the Government will leave it to farmers and growers to 100% fund any schemes on their own is commendable. After all since 1984, the free market for better or worse has reigned and subsidies are out.

The Federation of Freshwater Anglers sees the previous National-led government's zeal for corporate dairying and creating dairy pastures in low rainfall as short-sighted. The Federation is not against sustainable farming with environmental responsibility. However it views the single focus on dairying as falling well short of the mark. Yes dairying has a lot to answer for with uncontrolled water takes and leaching of nitrates. But degradation of waterways has also occurred due to mono-cultures of pines and silt-laden run-off following clear felling logging. Also the fact that some urban areas still discharge sewage into rivers is disgraceful. Dry weather conditions and drought are natural events that occur regularly and farmers must be prepared for them individually and collectively. If they grow products and don't have the necessary water storage then it's just like any other business – the onus is on the business owner. Water storage can be done environmentally and the dams and resulting lakes on the Maniototo Plains are a good example. Irrigation is catered for and recreational fisheries are created. Farmers need to provide their own water storage which is absolutely necessary for these areas. It reduces the need for ground water extraction and can enhance the environment by guaranteeing minimum river flows during dry summers. The Crown Irrigation Investments officials recently told Select Committee MPs that stakeholders are 'confused and anxious' about the Government's priorities for water storage and irrigation projects and this confusion is adding to declining business confidence overall. They failed to mention that this government has higher priorities around environmental issues than helping farmers decimate water resources. Nationals attitude to these issues has caused the confusion and is blowing the issue way out of proportion.

Five specific irrigation projects all considered 'localised' by National and Councils are on hold while funding allocated by the previous National Government is parked up. To make matters worse, many farmers and growers and Councils have themselves invested in developing these schemes and this 45,000 hectare investment is now at real risk. This shows the level of greed and highlights the importance of stopping further decimation of our waterways and must be stopped. Frankly the National-led government had no concern or regard for the environment. Consequently the coalition Government has no moral or legal obligation to honour existing agreements. The Federation defines conservation as 'the wise use of resources'.

In a nutshell, restoring our rivers, streams and lakes to healthy ecosystems is a responsibility for all, both town and country.

The new government has made a promising start to respecting that culture. The public, both urban and rural, will be watching for more positive progress.



Cover photo by Johnny Mauchline

Excellent fly and photography by Grzegorz Nalecz

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

John Gierach

Fishing Report By Redtag



The rivers and streams have been up and down like a yo-yo yet again in the past month. Most unusual for this time of the year when we normally experience settled weather and good conditions on the rivers and streams. The fishing has been challenging and tough going..finding not only fishable water but then finding cooperative fish out and about feeding in the runs or flats has been difficult at times. However it is amazing if you get out there that you can sight fish and find fish rising in even the most inclement weather. I spent the whole day on one pool recently on a 'bad' day and had one of the most successful days out in many weeks. Although the rain has affected most catchments it has not resulted in heavily discoloured water.

Given that.. the fish are there to be seen and stalked. They do have to feed and over the day and I caught many on a wee induced nymph or when there was a flurry of duns coming off they would rise intermittently and take a CDC emerger off the top.

The emergence of decent hatches of mayfly has been a bonus recently and is to be expected at this time of year. If you pick the right spot then good fishing is to be had with CDC duns and emergers generally doing the business. You can only find the 'right' spot by consistently getting out on the water and observing each pool under all conditions. Chuck it and chance as a success factor does not apply in my book. Careful observance..patience presentation and perseverance in all conditions bring rewards. Case in point..I observed some anglers recently who fished through a pool I would take at least 2 hours to fish in about 10 minutes! They also fish together in groups!..using large pompom indicators and fishing weighted nymphs upstream..what's that all about!

I also fished a wee upland stream with a fellow angler and had great success fishing a humpy. We kept a fish for the farmers wife and it was in top condition. These wee streams are awesome to fish dry fly if you pick the right day and wind direction. So the season finishes at the end of the month on the upper river but luckily the middle and lower sections of the river are still open below Gore until the end of May. A real godsend as that is often a fabulous time to be on the water as the hatches of mayfly can be prolific and if we get settled conditions and decent water levels the fish will respond to the activity.

Redtag



Turning The Tables - A Downstream Approach by Chris Dore

As with much of trout fishing I feel people get too stuck on tradition. Gary Borger once wrote something along the lines of “the best thing about tradition is the knowledge handed down. But the worst thing about tradition is also the knowledge handed down.”

I believe people get too stuck on the mindset about just how a fly should be fished; Upstream with a dry, upstream with a nymph, wee wets on the swing as with streamers with a retrieve. Such concrete approaches severely limit the modern angler, and I feel much more success could be had if some would just let go, and go with the flow; What worked on the last fish wont necessarily work on the next...



Whilst the following can be applied to many situations, upon many waters in many parts of the world, as I write I am thinking of those champagne glides and smooth flats of the middle Mataura.

Many people become frustrated when trout are sipping off the top, sometimes hesitant in approaching these perceived 'selective trout'. It's not uncommon during the hatch or a heavy spinner fall to see people retreat to the rifles, back into their comfort zone, double nymph rigs on and plugging away at the seams. Their upstream dry fly approach didn't produce the goods for them this time round in the pool, the trout too shy, the water too smooth.

This isn't so.

When the hatch is heavy trout will position themselves high in the water column, to enable efficient feeding with minimal energy expenditure. Their eyes focus in closely on that which is in front of their noses, much like a tele-photo zoom on ones camera, and everything beyond their target becomes but a blur. The problem here is that everything is in perfect focus – fly, leader, the glassy surface film. Ones tippet can stand out like dogs bollocks, especially if you factor in even the most minimal amount of drag. Traditional upstream presentations are often ignored, as the tippet either lands across the trout, or drifts into its cone of vision. So why persevere upstream?

The primary benefit of a downstream presentation is a fly first presentation, where the fly becomes the first thing to enter the trouts window of vision. The tippet does not drift across said window, ensuring the trouts undivided attention locks on to what counts. In my experience, I believe that once the trout locks in on the fly, as long as it behaves natural, accompanying tippet does not matter.

Now many people associate downstream presentations with swinging wets and skating dries as the accepted norm, but it is easily possible to present natural, drag free drifts from an upstream casting position.

Enter the serpentine cast...

The serpentine, or wiggle cast (which is actually a mend) is the simplest way to create efficient slack throughout the line, to ensure a relatively unrestricted downstream drift of the fly.



Cast as per normal, sending your loop towards its target, but as you shoot line on the presentation, simply shake your rod tip side to side repeatedly as the line falls to the water. The larger the shake, the bigger the curves you place in the line.

Whilst your fly drifts downstream, the curves will slowly straighten, allowing a downstream 'fly first', drag-free presentation. Try stacking this with other 'On The Water' mends to extend your drift. With practice you can cover a lot of water. A great cast when quartering downstream.

Want a little more control over your slack? How about the parachute cast?

This time, simply stop your rod high on the presentation cast and keep it there – don't follow through to the water. The line will fall back beneath the high rod tip, creating a reserve of slack line you can feed out into the current by simply lowering the rod! Easy!

Just remember to strike by taking up the slack with the rod tip, and setting the hook with the line hand. A great cast for a more downstream approach.

Timing the downstream strike is the same as with an upstream approach; don't strike too soon, and wait for the fish to turn down. Some people believe that a crisp, downstream roll cast will turn the fly around for a better hook up from an essentially downstream angle, but I feel this is unnecessary, as good timing and an efficient lift will prove just as successful, without the hassle.

You may have the ultimate spent spinner pattern or the penultimate emerger for those oh so specific of trout, but without the presentation skills they count for nix. Think outside of the box and practice your casting. Both the Parachute and Serpentine are the most elementary of presentation skills, but will serve you well on many occasions over your fly fishing career. Combine these with an upstream directed reach and you will have an arsenal to confidently accept even the trickiest of downstream challenges.

The next time those Mataura browns shun your upstream presentation, get in above them, and turn the tables in your favour. Life's too short to not catch fish. Get out there, try it and do it!

May Fly Tying Competition - Black Creeper by Dave Harris



Materials:

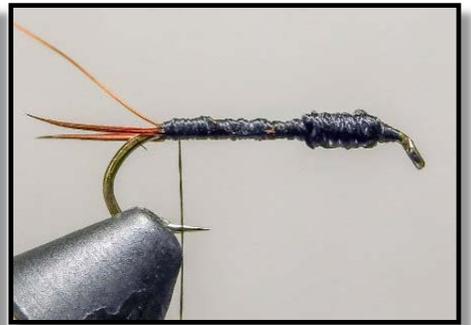
Hook	Black Magic B10 or similar
Thread	Black 6/0
Tail	Brown goose biots
Ribbing	Fine copper wire
Dubbing	Black rabbit
Wing case	Dark pheasant tail
Weight	.020 lead or .025 lead free wire



Run the thread down the hook



Tie in the biots so they are splayed. Length should be similar to hook gap



Wrap on lead and tie in



Tie in copper wire at tail
Dub abdomen. Should be a little over 1/2 length.
Run copper ribbing forward and tie off. Cut excess copper off



Tie in 5 or 6 pheasant tail fibres at front of abdomen



Dub thorax. Should be bigger in diameter than abdomen and rounded.
Tie wing case over top of thorax.
Build up head slightly and whip finish.

Presidents Report by Dave Harris

Well I don't have much to report on fishing this month having only managed two days out. I was in Australia for nearly 3 weeks and then away at Cromwell for 4 days so that hasn't left much time. The two days out were interesting. I had a day on the Aparima where there was no surface activity at all and spotting was difficult due to high water levels and algae built up on the stones, however the fish were feeding well and I landed a few. The other day out was on a Mataura tributary I hadn't fished before and it was totally different. The fish were easy to spot and none were rising to naturals, but I couldn't get them to take a nymph. A few did, however, rise to a dry fly. As I write this I am looking at when I can get out to the Mataura as I had a great time in April last year. However it looks a bit high and the weather is not looking good for the next few days.

We start our fly tying competition next month and the first fly instructions are in the edition of Ripples and will be demonstrated at the April Club meeting. If you haven't entered before give it a go. There is a draw each meeting for Hunting & Fishing gift voucher and everyone is in to win this. If you are just starting out fly tying and don't have the materials there is time to buy them before you need to put the fly in and it will help build up your stock of fly tying materials. You can never have too many.

On June 9th we have the first of our Fly Tying Days at Fish & Game. This is a good chance for those of you who are starting out to get some instruction on fly tying. Even if you don't have any gear the Club has some fly tying sets you can use to get started as well as plenty of books in the library on fly tying. Come along and see how you get on. Some of us will be at Fish & Game all day but if that doesn't suit you can pop in for a short time.

Also on June 9th we have our annual dinner. In the past this has been at Ainos but that has gone so we still have to decide where we will go this year. Mark the dinner in your diary now and we will see you there.

Fly Tying Competition by Dave Harris

The fly for May was selected at the March Club Meeting and is the black creeper as shown in Laurence Christie's Flies That Catch Trout.

I have selected the fly for June and it will be a parachute adams #16. I have selected this as it is a very good dry fly which I use a lot. There are a lot of variations with this pattern so wait until you see what I am using in the May Ripples.

Chris McDonald has selected a damsel rabbit from Peter Scott's New Zealand's Best Trout Flies for the July fly. He likes the look of this for use in Lake Dunstan where he fishes often. Details will be in the June Ripples.

The fly for August will be the novelty Spotlight Fly. Hopefully John Day will again organise this.

The final fly will be the magoo. Julie bought some of these from Hurley's and had a lot of fun at Mavora and suggested we tie this. Details will be in the August Ripples.

All flies except the Spotlight fly will be demonstrated at the club meeting prior to the meeting at which they need to be submitted. If you are not going to be at a meeting try and get your fly to someone who is going to be there.

Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

24 th April	[MM]	
28/29 th Apr		Lodge Trip (End of Season)
1 st May	(CM)	Fly Tying
13 th May		Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game 10am, to the lower Mataura
22 nd May		Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
26/27 th May		Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge
29 th May	[MM]	

Club Contacts

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- 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 the secretary.

Club Sponsors



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