

# “Ripples”

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

June 2020



[www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)



# Southland Fly Fishing Club

## President's Report by Dave

Well, the river season has been and gone. Best weather was during the lock down so we all missed that. I finished the season with a flurry. I managed six days fishing in the last seven days of May (I had to get a hair cut on the other day). I started on my own on the Upukerora with quite a good day. There weren't as many fish as the last couple of seasons but I got five to the net. Significantly I broke one off when I got my dryfly caught in the net with the fish hooked on the nymph below. After my day off, Julie and I headed out to the Mataura between Gore & Mataura. The river was in pretty good condition but the fish weren't very co-operative. I managed to spot one close in and he was keen. I caught another fishing blind and that was our lot for the day. The last four days of the season I was based at the Lodge and fished with Simon. See report elsewhere in this Ripples.

The following weekend we had our June fly tying day and there was a reasonable turnout of members. I tied a few flies starting to stock up for next season. Mind you I don't need too many more as I didn't use anywhere near all the flies I tied last off-season. I tied some black beetles for my friend Cole who had asked for some. This is a new pattern for me so hopefully it works.

The next event we have coming up in the Club is the member's video and photo night along with our photo competition at the June meeting. Put all your photos and videos on a memory stick and bring them along to the meeting to show the other members what you have been up to. You also need to print out the best of your photos to enter them in the photo competition. Details below. Of course you also need to bring along your version of Simon's flashback nymph as featured in last month's Ripples to enter the fly tying competition.

## Competitions by Dave

### May Fly Tying

There were seven flies entered in May and the results were very close with the winning fly tied by Dave.

### June Fly

The June fly is Simon's flashback nymph. Details were in the May Ripples.

### July Fly.

The July Fly is Chris's stimulator dry. Details on page 6 of this Ripples. Chris has the hooks required so ask him for some.

### Photo Competition.

Our annual photo competition will be held at the June meeting. There are four categories - trophy, scenic, action and general. Members can enter up to three photos in each category. Photos are to be from the past season and are to be as they come off the camera and are to be 5 x 7 prints. Judging will be by member vote and there will be a prize voucher for each category.

### Fish Competitions.

I will accept fish cards until the June meeting for entry into the annual fish competitions.

### Trophies.

Can you please return trophies to me by the June meeting so I can get them engraved for the prize giving at the AGM.



## June Club Meeting

Don't forget the June Meeting is our member's photo and video night. Put all of your season's photos and videos on a memory stick and bring them along to show us at the meeting.

## Cover Photo by Amy

Chris Cowie with a nice late May rainbow.

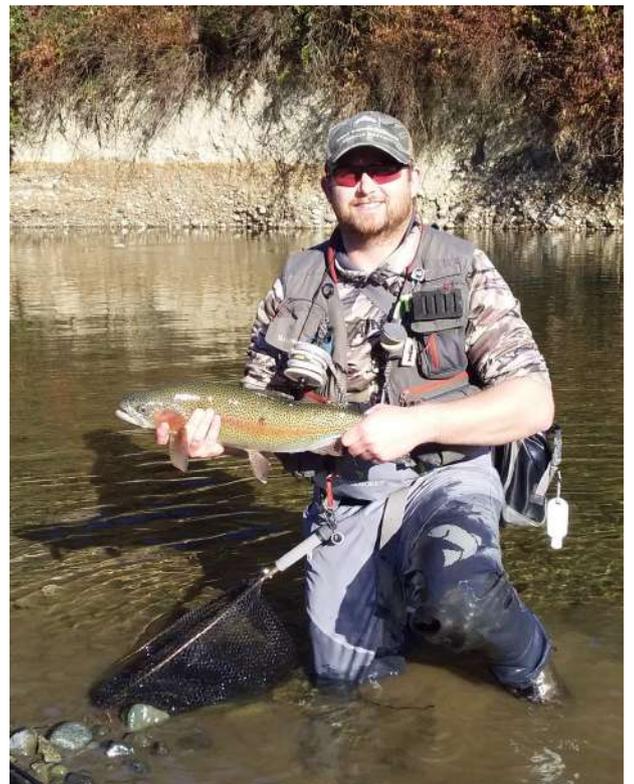
## Te Anau Trip by Joel

A bluebird Southland day greeted Chris and I as we headed to the Te Anau area in mid-May. A crisp temperature to start, but a cloudless sky and no wind meant that sighting fish was hopefully going to be relatively straight forward. We had had a tip off from Dave who had fished in the area earlier in the week that the fish he had seen were not too interested in feeding, but that something colourful seemed to get him success. With this in mind I rigged my line up with a double nymph setup, Dave's green stone fly pattern for some weight and size, and a small size 16 orange beaded hare and copper trailing behind.

Chris was soon into the action with a nice 2 lb brown shortly after we began fishing. At this point the sun was not quite hitting the water, so we were blind fishing likely areas. This fish was in shallow water barely covering his dorsal fin, to the side of the main current tailing from a pool. Chris proceeded up the river on his own for a while as I had "misplaced" my fly box somewhere and had to backtrack downstream in search of it. About an hour later, after finding my fly box at a point where I had climbed out of the river, I caught up with Chris who had spotted 5 browns at the back of a pool that he had politely saved for me to have a crack at given my first couple of hours hadn't started very well. I landed a small brown on the orange bead hare and copper, but the larger fish seemed very spooky and were very quick to dismiss any offerings.

A few pools on we came across something I hadn't seen before. There were around 20 brown trout sitting in a 20 m section of a riffle that were clearly beginning to show pre-spawn activity. The fish were very picky, not really showing any feeding activity, and when spooked would swim off and then arrive back shortly afterwards as if they had forgotten already. We landed a couple out of the section, again only 2 lb browns, with the heavier fish proving hard to get. I usually find spotting fish in riffles quite difficult, but with the very dark colouration of the browns on this day it made it very simple against the stony river bed backdrop. Another long, calm straight piece of river had similar numbers of schooling, very erratic, browns which we skipped past to find a spot to have our lunch.

The much anticipated afternoon session involved getting to a few beautiful pools which had been kind to us in the past. I caught a nice 4 lb rainbow blind fishing a likely piece of current as it made its way past a rock face. It had taken Dave's green stone fly nymph. Chris caught another couple of nice browns in the pools that followed, with a lot more fish seen schooling as in the previous pools. Overall, seven fish between us for the day we thought was a great way to come out of lockdown, and a gorgeous day out on the river. There were plenty of fish around, and certainly a first for me to see the brown trout already entering spawning mode on the Southland rivers. I don't typically get much fishing in May which was probably why! We saw over 60 fish for our seven landed that day. It made me wonder which I like best. Some days you can walk for miles and only see a handful of fish, but actively feeding, can provide great reward and sometimes frustration. This trip had dozens of fish that were largely erratic in their behaviour and definitely not that interested in feeding. Which would you prefer?



## When it Goes Bad It Goes Bad by Chris

Sometimes a trip just doesn't work out. Dave and Simon were on their 4 day end of season trip and I joined for the last 2 days. They had already fished the Von and were heading elsewhere but I as a creature of habit wanted to fish the Von. Unfortunately, the Upper Oreti Bridge was as far as I got. Puncture number 1 (yes, number 1). Put on the space saver and decided much safer to head to Te Anau for a repair rather than keep going. The space saver gave up just after the Centre Hill Road intersection. Puncture number 2. No houses and no cell phone coverage. Drove on the rim till I got coverage just short of Mararoa Road. Ah well at least the State Auto Rescue had an easy reference point to find me.

Eventually, after a long and cold wait the Bluebird was on the trailer and off to Caltex Te Anau. Thanks Rory. Problem number 3 only one replacement tyre and no replacement wheel for the space saver. So no spare.

It was already after lunch time so I thought I'd have a look at the lower Upuk. Damn, if I hadn't got that much needed hot pie I would have got there before those two vehicles that were pulling into the car park. Enquiry revealed three fly fishers who were "going to wander up a bit". They were from Gore, Tapanui and Invercargill. I headed part way back out to the road and pulled into the river's edge to have my actual lunch. Spooked one when looking into the pool upstream.

Headed down to the mouth as it was now early afternoon. Four fisherpersons already there from Invercargill and Queenstown. (Must have something to do with lock down and few open waters). Have to say fisher persons as 2 were female. The 5 year old had caught her first trout that morning using a floating worm drifted out through the mouth. It was very nice 4lb brown.

I headed back towards the bridge and thought I'd have a look at a nice pool on the way. Nope another car already parked at the end of the track.

Getting somewhat discouraged at this point I thought I would just go back up to the car park and follow the other guys up. Got there and they were still fishing at the car park. After discussing options, I headed up to the next ford and started fishing from there. Had a refusal in a back water and that was it until I got up to my favourite pool short of the gorge. Pity it wasn't there anymore.

I picked up a skinny 2lber in a small run and that was it for the day. Overall, I managed less than 2 hours on the river for the day and hardly put my fly on the water. The river had changed so much that it had very little fishable water. Finished the day with a good mixed grill at the Mossburn Pub. Thank goodness something went right for the day

Day 2 we were joined by Joel and took 2 vehicles into the Von. Guess what? Dave got puncture number 3.

Joel and I fished the lower gorge. As Joel had never been there before we ventured a little further than normal into the gorge. This meant some bush bashing to some nice scenic water but no fish. We fished upstream and my last fish of the season was an 8 inch monster. Joel was unsuccessful but Dave and Simon had landed a couple each. Back to the lodge for clean up and to drain the water for the winter. That was the end of the season. Hopefully there will be no lockdown and next season will be a lot better than this one.



## Final Fling by Dave

Simon had managed to get himself a couple of days off work and invited me to join him for an extended end of season trip to the Lodge. I was in charge of breakfasts and lunches while Simon looked after the two evening meals. We went up Wednesday night in separate vehicles to allow additional flexibility on the trip as Chris was going to join us for the weekend and we didn't know his plans. The trip up was quite a drive with thick fog much of the way. This finally cleared a few kilometres above Dipton and it felt really good to get a clear view of the road again.

Thursday morning, we decided to go to the Eglinton where we had fished at the end of last season. On the way we found more fog and it was still foggy when we set off down the river. We walked a fair way down before starting to fish. The river had a bit of colour and the foggy conditions were making spotting difficult. However, Simon was soon into a nice rainbow. We came to a place where the river split and took one branch each. Simon's branch looked to have better spotting conditions due to being close to the bush and he found a very nice 6¾lb brown which was hungry and came to the net. The branch I was on had a couple of good-looking pools and I landed some nice rainbows from these. They were too deep to spot the fish, especially with the light conditions although I did see one fish swim close by. After lunch we continued upstream and once again, I detoured off the main flow where I managed to spot some fish in a shallow run but they were pretty spooky. I did manage to land a nice rainbow (I think the others were browns but it was difficult to tell). We fished up past the car without further success. Our total for the day was eight fish, seven rainbows and one brown. Back to the Lodge where Simon cooked up a nice dinner. We had a bit of drama when we ran out of water just before heading to bed meaning the first job in the morning would be to go over to the farm to turn the valve on.

Friday, we decided to head into the Von and see what was there. It was a cool morning and we started at Chris's favourite spot on the river. We could see two fish in the first pool and I dropped down to fish to them. The first one came to the net but that spooked the second but at least we were on the board. I managed another before we got back to the car having spotted a lot less fish than we had hoped. From here we drove upstream to my favourite starting point and headed upstream. We spotted a few fish but they weren't in a fly taking mood except for one. It was the first fish we spotted after the first pool that looked to be in a feeding position. Simon was using two nymphs and a yarn indicator. The fish rose to the indicator. We discussed what to do next and decided he should put his rig across the fish again as we didn't think it would rise to the indicator again but might take one of the nymphs. Wrong, another lovely rise to the indicator. We decided to move to another section of river where we found a few more fish but light conditions were getting difficult so most of the fish we spotted were already heading away. Finally, time to head back to the car and away home with an eight fish tally for the day.

Chris arrived at the Lodge Friday night with the extra supplies we had asked him to bring up. We discussed the next day. Chris said he was heading into the Von while Simon and I decided to head to the Upukerora, but further up than I had fished it on previous trips. Once again, we had fog and it was still foggy when we got to the river. Early on we struggled to spot fish although came across one pool that had more than we could count. Unfortunately, they had seen us before we saw them and none came to the net. We found a few fish and some came to the net. One that I landed had a surprise in its mouth. I reached in and extracted what I thought was my nymph only to find it had no line attached. Had another look in the fish's mouth and there was my nymph still in the fish. I later had a really good look at the fly that was already in the fish's mouth and I am sure it was one that I had tied. This must have been the fish I broke off five days earlier about six kilometres downstream. After this the river started to get busy with 4WD's driving either up or down and too close to the river for our liking. Time to head back to car with our tally at four for the day.

From here we headed back to the Mossburn Hotel where I had us booked in for dinner. We were a bit late and Chris had been there for quite a while by the time we got there. He actually rang us up to see where we were but by that time, we were at Rocky Point so only a few minutes away. We were then told his tale of woe with his tyre dramas and too many other anglers.

Sunday, we decided to head back into the Von and Chris had arranged to meet Joel at the Mavora turnoff. We had our dramas on the way in with a warning of low tyre pressure on the left rear so had to stop to change the tyre. Simon and I stopped where we had fished the second section of the river on Friday while Chris & Joel went further downstream. I gave Chris the keys to my car so that he could bring it upstream to save us walking back to the car. Once again not many fish were spotted, certainly not like some years in the past but we were seeing a few and some were coming to the net. Where the fish had risen to Simon's indicator two days earlier there was a fish in the same position. This fish didn't rise but happily took Simon's nymph and I think that was the last of the five we landed for the day. Chris & Joel were a lot longer coming up the road and we had already walked a couple of kilometres back towards the car before they came down the river. From there it was back to the Lodge to shut everything down and head home.

A pretty good four days with 25 fish landed between us in spite of lower than expected numbers of fish spotted. Roll on October.

# July Competition Fly - Stimulator Dry by Chris.

## Materials

Hook: TMC 200R, #8 I have plenty of these.

Thread: Orange

Tail: Deer Hair Rib: Fine copper Wire

Body: Orange. Can be dubbing, embroidery thread, whatever you have

Hackle: 1 Brown, 1 Grizzle, -slightly bigger than the Brown

Wing: Deer Hair

Thorax: Yellow

Blame Joel for this fly. He wanted something big and colourful. Full tying instructions can be found on the internet. Search under **Step by Step Photo Instructions on How to Tie "The Stimulator" Fly**. There are also a number of U-tube tying videos as well. Dave says this is the last deer hair fly this winter.

I have used it with success with Rainbows on the Mararoa.



1 Tie thread onto hook from about one third back from the eye. Take to bend and tie in short deer hair tail. Use the excess butts as a base for the body. Wrap with thread



2 Tie in copper wire at tail. Dub body to where thread was tied in.



3 Tie in brown hackle and palmer back along body to tail. Catch end of hackle under copper wire and rib the wire forwards. Secure wire at front of hackle. Trim excess hackle.



4 Tie clump of deer hair in at front of hackle. Should slope back almost to the end of the tail. Cut butts on an angle.



5 Cover butts with thread to form a sloping thorax



6 & 7 Tie in grizzle hackle against the deer hair. Joel this is where you can tie in rubber legs if you want. I gave up. Dub yellow dubbing from near the eye back to the hackle and then forwards again.



8 Wind the hackle forward to short of the eye and tie off



9 Form a head with the thread and whip finish.

## Coming Events (MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

30 <sup>th</sup> June	MM	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
7 <sup>nd</sup> July	CM	Fly tying
28 <sup>th</sup> July	AGM	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
1 <sup>st</sup> August		Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am
1 <sup>st</sup> August		Annual Dinner (postponed from June) book with Chris McD 027 423 7016
4 <sup>th</sup> August	CM	Arranging the calendar for the next season
8/9 <sup>th</sup> August		Club day out, fishing practice – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
25 <sup>th</sup> August	MM	At Hunting & Fishing

## Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)
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- Editor Dave Harris [dcharris@southnet.co.nz](mailto:dcharris@southnet.co.nz)  
*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](mailto: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 Chris McDonald.

## Club Sponsors



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