

“Ripples”

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

September 2020



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

Not long to go now before the new season starts and we can all head out to our favourite rivers in pursuit of trout. I hope to head to my usual river on opening day but the rivers still need to drop a bit from where they are now to be at their best. Hopefully the weather will be good but opening day is still out of range of the long range forecasts (and they are not particularly accurate).

September has been a busy month with Club activities on all but one weekend day so far this month. We had fly tying displays at Hunting & Fishing on both the 6th & 19th, a Club trip on the 7th, the International Women's Fly Fishing Day on the 12th followed by the Lodge working bee the next day. Still to come is the casting day on the 27th at Queens Park. Chris and I also attended the Manic Tackle Fly Fishing Introduction held at Hunting & Fishing early in the month, taking the opportunity to talk about our casting day and fly fishing course. While there, I was co-opted to help out setting up the leader and tippet for a lady who was intending to use her late husband's fly rod. It didn't actually look like the rod had been used at all.

Opening day is a Thursday this year and will be followed up by a Lodge Trip on the first weekend of October. All members are welcome on these trips and for less proficient anglers are a good opportunity to get out with those that have more experience and learn a bit more about how and where to catch our trout. It is looking like some of the regulars will not be on the trip this year so there is plenty of space. Normally we head up to the Lodge on Friday night and can then be ready to head out first thing Saturday morning. Food and transport is normally shared so it makes for a relatively cheap weekend. Give me a call on 027 201 6722 if you are keen for a weekend away.

September Day Trip - Te Waewae Lagoon by Dave

It didn't look like a great day for fishing but there were two others (Julie & Jim) waiting at Fish & Game when I arrived at 9:00am. Joel said he would see us at Te Waewae so it looked like there would be four of us on the trip.

We arrived at Te Waewae and it was very windy and looked like it might rain. The water level was quite high and the water was a bit coloured. Joel's car was there so he must be around somewhere. He turned up shortly after and said he had landed a small rainbow so his day was off to a good start.

We all got set up with Julie deciding it was too windy for fly fishing so she got out her spinning rod. I set up as usual for Te Waewae with a green woolly buggler and Jim tied on one of his British flies. Julie stayed near the car while the other three of us headed around the top of the small bays to get the wind behind us to make casting a lot easier. Jim and I headed to the first bay while Joel headed further west. Jim's luck was in and he hooked a nice brown second cast. I fished a few spots before finally hooking a brown. Initially I thought it was weed as the line just stopped and then came slowly as I pulled the line in, before it suddenly moved and I knew it was a fish.

We met back at the cars for lunch and Joel reported he had also landed a brown.

With the poor conditions we decided to do a bit of exploring and headed to the other side of the river to see what conditions were like around there. We went as far as Bluecliffs Beach Road goes and had a bit of a fish there although the water was quite coloured. There was vehicle access further along the beach but we decided not to drive any further. The mouth was still well to the west of us. We then headed back past the cribs and fished in the river. I walked as far up as I could but the only sign of fish I saw were two that a whitebaiter had caught using mussel as bait.



Julie trying to defeat the wind by using her spinning rod.

Considering the conditions it was a pretty good trip and we all enjoyed our outing.

Competitions by Dave

Fly Tying Competition

This month's fly is the coch-y-bondhu as detailed in last month's Ripples. This is a good beetle imitation and has special meaning to me as it was the first fly that I caught a trout on. This is the final fly for the year's competition.

August Winner:

The August competition was close with Dave getting the most votes for his black beetle, although Julie was only one vote behind.



Dave's winning black beetle.

Annual Fishing Competitions

The Club Fishing Competitions this year takes the same form as in the past. This is an honesty competition where members hand in their cards at the monthly meetings (or any other time you can find me). You were given 7 cards when you paid your subscription and that is one card for each month of the season (October to April). You can put more in but you will need to buy more cards from the Secretary to make it through the season.

There are 4 sections – heaviest brown, heaviest rainbow, total weight and condition factor. The first two are easy to figure out, total weight is the total for one fish per month (hence the seven cards) and the condition factor is based on the length and weight of the fish.

Calculation is:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight} \times 100000}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}}$$

Weight is in pounds and length is in inches

If you use metric instead of imperial measures it looks like this:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight} \times 3612.8}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}}$$

Weight is in grams and length is in cm.

A very good fish gives a condition factor of 60 – 70. If this calculation gives numbers over this, I get very suspicious of the data.

There is also a Junior Competition and this is based on taking part in Club activities. Points are awarded for attending meetings, coming out on Club trips putting in fish cards each month, entering the photo competition and entering flies in the fly tying competition.

There will be a one night photo competition at the end of the season with 4 classes – scenic, trophy, action and general. So remember to take your camera and take plenty of photos.

Cover Photo by Dave

Jim preparing to net a brown at Te Waewae on the September Club Trip.

First International Women's Flyfishing Day (12th September 2020)

by Julie

The goal of the day was to bring women together from all over the world virtually for one day to celebrate women who fly fish, and post it at 11:00am in their part of the world as the world spun around. An important part was to encourage other women/girls to give it a go. This did happen from the very young to the very old. In Southland, a very enjoyable day was held at Lake Mavora. No fish were caught but three were sighted and given chase (one day soon). It was brilliant to catch up with other fly fishing women who were able to make it. There was Amy Grundy who took time out of her busy lambing schedule, plus Gerda Johnstone and Clare Burgess who joined me up at Lake Mavora. We all want to express a thank you to Dave Harris the legend. Dave drove us, identified some nice spots (for this coming season), helped with technical issues some were having, tolerated many toilet stops and a quick coffee/shop at Bracken Hall on the way home. Dave also pointed out where to go to see the spawning of the rainbows (another trip hopefully) and we all did some day-dreaming about getting to the Worsley and Carey's hut this season as well as a few other planned Ladies trips fingers crossed as well.

A special thanks to Chris McDonald and Dave Harris for assisting me to complete our Lake Mavora favourite flies to take with us. Also special thanks to the Southland Fly Fishing Club and to Fish and Game members who make Fly Fishing Women feel included and welcome.

Here in Southland we were the first to post, being one of the most Southern and Eastern places, along with Shirley Fraser from Taupo, who had to change plans when late notice was sent that the dam was being opened and warnings to all anglers to stay away. Well done Shirley for still getting your post up.

Australia made its present felt along with South Africa, Denmark, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, Slovenia, Canada, Alaska and many USA rivers and venues, to name but a few of the countries. Over 449 posts from around the globe were posted. In many countries, women battled issues to get out fishing on the day. There were covid restrictions on travel placed at midnight in some places, air quality was deemed unsafe to breathe because of fires in others, temperatures and storms also provided late restrictions. The resilience of the women who took part stood out as many just diversified from their existing plans posting previous photos, fly tying, reading books on fishing, or teaching casting to new women starting out on their journey.

We all agreed the inaugural IWFFD was successful and did achieve it's goal of bringing women together with one thing in common - fly fishing and the love it brings and gives. The one thing that is different amongst us is the topography of where, what and how we fish, as many of the posts show. The posts included artists, writers, lady designers of clothes/jewellery/gear, mentors, teachers, guides, fly tyers, groups, organisations, and of course all of us who just love fly fishing. A number of women did try fly fishing for the first time and achieved their first catch on a fly line. We will be encouraging them to continue. Roll on next year.



Julie and Clare at Mavora during the International Women's Fly Fishing Day.

International Women's Fly Fishing Day (cont)



Gerda setting up at Mavora



Amy, all concentration at Mavora



Famous American angler Joan Wulff (92)



Some start young. Kassy from Missouri, aged 3 and sporting her White River vest.

Why Do Women want to Fly Fish by Julie

I get asked quite often why a woman would want to fly fish. I am a bit of an old hand at being asked questions like this. They have followed me most of my life with the activities I have undertaken i.e. why would a woman want to be a glider pilot? Why would a woman want to fly a microlight? Why would a woman want to get in a matchbox toy and chase world records? Hmm I never get asked these questions on my other hobbies patchwork, sewing, embroidery, gardening or cooking..... Maybe it's the age I have lived through. Is it the same for younger women? For some I believe the answer is yes. Unfortunately, there are still countries in the world that women cannot join angling/fly fishing clubs.

In fly fishing there are actually too many reasons for me to list here why I think this sport is more than just for the stereotypically man that has been the normal gender associated with fly fishing. It is a sport that is here for everyone!

My, and many other women's views appear to be similar on this, for me the following apply:

- 1) Relates to the technical - the little skills we learn along the way, the challenge! No one is ever perfect. We have our days and so do the fish.
- 2) The comradely - The friendly aspect, don't get me wrong not everyone shares where they land "the big one" but many do and happy to share what flies they use.
- 3) Most of all for me it is nature that gets me out to beautiful places. Give me a clean mountain/valley air, cool waters, and the sounds of Mother Nature WOW. At the end of the day holy moly, I do not want to leave the area and go home.
- 4) The fish do not judge whether you are wearing makeup, or judge your sex, race or colour or creed. But be sure the fish will be the judge of our fly.

Tight lines ladies. We welcome and encourage more women to come enjoy this sport..

Opening Day 2019

Just a reminder of last year. Conditions were definitely spring like with fresh snow on the mountains. However the river was clear and the fish were keen. especially in the morning.



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

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---|
| 27 th Sept | Sunday | Casting Day at Queens Park 1:00pm |
| 29 th Sept | MM | Fish & Game speaker |
| 1 st Oct | | Opening Day (Thursday) |
| 3/4 th Oct | | Lodge Trip |
| 6 th Oct | CM | Fishing Stories & Fly Tying |
| 11 th Oct | | <u>Club Day Trip</u> meet at Fish & Game – 7am |
| 27 th Oct | MM | |
| 28 th Oct | | Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722 |
| 1 st Nov | | High Country Opening (Sunday) |
| 7/8 th Nov | | Lodge Trip - High Country Opening Contact Dave 027 201 6722 if coming |

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 Dave Harris 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 (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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