

# “Ripples”

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

November 2020



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



# Southland Fly Fishing Club

## President's Report by Dave

Well since the last Ripples I have been out a few times but I have also been away a couple of weekends on non-fishing trips. We had a midweek trip at the end of October but river conditions were not suitable for fly fishing so we headed for Mavora Lakes and fished the South Lake. We had a good turnout of 6 people and conditions were good, maybe too good, and the fish were most unco-operative. I spotted a reasonable number of fish but those that came and looked at the fly didn't take. Still it was a good day out.

I had planned to go to the Lodge with Chris McD on the weekend of October 31 – November 1 but after looking at the forecast decided that it would not be worth going. Chris was pretty keen to get out for the high country opening and headed away on his own. However, the forecast was correct and I am told he caught one fish on the Saturday but got very wet and came home Saturday evening and missed the high country opening.

I hadn't fished the Oreti this season but got out to it early in the month with Chris C and had a great day. The weather was good and while the river was still above normal and had a bit of colour we could easily spot the fish and I managed to land some good fish up to 6½lb. Chris, unfortunately was unable to land any although he did have some hook ups.

The November Lodge weekend didn't go ahead as there was no-one else who was able to make it for the weekend and once again the weather forecast was poor. I decided to go on my own but to delay it by a day. I had a good trip as reported elsewhere in this Ripples.

I also managed another trip to the Upper Oreti, fishing a bit further up this time. The weather forecast looked like it would be a reasonably sunny day and that should have made spotting fish easy but it was not to be. The cloud did clear but only as I arrived back at the car to pack up and head home. I hooked three fish, including one in the first pool I fished but only one came to the net. While getting changed at the end of the day, a camper van with three anglers on board came down to check out the river at the access I was at. They weren't fishing. Just looking, so I didn't check their licences. However we did discuss licences and, at the time, they did not have a Southland back country endorsement on their licences but they said they were going to get one. To fish the Oreti above Rocky Point (a couple of kilometres out of Mossburn towards Te Anau) you are required to have a Southland back country endorsement. You can sort this out on the Fish & Game website.

I have my annual trip to Te Anau to look forward to at the beginning of December with Cole Shirvell, providing he makes it through 14 days of quarantine in Auckland. I am hoping for a lot better weather and river conditions than last year.

In spite of the best efforts of the lady at the bank, we have managed to finally get our internet banking up and running (if she had been working for me, she would have been down the road). Both Chris and I can now see who has paid what into the account and of course make payments, which still require a second person to approve them. We are still having trouble with getting Julie signed up as a signatory to the bank accounts but hopefully will get that sorted soon.

Finally, on behalf of the Club, I would like to send our condolence to Julie for the loss of her husband Jan.



6½lb Oreti Brown

## Cover Photo by Dave

Chris Cowie in fast water on the Upper Oreti

## Not the November Lodge Trip by Dave

The timing must have been wrong as there was no-one else who was keen for the November Lodge Trip. Chris McD had had his own trip the weekend before but didn't make it through the weekend due to the weather. I was going to go with him but decided the forecast was too bad so stayed home.

I decided I would go on my own for the trip but due to other activities on the Friday night and poor weather forecast for the Saturday I headed up Sunday morning and stayed Sunday night.

I was still a bit iffy on Saturday as the forecast for Sunday was still not good and, as a result, I didn't prepare for an early start on Sunday. However when I got up it was a lovely sunny day in Invercargill so I rushed around and sorted out all I needed, put everything in the car and headed away. As I headed north the weather started to look more like the forecast and I had a few spots of rain on the windscreen before I got to the Lodge and there was fresh snow on the hills.

Once unloaded I headed for a Mataura tributary that I hoped would be in reasonable condition. It was raining and cold (5°C) as I got set up but the rain stopped as I left the car. The river had plenty of water and a bit of colour so spotting fish wasn't going to be easy.

I fished a few likely looking spots without success and then spotted what looked like a fish. It wasn't keen on my hare & copper so I changed to a fairlight caddis and this was much more appealing. A 3lb brown came to the net. By this time the weather conditions were improving with gaps starting to appear in the clouds and the odd bit of sunshine. This should have made spotting fish easier but I still wasn't seeing many at all. While fishing a deep pool the dryfly dipped and I struck but there was nothing there. It had to have been a fish as the water was much too deep for the nymph to have hit anything else. A couple of casts later and a small brown took the dry. I struck but once again no hook up.

I had walked a fair way without any further success when I spotted what looked like two fish ahead but actually turned out to be one fish and a stick a bit further up. The fish wasn't interested in the fairlight caddis so I changed back to a #16 hare & copper. This definitely appealed as the fish rushed across to take it. A nice 3½lb brown came to the net. It was time to head home so packed up, walked a bit down the river and then out on to the road. Not long after a nice lady farmer gave me a lift back to the car. From here it was off to the Mossburn pub for dinner and then back to the Lodge to tie a few flies.

Monday morning, I was up early and off to the Te Anau Basin to chase some rainbows. No-one at the river when I got there so I was clearly early enough. Once again it was overcast and the cloud was forecast to stay all day. Third pool, while fishing blind, I hooked up on a 3¾lb rainbow so the day was off to a good start. Not much further up I spotted another rainbow feeding well. He liked my nymph and came to the net. Next two fish I spotted both took the dry fly although the second of those came off, hooked briefly on the trailing nymph and was gone. The cloud was starting to break up so it looked like spotting would improve but the wind was starting to come up a bit. I continued to catch a few fish with a good rainbow of 4½lb coming to the net as well as a couple of 2lb ones that weren't in great condition. The second of these got itself well and truly tangled with my tippet around most of its fins. This somewhat disabled it and it was easy to get to the net. A bit further up I spotted what looked like a nice fish in shallow but fast water and it took my nymph. For a change it was a brown and it tipped the scales to 6¼lb. It was really easy to land after the fighting rainbows. A couple more rainbows and it was time to turn back to the car that was 6.5km away. Tally for the day was 8 rainbows and 1 brown so I was happy.



Best fish of the trip – 6¼lb brown

## Fly for the Month - Thin Skin Caddis by Dave

In the last Ripples I mentioned that I had hooked four fish in four casts on a small Mataura tributary. When I was talking to Chris McD about this, he had no idea of what the fly I had used was. I tied these a few years ago and still had a number in my fly box. I had tied it so long ago I wasn't exactly sure what I had used but found the recipe filed safely on my computer. This recipe uses 0.010 lead wire which I would now replace with 0.015 lead free wire. However, lead free wire is not easily available so you will need to use the lead.

Thin skin caddis.

Hook	Black Magic G14
Thread	black 6/0
Weight	0.010 lead
Tail	brown hen tail feather
Dubbing	grey squirrel
Wing case	brown thin skin
Rib	brown vinyl (small)



Wind on 16-18 turns of lead over head cement coated hook. Lead should start about 2mm from eye. Ensure turns are pushed tight together and coat with more cement. Start binding behind the lead and form tapered stop to almost half way around the bend. Run thread across the lead in three or four turns and form a tapered stopper in front of the lead. Now cover the lead with thread, binding diagonally back and forth to stop the thread trying to drop down between the turns of lead. Tie in four fibres of brown hen tail at the end of the binding down as a tail. It should point down at about 45 degrees. Trim to about 3mm length. Tie in thin skin (about 3mm wide) on top of the hook and tie right down to the tail. It is important that it is centred and straight. Now tie the vinyl rib down the top of the hook and come down the front of the hook to stop about 1mm from where the thin skin is tied off. Dub from the back to front with grey squirrel. The first turn should go between the vinyl rib and the tail. Keep the dubbing fine. Now pull the thin skin tight over the top and tie down behind the eye. Make sure it is even. It pays to put a half hitch in here as the thread is inclined to slip off over the eye of these hooks. Now wind the vinyl rib up pulling quite tight and tie off. You should have about 4 turns. Form a bit of a head (most of it will be there already) and whip finish. Finish with a coat of head cement.

## From the Editor

Help! Where are all the articles.

I sat down this morning to start the Ripples and I had absolutely nothing to put in. I had been away in Christchurch for three days so hadn't followed up with any one on what they had been up to and it seems no-one has been up to much, or at least they are not telling me about it. While it is too late for this Ripples, please can you send me some articles and photos for the next Ripples, which will be published in January.

## Fish'n Fridays by Julie

In an effort to get out fishing more regularly this season I have started a Fish'n Fridays Group. We leave from Fish and Game 9.30am Friday morning. Those going can chose as to where and for how long we fish.

No (long) walks involved. Anyone is welcome to join our group.

If unsuitable to fish we explore a few of the local F & G Access points.

Its been a mixed bag so far but those that have gone have reported enjoying the morning/day.

If you wish to contact me I'm available on 027 630 2949 for anything Fishy.

## Fly Fishing Course - January 30, 31 2021

The Club Fly Fishing Course is scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. This is an excellent course for those just starting out at fly fishing or for those keen to give fly fishing a go. The course is taken by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel and he is an excellent tutor.

The first day of the course we start of in the class room with what, how and where, this is followed up with casting practice.

On the second day we head to the river (usually the Mataura at Wyndham) for on the water casting practice and then in the afternoon we head out in groups to try what we have learned and hopefully catch some fish.

If you know anyone who is likely to be keen on the course, full detail are available on the club website [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz) or they can contact Chris at 027 423 7016 or Dave at 027 201 6722.

Cost for the two days is \$110.

### Fly Fishing Course

30 - 31<sup>st</sup> Jan, 2021

Day 1 - Theory & Casting	\$55
Day 2 - On the River	\$55

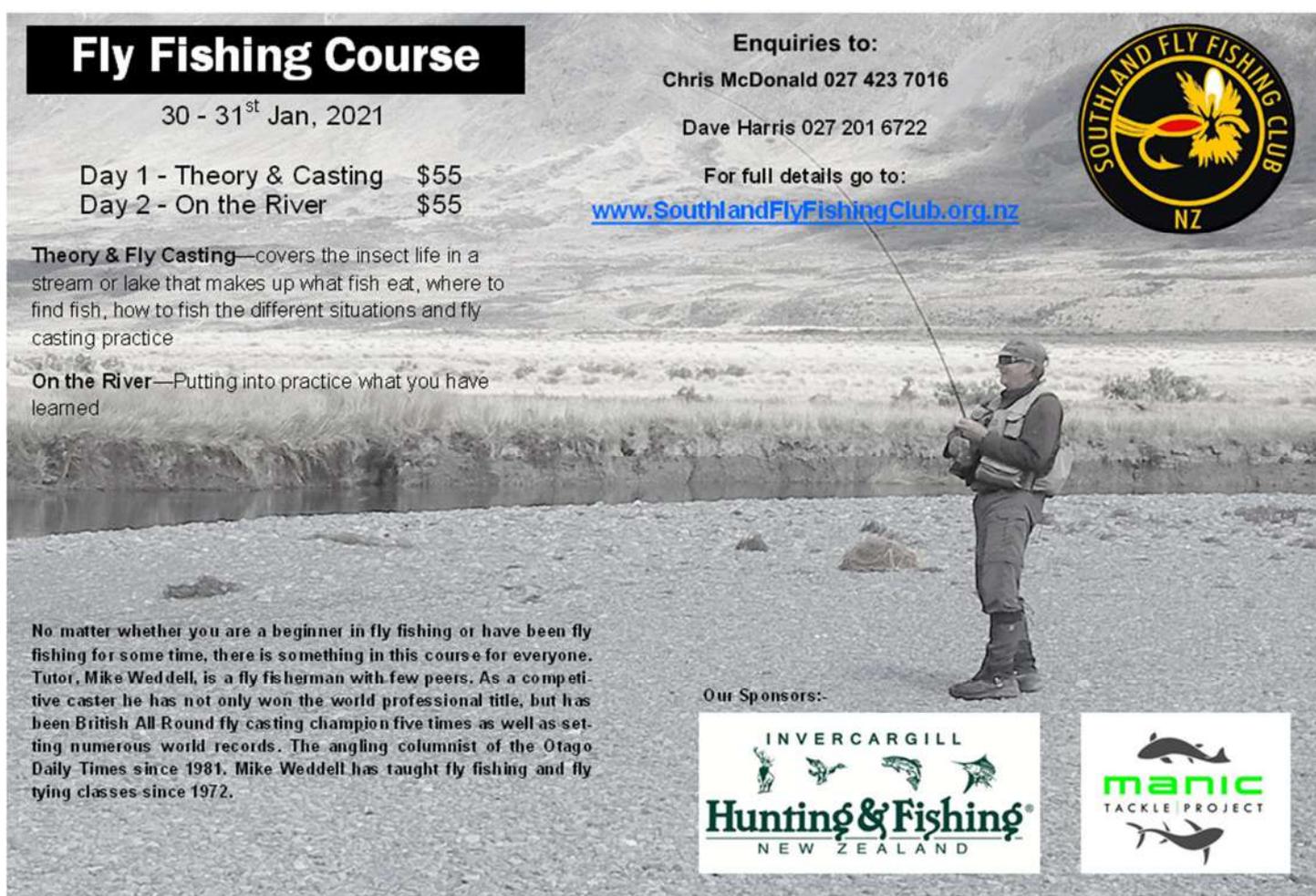
**Theory & Fly Casting**—covers the insect life in a stream or lake that makes up what fish eat, where to find fish, how to fish the different situations and fly casting practice

**On the River**—Putting into practice what you have learned

No matter whether you are a beginner in fly fishing or have been fly fishing for some time, there is something in this course for everyone. Tutor, Mike Weddell, is a fly fisherman with few peers. As a competitive caster he has not only won the world professional title, but has been British All-Round fly casting champion five times as well as setting numerous world records. The angling columnist of the Otago Daily Times since 1981. Mike Weddell has taught fly fishing and fly tying classes since 1972.

Enquiries to:  
Chris McDonald 027 423 7016  
Dave Harris 027 201 6722

For full details go to:  
[www.SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz](http://www.SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz)



Our Sponsors:



## Competitions by Dave

There were only seven cards entered in the fish competition at the October meeting, with the biggest fish entered being 5½lbs. You were given 7 cards when you paid your subscription and this is intended to be one card for each month of the regular season (October to April). However you can put in more than one card for any month and if you need more cards, these can be purchased from secretary Chris. When it comes to the Masters Trophy, only your biggest fish for each month counts but for all other trophies every fish you enter is considered.

You don't need to get the card in at the meeting for the month the fish was caught in but the card needs to be in at a meeting to go into the draw for the Hunting and Fishing gift card. Cards can be entered after the end of April up to the June meeting, but must have been caught before the end of April.

# Seasons Past

Just a few photos to make you want to get out and do it.



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

24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	MM	
25 <sup>th</sup> Nov		Mid-week trip - Dave Harris 027 201 6722
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	CM	Fly Tying
13 <sup>th</sup> Dec		<b>Club Day Trip</b> , Catlins – Meet at Fish & Game 7:00am
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec		Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan		<b>Club Day Trip</b> , meet at Fish & Game – 7am
12 <sup>th</sup> Jan		On the River, Tuesday straight after work, Coal Pit Rd
26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	MM	
27 <sup>th</sup> Jan		Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
30/31 <sup>st</sup> Jan		Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel.

## Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)
- President Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (03 215 6068) [dcharris@southnet.co.nz](mailto:dcharris@southnet.co.nz)
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) [mcdonald.ccd@kinect.co.nz](mailto:mcdonald.ccd@kinect.co.nz)
- 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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