

# “Ripples”

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

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



# Southland Fly Fishing Club

## President's Report by Dave

Well, I guess that's it for another season of river fishing. Apart from the lower reaches all the rivers are now closed for the season but of course the lakes are still open.

May was a pretty tough month weatherwise but it wasn't too bad for most of the last week and I made the most of it with four days fishing in the last week. (See reports elsewhere in this Ripples.) I was also invited on a sea fishing expedition with Julie's Fishin' Friday group.

We have moved on to our winter activities and have already had our first Fly Tying Day and the Club Dinner. Numbers could have been higher for both but those that attended enjoyed themselves. I had a request to move these two events slightly later for next year so expect them a little later in June in 2022.

This month at our Monthly Meeting we have our photo and video night and photo competition as well as the second fly for our Fly Tying Competition. Details are elsewhere in this Ripples. The July Monthly Meeting will be the AGM and Prize Giving.

We will have a stand at the Boat Show on the first weekend of August. We had a Fly Tying Day scheduled for this weekend but that will now be held on the following Sunday - August 15<sup>th</sup>. We will need helpers for the Boat Show on Friday evening for setting up and then both Saturday and Sunday manning the stand and demonstrating tying flies. Details next month.

## Competitions by Dave

### Photo Competition.

Our annual photo competition will be held at the June meeting. There are four categories - trophy, scenic, action and general. You get to decide which category your photos go in. 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 the winner of each category.

### Fly Tying

Last month's Fly was the Blue Bottle Dry Fly. We had five members enter flies and the clear winner was Dave's fly.



Dave's winning fly



This month's fly is the Kilwell No 1 as described in last month's Ripples. If you want to try it and don't have the materials give me a call (027 201 6722).

The July Fly is a Royal Wulff. This is not that different to tie from the blue bottle we tied for May but has wings of calf hair rather than poly yarn. These are little more difficult to deal with so will be a bit more of a challenge. I use this fly quite often as the dry for my dry-and-dropper rig and it is quite popular with the fish as well as being easy to see. Some years ago, on an extended trip to the Upper Mararoa during February, every fish I caught except one took a Royal Wulff so it can be very successful. See page 3 for instructions.

# July Competition Fly by Dave

## Royal Wulff

The Royal Wulff is a popular dry fly that doesn't actually claim to represent any actual insect but is taken freely by trout.

There are various variations on the basic pattern and in this case I have given two options for the tail. Clearly, they will look different but both are popular ties of this fly. I use the moose hair but have used deer hair in the past. I have tied them with poly yarn wings at times but much prefer the hair wings as they look a lot nicer even if a bit more difficult to tie. I use the holographic mylar for the red stripe as it stays red when wet, unlike floss which goes a lot darker.

### Materials:

Hook	Black Magic B12
Thread	Black Uni-thread 6/0
Wings	White calf tail, calf hair (or cow hair)
Tail	Moose body hair or deer hair
Abdomen	Peacock herl and red holographic mylar
Hackle	Brown saddle hackle



Run thread 2/3 along hook and back to 1/3.



Stack a clump of calf hair and tie in stacked end over eye.



Trim & push up front of wing with thread in front of wing.



Split wing to form 2 wings with figure 8



Form wings with a few turns of thread around each wing



Run thread to bend of hook



Stack and tie in clump of moose hair to form tail



Trim moose hair and fill gap between calf and moose with thread



Tie in two strands of peacock herl



Wrap forward a couple of turns and tie off



Tie in piece of red mylar



Wrap the mylar, tie off and trim



Wrap a couple more turns of peacock herl, tie off & trim



Tie in hackle pointing out over hook eye. Run thread back.



Wrap hackle back to herl and tie off



Trim hackle, run thread back to eye and whip finish

## Last week of the season by Dave

Chris Cowie had been at me almost all month to head out to the Te Anau Basin. We were both keen to get to the Worsley River but that required a period of settled weather as well as a ballot period on the river. The weather was more likely to be a problem than the ballot as any unbooked periods are available on a first come first served basis. As it turned out the weather didn't co-operate.

However, the weather looked suitable for a couple of days fishing in the final week of the season. Chris had headed up to the family holiday house and I picked him up on the Tuesday morning after a pretty cold drive up from home. We headed to one of the lake tributaries in good but cold conditions. Early on there was low cloud but this cleared during the day. The river was carrying a bit of colour and spotting was going to be a bit difficult. We started just below the car and soon spotted our first fish. It was on the other side of the current so was always going to be challenging as it was not possible to get to a good casting position. By casting well past the fish and mending the line I got a good drift and the fish took the nymph but didn't hook up. We continued up the river spotting a few fish, being turned down a number of times but by the end of the day we had landed six fish between us so we were happy. I had to get to the Club meeting that night so it was a mad rush back to Invercargill for the meeting.

The following morning dawned very frosty so it had to be a careful trip back to Te Anau. The outside temperature got as low as  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the way up and then there were patches of wet road while the temperature was still well below zero. However, the wet road was not icy but it was good to arrive in Te Anau. I dropped my gear at Chris's place and we headed off to another lake tributary for the day. We checked out the river above where we were going to fish and decided, while it had more colour than the previous day's river, it was still fishable. We walked some way down from the car before I decided to start fishing. Chris headed further down but I had walked far enough. I was soon into a rainbow that definitely didn't want to come to the net. I had landed a second fish (and eaten my lunch) by the time Chris returned from his extended walk. He had spotted a couple of browns but hadn't managed to hook anything. We continued up the river fishing all the likely looking water and I was looking forward to fishing a pool I had caught several fish in last year. Unfortunately, it was hardly a pool at all and there were no fish there. We continued to catch fish here and there. Chris got a nice 5lb brown when he fished a spot on the other side that I thought would be worth fishing and told him to fish it before he came back to the same side as I was on. Shortly afterwards I walked up a slow-moving side stream and spotted five fish, including one that was rising. I spooked two of them without casting to them, then fished to the other three. The second one took the nymph and came to the net. It was my biggest fish of the day at  $4\frac{1}{4}\text{lb}$ . We landed seven fish between us for the day and hooked and lost a couple more.

The next day we headed back to the river we had fished on Tuesday but went further up the river. The weather had changed and it was much warmer but overcast. Once again it was walk down and fish back up day. We spotted quite a few fish but they weren't exactly keen to take anything. I decided to fish a very likely looking piece of water I couldn't see into and had a strong take. I was soon running down the bank through long grass and eventually managed to get a  $4\frac{1}{4}\text{lb}$  rainbow to the net. Just before it was time to head back to the car I hooked and landed another small rainbow but that was our lot for the day. Back to the car then away home with just the Lodge Trip to come for me before the end of the high country season.



Chris C with a nice Te Anau tributary brown

## Final Fling by Dave

The May Lodge Weekend is pretty much the end of the river season with only the tidal reaches remaining open. Some years there are a few days after the Lodge trip to make that final journey but this year the 31<sup>st</sup> May was a Monday and the weather made sure the Lodge trip would be the final fling.

Simon picked me up on Friday evening and when we got to the Lodge Chris was already there with the power on and the heater going. The weather forecast was not looking great and the Upukerora River was up a bit from when I had fished it a couple of days earlier. The best of the weather looked to be in the Von River but even then, it looked like it would be a bit wet.

We were a bit late up Saturday morning but once we had had breakfast and made lunches we set off in Simon's car. The puddles along the sides of the road at the Lodge indicated there had been quite a bit of rain overnight. However, when we got to the ford on the Gorge Burn the water level was low and that was a good sign. Our first look at the Von confirmed it was in pretty good condition, a little bit of colour but spotting fish looked to be easily possible. The weather was overcast and it looked like it could rain but we only had a few spots all day.

We stopped by the stock bridge at the top of the gorge and went to look at the river. Chris soon spotted a fish but we hadn't got any gear set up so it was safe for now. Once set up Chris and I walked up the road to drop into the gorge while Simon started fishing up from the bridge. Chris spotted a fish feeding well as soon as we dropped down into the gorge, and after a few casts was hooked into a rainbow. We headed up the river and past a number of good pools without any sign of fish. Eventually I spotted a small fish and after a couple of casts it also came to the net. That was to be our lot in the gorge.

It was time to head up the river and find Simon to decide what to do next. We spotted him but he was well across the valley so we had lunch while we waited for him to follow the river back to where we were. Once we met up, he reported having seen just three fish and caught two of them. Simon then moved the car further up the river and Chris and I started fishing up from this point. I soon spotted a rainbow near the edge but my cast was a bit close to the edge and the nymph hooked up on the bottom just above the fish. As I flicked the line around trying to free the nymph the fish spotted the dry fly and had a go at it but didn't hook up. It was gone. A bit further up there were more fish, browns this time, but they were much more interested in each other than my nymphs. We saw a few more fish and Chris managed to land another rainbow after making a blind cast into a good looking bit of water. The fish were generally close to the edge and with the lack of sun, spotting them was quite difficult until you were too close to them. Some were in water so shallow it wasn't possible to get a nymph to them. Just below the car I managed to land a couple more browns. We moved the car further up the river, hoping we were further up stream than Simon as we couldn't see him. We left a note telling him we would fish until 4:00pm and then head out to the road. The conditions remained similar and we spotted a few fish but most were uncooperative. I did manage one more and it was soon time to head out to the road and back to the car. We weren't far from the car when we saw Simon at the car. He reported that he had landed another couple of fish so our tally for the day was 10.

As soon as we climbed up the hill out of the river, we struck rain and it rained all the way back. First stop was the Mossburn Pub for a dinner and then back to the Lodge.

Sunday dawned with the rain still falling and we decided it was time to pack up and head home once the Lodge was cleaned, water turned off and the system drained and the power turned off.

Cover Photo by Chris C

Dave with a nice late season rainbow.

## Fly Tying Day - June 12<sup>th</sup>

There were just five of us at the June Fly Tying Day, Julie, Gerda, Chris McD, Chris C and myself. I started by tying a stock of gold beadhead hare & coppers as I had pretty much run out. Chris McD was working on nymphs for the next Fly Fishing Course and the ladies were trying to get a good Kilwell No.1 for the June competition. Chris C turned up with some mallard wings and Chris McD helped him out with how to tie a winged dry fly from the wing feathers. Later in the day I was asked to show how to tie the Royal Wulff for the July competition and to show Gerda how a parachute fly was tied. I am not sure there were a lot of flies tied but it was a good day and the beginners amongst us are certainly making progress. We have another Fly Tying Day on August 15<sup>th</sup> (not August 8<sup>th</sup> as in the calendar).



## Annual Dinner by Dave



We held our annual dinner at the Cabbage Tree Restaurant on June 12<sup>th</sup>. We had a turnout of 10 people which is about normal. The meal was good (and the service faster than last year).

As usual we had an exchange of gifts including being able to swap gifts. A little portable weather station seemed to be popular as it changed hands a couple of times. I think we all enjoyed our night out.

## Photo and Video Night

Our June meeting is our photo and video night.

As well as the photo competition we will also show members photos and videos from the past season.

Put all your photos or videos from the season on a memory stick and bring them along to the meeting so they can be shown to all members.

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

29 <sup>th</sup> June	MM	<b>Members Video &amp; Photo night plus photo competition</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> July	CM	Fly tying
27 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>AGM</b>	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	CM	Arranging the calendar for the next season
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> August		Southland Boat Show
15 <sup>th</sup> August		Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am

## 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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*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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