

# “Ripples”

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

May 2022



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



# Southland Fly Fishing Club

## President's Report by Dave

Well, the season on our rivers is just about finished. As I write this there are just eight more days before the high country rivers close and, as it has been for the last few days, it is cold, wet and windy here in Invercargill. However, Meridian isn't spilling above the minimum at the Mararoa weir and the Upukerora is dropping so there should still be some good fishing to be done before the end of the month.

We still have our final Lodge Trip for the season and if you are planning on coming on this, let me know (027 201 6722). Rivers available to fish on this are the Eglinton, Upukerora, Von and Waiiau. In spite of the recent weather, I think all should be in good condition. It will be a bit cool so you will need some winter woollies to keep warm.

Our first event of the off season will be a fly tying day at Fish & Game on June 18<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9:00am and going all day. This is a good opportunity to start stocking up on flies for next season as well as a good chance for getting some tips from the more experienced tyers in the Club. If you have not tried fly tying this is also a good opportunity to give it a go. The Club has gear and materials you can use.

On the same day as our fly tying we have our annual dinner for members and partners. This will be held at the Cabbage Tree Restaurant starting at 6:30pm. Let Chris know if you are coming (027 423 7016). We will have our usual swap of funny gifts so you will each need to bring a funny gift to swap but no chocolate.

The Club has been given some fly tying equipment and materials from John Day's family. This is available to Club Members and I will bring it all along to the May Club meeting. Thank you to the family for their kind donation.

I have been out a few times in the last month. We had the April Lodge Trip, there was the mid-week trip on the last Wednesday of April and I have been to my favourite river in the Te Anau basin three times, twice on my own and once with Fish & Game Chairman Lindsay. The price of fuel hurts with day trips this far but we can't just sit around worrying about the cost of everything.

The two Club events are covered elsewhere in this Ripples. My three other trips up to Te Anau were both pretty good days and when I went with Lindsay, we fished the same section of river I had fished a few days before. When going to the Te Anau area you need to be there reasonably early as there are not many places to fish unless you head up to the Eglinton but on all three trips, there was no-one else at the river when I arrived so I could fish the beat that I wanted.

The first trip was an upstream trip on the lower river as I hadn't found any fish further up on the April mid-week trip so decided to fish further down. I spotted a few fish straight away but they weren't co-operating. By the colour of the fish I was pretty sure these were lake fish coming up to spawn and these are often hard to tempt as they have their minds on other things. I did finally get one to take so at least I wasn't going to have a blank day. Just after I stopped for lunch, I spotted a fish in reasonably fast water. It was pretty keen and soon came to the net as did another a little further up the river. These fish looked to be resident fish and were clearly feeding. I walked quite a bit further up without spotting any more fish, even in some good pools. It was quite a long walk back to the car at the end of the day.



A nice Te Anau Basin rainbow

## President's Report (cont)

The other two trips I fished further up the river but went downstream, walking down the river for about 4km and fishing back to the car. When I do this, I carry my rod and landing net in my pack as this makes for much easier going so when I get to where I am going to start fishing, I have to set up.

On my solo trip I could see a couple of fish in the first pool I was going to fish as I set up my rod so it looked like a good start. Once set up, I moved to the pool to cast to the fish. After a couple of casts, I saw one of the fish move to something and my dry fly indicator dipped. I lifted to set the hook but, much to my surprise, there was no resistance at all. On to the next run and there was a fish in shallow water. By dropping my nymph right in front of it, I got it to take and was on the board for the day with a nice brown. I continued up the river, fishing to fish I could see and blind fishing likely looking water. The next couple of fish were rainbows, the second of which rose to the dry fly from a deeper looking piece of water. In some of the deeper pools I could see fish deep down but they wouldn't have anything to do with my flies. I was doing quite a few fly changes from a heavy nymph to a lighter nymph when the water was shallower (and the river was pretty low) but I was mostly having success on the heavier bead head nymph. By the end of the day, I had landed 10 fish, 6 rainbows and 4 browns. The number of rainbows was a surprise as from past experience on this river during May it is mainly browns that I land.

My trip with Lindsay was a spur of the moment trip. It was on the same Sunday as the Club trip but my plans weren't anything to do with fishing. I was planning to go to Dunedin for the day to race radio control cars so had already arranged for Chris to look after the Club trip. I had also turned down a trip to Christchurch for the weekend. Lindsay had approached me about a fishing trip and I said I would let him know when I had sorted out my plans. After looking at weather forecasts I decided not to go to Dunedin for the RC car racing (which was cancelled on the day due to a wet track) and arranged to go with Lindsay.

We set off reasonably early and headed up the road. On the access track to the river, we found a car parked where the track gets a bit rough and it might be advisable to stop in a normal car. I had a quick look at the car and there were a couple of arrows on the windscreen and another couple on the front seat. My conclusion was that it was someone out bow hunting so he wouldn't worry us. Once again, we headed down the river before setting up. In spite of the numbers on the ES website the river looked to be lower than it had been a few days before but was in good condition. There were no fish we could see in the first couple of pools and there seemed to be less fish generally. Maybe that was just due to the more difficult spotting conditions and we were just not seeing the fish. Eventually we both managed our first fish of the day (both browns) in pretty much the same pool. Later in the day Lindsay managed another brown he spotted in a run and then I hooked a rainbow at the top of the run. Compared to the browns this was a totally different experience. Its run down the river was quite impressive and I only just managed to stop it getting into some branches on the other side of the river. That was our lot for the day and I am still trying to figure why we didn't find as many rainbows as I had found a few days earlier.



Dave with a Te Anau Basin rainbow during his trip with Lindsay

## April Mid-week Trip by Dave

Only Julie and I were on the April mid-week trip. I was keen to head up Te Anau way to see how the fishing was up there so we left earlier than usual at 8:00am. When we arrived at the river there was already a car there and his note said he had gone downstream. Unfortunately, that was where I intended to go as there are some better pools down there relatively close to the car while the better water upstream is further away. We got set up and headed upstream, fishing some likely looking water without success. We got to what should have been a good place to spot fish and found nothing. This made me think the browns hadn't moved this far up so we should go further down and see if we could find some there, so it was back to the car and off to another access.

We arrived at the other access to find another car, this time gone upstream according to his tag. We had a look just downstream from the car and I spotted three fish but none would do anything. I wasn't sure one was a fish and it didn't move when I got quite close to it making me think it was a brown stone. However, when I poked it with my rod it moved a bit so it wasn't a stone.

Julie's brother was in Te Anau and he was fishing the lake edge so we decided to head to where he was. He had a fish on when we first saw him so at least he was into something on his spinner. We fished the lake where the river flows in without success before deciding it was time to head home.

Lesson for the day was to get there earlier.

## April Lodge Trip Day 1 by Chris

Rivers up so it was off to the lakes for the first day of the lodge trip. After a late start we arrive at the lake. Dave & Gerda avoid the cold by staying in the vehicle but I got out for a nosy. Returned to tell them to stay where they were while I rigged up. Yes, I had spotted one on the edge. It waved to me as I returned to the lake.

Wasn't too long till I had spotted a couple of others further out. Dave decided to walk round the edge to the left while I went right and Gerda stayed near the vehicle. I saw a number of fish that either spotted me, ignored me or were spooked by my casting too close to them. I had a couple of takes that didn't hook up and one that played with me for a while then waved bye bye.

Eventually I spotted a rainbow swimming towards me. I dropped the blowfly well in front of it and watched it swim towards it. Nothing like watching a dry fly take in late April. This 2.5 lb trout then had a ball with lots of jumping before it was landed. A few more unfriendly trout led me to turn around to go back for lunch at the truck. I was interrupted by a pair of trout swimming towards me. One was friendly and took the blowfly and let me land it.

Dave and Gerda were finishing lunch when I got back to the truck. Gera had seen several fish and had one break off. Dave hadn't seen a fish.

After lunch Dave headed away past where I had been. I quietly followed along trying to spot the fish I had missed in the morning. No luck. Once I got to some new water, I saw a nice fish swim across a patch of white bottomed lake bed. It disappeared into darker water. I waited around and saw it return. I put the blowfly well in front of it and saw another really nice rise to my fly. A lovely 3.5 lb trout was soon in the net.

Dave returned and asked me how I had spotted the fish. While explaining about the white patch I saw another fish behind us. I put Dave on to it and he hooked up. Unfortunately, his drag gave up on him at this point and the trout took off like an express train pulling line. As Dave tried to slow it down by feathering the reel the fish broke off.

We saw a few more fish in the same bay but nothing cooperated. It looked like the weather was about to really pack in so we called it a day

The blowfly did well for me so it looks like it will be on the list for tying over the winter.

## April Lodge Trip by Dave

There were just three of us on the April Lodge Trip. I went up with Gerda on the Friday night and Chris came up on his own as he had family commitments on Anzac Day. Gerda and I spent some time watching a mouse in the bed room and we found where it was getting in. I called Chris and suggested he get a mouse trap. When Chris arrived at the Lodge he said he had been waiting for a cancellation of the trip due to river and weather conditions. We had all taken our fly tying gear just in case.

Saturday morning saw us head to Mavora in Chris's car. See report on page 4.

Sunday the forecast was poor and the only river that looked to be in a suitable condition for fishing was the Aparima. We headed well up and had to cross a couple of fences to get to where we were going to fish. Gerda learnt a bit about electric fences while crossing there, getting a couple of belts from the fence. We headed down a bit to start fishing. There was plenty of water and it was coloured but not bad enough to stop us fishing. I managed to cross the river to get to some water on the other side but about where the car was, I decided to cross back again. I took quite a while to cross but didn't have too much difficulty just had to take time to find spaces between the big stones. By this time, it was raining quite hard and we decided we had had enough and headed back to the lodge for before lunch. I spent some time making sure that the way the mice were getting into the bedroom was blocked.

Gerda was doing her own catering but I was on cooking duty for Chris and myself. A four serving family pie between two of us ensured we didn't starve.

Monday morning and Chris had to head away. Gerda and I headed back to the Aparima but a bit further down. If anything, the river had a bit more colour here (from the Hamilton Burn?) so spotting wasn't going to be possible. We fished a lot of likely looking water but I only found a couple of fish but one didn't stay on and Gerda didn't find any. At least the weather was a bit better.

We then headed back to the Lodge, packed up and headed home. Not many fish but at least we were giving it a go.

## Fly Tying Day - June 18th

We are holding a fly tying day on June 18<sup>th</sup> at Fish & Game, 19 Eye Street, Invercargill starting at 9:00am and going until 4:00pm. You don't need to come all day, just pop in when you have time and leave when you are ready.

If you have not tied flies before but would like to have a go this is a good opportunity to learn from scratch. You don't even need to have your own gear and materials as the Club has three sets of gear and quite a few materials. There will be members on hand who can run you through fly tying from the start.

If you have tied a few but would like to learn a bit more there will be some experienced tyers here who should be able to help you out.

## Club Dinner - 6:30pm, June 18th

The Club Annual Dinner will be held at the Cabbage Tree Restaurant, starting at 6:30 pm. If you are coming please let Chris know (027 423 7016) so he can confirm the booking with restaurant. You need to each bring a gift (as silly as you like) worth about \$5 so we can share these around. However we have banned chocolate so don't bring it. See you there.

## Cover Photo by Dave

Fish & Game Southland Chairman Lindsay Withington playing a Te Anau Basin brown.

## Competitions by Julie

### Fish Competitions.

I will still accept fish catch cards for the season up until the May meeting. Remember there is no competition for May but you can still put in cards for the rest of the season. As I will not be at the May meeting, if you have any cards give them to Dave at the meeting.

### Fly Tying Competition.

May is the first month of the Fly Tying Competition and the fly for May is the black spider as shown in the April Ripples. The fly for June will be a deer hair mouse and the tying instructions are below.

## Deer Hair Mouse by Chris

### Materials:

Hook: Black Magic B6 or larger gape substitute

Thread: Uni thread Black 6/0

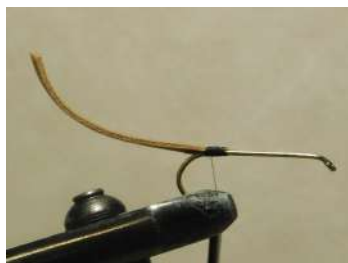
Tail: Leather strip (1.5X hook length)

Body: Deer Hair

Eyes: Black Sharpe pen



Step 1  
Tie on thread at rear of hook



Step 2  
Tie in tail at 1.5 times length of hook. (You can use foam if don't have a leather strip)



Step 3  
Cut clump of deer hair, Remove waste from bottom of clump. Hold clump above hook where the tail is tied with tips facing the tail. Tie in with two loose turns then pull thread tight while still holding the clump tight on the hook. Hopefully the end of the butts will flare but not spin all round the hook. Tie thread through the flared butts to tie in. Push the butts back towards the tail. Take two turns of thread against the deer hair.



Step 4  
Tie in another clump of deer hair. This time push down on the deer hair while pulling the thread tight. This should cause the hair to spin evenly around the hook. Push the hair back towards the tail. Take two turns of thread against the hair.



Step 5  
Repeat step 4 until almost at the eye of the hook. Form head and tie off with a whip finish



Step 6  
Remove fly from vice and hold it over an empty cardboard box or empty 2 litre ice cream container. Trim deer hair to shape. Hopefully the cut off hair will land in the box and simplify your clean up. Use black Sharpe pen to make eyes.

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

28/29 <sup>th</sup> May	Fishing	Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge
31 <sup>st</sup> May	MM	First fly tying competition
7 <sup>th</sup> June	CM	Fly Tying
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Fly tying	Fly Tying for club members by club members
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Meal	Club Dinner, Cabbage Tree Restaurant 6:30pm (\$5 funny gift)
28 <sup>th</sup> June	MM	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
5 <sup>th</sup> July	CM	Fly tying
26 <sup>th</sup> July	AGM	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	CM	Arranging the calendar for the next season
7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Fly tying	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)
- President Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (027 201 6722) [dcharris@southnet.co.nz](mailto:dcharris@southnet.co.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 Chris Cowie (027 236 9576)
- 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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