

# “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

Happy New Year to all of you.

The weather continues to be a bit challenging with the rivers up and down a bit but at least the wind seems to have eased.

Cole joined me for my annual trip to Te Anau in early December. I have been making an annual trip up there since 1992 so I do know my way around up there. That said we did go and fish a new water we had visited but not fished previously. Between us we saw one fish and hooked nothing on this water. Generally, this year the weather was pretty good and we didn't lose any fishing time because of it. However, some of the rivers were surprising low after a relatively dry spring. Cole is a bit restricted on how far he can walk so this controls where we are able to go but there are a number of places where it was possible for him to walk straight out to the road while I walk back to the car and then came and picked him up. We didn't catch many fish but it was still a good seven day's fishing.

After Christmas I made a few trips to the Mataura in the hope of finding fish rising to willow grubs. The river where I went was not particularly clear but this is actually good for spotting the fish that are near the surface in deeper water feeding off the top. I didn't find fish really going hard on willow grubs on any of these trips but did manage to hook a reasonable number and landed most of them. There also seemed to be the odd rise away from the willows and some of these fish would rise to a parachute adams. On the last trip I actually found a mayfly spinner drifting down the river and I do wonder if this is what the rising fish were taking (in which case to parachute adams wasn't the right fly).

I have also been helping out Colin, a new Club member who was put on to us by Gerald at Hunting & Fishing. He is now reasonably well set up and I have taken him out to the river once (after some casting tuition in the reserve next to my house). We did find fish feeding within his casting range but he didn't manage to hook anything. Mind you I only landed two that day anyway.

I am going to be a bit busy over the next few weeks with a trip to Mavora with Julie & Cole, the Fly Fishing Course and then our Lake Alexandrina trip. Hopefully the weather will hold although it looks like we might get a bit wet at Mavora with some rain in the long range forecast. We will be mainly lake edge fishing so it won't matter if the river comes up a bit. I don't expect there to be many fish in the river above the North Lake as it will have been quite low as a result of the dry spring and the fish will probably have moved down to the lake.

Unfortunately, the after work trip on January 16<sup>th</sup> didn't happen as the river was too high and I won't be organising a mid-week trip on January 24<sup>th</sup> as I will be at Mavora.

We have a few things coming up. There is the Fly Fishing Course on January 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, The Lake Alexandrina Trip on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, a Club Trip on February 11<sup>th</sup>, The Gore District Council's "On the Fly Day" on February 25<sup>th</sup> (we will be fly tying there), our annual BBQ on the river on February 27<sup>th</sup> and the mid-week trip on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Just a thought, there are only 3 months of the normal season left so you need to make sure you get out and catch some fish.

## From the Editor

I don't allow very much time to prepare the Ripples. It is usually a one day exercise and the posted copies need to go out the next day to ensure that those members get their copy before the following meeting (and I am not sure they actually do but I allow a week).

Sometimes I don't get articles in time and have to carry them over. There are a couple of carried over articles this month and this is made worse by not having a December Ripples. However, it is good for you to know what happened on Club trips so I have included them.

## November Club Trip by Daniel

I turned up to Fish and Game just before 7 and before long there was 6 of us keen for a fish. Dave, Issac, Gerda, Nathan, Zanda and myself.

Forecast was for gale force winds which didn't thrill us but Dave thought the Mataura would be the best bet. There was a planned jet boat trip on the river from Ardlussa to Waikaia so that section of river was out so we decided to head around Mandeville area.

Myself, Dave and Issac headed to the Otamita bridge while the others went to the access off Monaghan Road. Driving over the bridge the river looked to have a bit of color in it but down on water level it wasn't too bad.

We rigged up and were into it. Just past the bridge there was a flat piece of water where plenty of fish were rising. We could tell they weren't very big but Issac and I had a crack at them. Dave came along and I'm pretty sure it was his first cast at them he was on. The fish was only a tiddler but it had taken his big beetle he was using as an indicator.

We wandered down stream trying to find a safe piece to cross the river but there was nowhere suitable so we turned around and headed back upstream.

It was quite a hard piece of river to get to as there were thick willows on either side of the bank but after a while we managed to find a spot to bash through and clamber down a bank onto a nice piece of beach probably 150m long. Issac spotted a fish rising and went after it. Five minutes later it had taken his dry and was in the net. Nice 2lber. I went just up ahead of him while he was dealing to his fish and I managed to hook up this time on the nymph. Fish came to the bank so we were all on the board.

It was a bit windy but nothing like what was forecast so it wasn't too bad. We sort of ran out of river at that spot so we decided to head back to the car and head to another spot. Headed down Wright Road to an access point but looked like a lot of trees as well so Dave thought Given Road would be the go so off we went.

Got there, had a bit of lunch and we were back into it. I went for a walk downstream to work my way back up and the first bank I looked over saw a nice fish cruising the edge but unfortunately he saw me as well and that was the last I saw of him.

We fished there for probably a bit over an hour with no luck and by 2 o'clock it was decided we had had enough for the day. The day turned out way better than what was predicted so that was great and we all managed a fish on the board which capped off a good day.

## New Year Day Trip by Gerda

Happy New Year everyone. Hope your fishing season is going well for you. I myself have not been out as much as I'd like and had all but given up catching anything however. Thursday dawned calm and sunny so off I went taking my trusted companion Abby, my border collie cross with me. I had already set up at home so was on the water relatively quickly. I saw sign of fish and spotted a few on arrival also spooked one, my dog is well taught not to go in the water and to stay well back. She is a natural good buddy. Wasn't there too long when I hooked up and landed my first wee brown. It's such a rush when you are bringing them in and finally net them. Took a quick photo while Abby stood looking on and returned him back to grow some more. Fished on until about 1.30pm but it was so hot I called it a day. I will go again next week for sure. Anyway, I hope to see you all soon for new adventures.

## Cover Photo by Chris

Isaac and Zanda on the January Club Trip.

## November Lodge Trip Day 2 by Chris

Five at the lodge for day two. So we split up. Simon, John and Chris to the mid Aparima with Dave and Ian at the access above. River was higher than our previous visit and slightly darker. Determined we were not keen on the first river crossing so we attempted some bush bashing. Could have been a mistake. Took us over half an hour to get back to the river. Simon was only 7 weeks from a hip operation and using 2 sticks (and he fished 18 kilometres the day before). John was only about 4 months from his leg operation. I still struggle to believe where we went and how they coped.

I was the only one without sticks or a walking pole and it was me who got stuck on a later river crossing. Note to self don't let John decide where you cross. It's a bit disheartening when Simon come out on his sticks to give you John's walking pole so you can get across.

We were unable to sight fish so blind fished all the good water. Only one fish co-operated with Chris landing a 4lber. Surprisingly it had less fight than the smaller fish caught on the previous trip.

Eventually we gave up and headed towards the road. The bush bashing wasn't over and the best creek crossing was over fallen tree. The dead cow stuck under it was an incentive not to fall off. My bad day wasn't over and I took a lot longer to cross than the two mountain goats.

We didn't have the most successful day but we were out there enjoying ourselves doing what we could.



Tough crossing. Simon already across and John on his way. Don't fall on the dead cow.

## November Meeting

We had Cohen Stewart from Fish & Game along to the November Meeting to speak to us about the results of the Women Anglers Survey carried out by Otago University for Fish & Game. I have put a copy of both the final report and Cohen's Presentation on our website. They can be found by clicking on the Fish & Game tab on the menu bar.

Links: [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz/images/Docs/Women\\_Fishing\\_Survey.pdf](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz/images/Docs/Women_Fishing_Survey.pdf)  
[www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz/images/Docs/Fly\\_fishing\\_club\\_presentation\\_women\\_angler\\_study.pdf](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz/images/Docs/Fly_fishing_club_presentation_women_angler_study.pdf)

A very quick summary is that many women feel left out by Fish & Game and feel the organisation is too male dominated. There is no use spending money on research unless you are going to do something about its outcomes. NZ Fish & Game have been tasked with following up on this research by the NZ Fish & Game Council. Hopefully, we will see some changes in the near future although due to its structure it can take time for F&G to achieve anything.

## Go Fishing When You Can by Chris

As an employee my time to go fishing is limited. Most of my fishing outings are planned and if I don't go I don't get to replace them the next nice day. The December and January club trips fell into this category. For the Catlins trip the wind forecast was for 16m/s. Inland it was only 6-7. No one else turned up at Fish & Game so I headed north to my favourite spot on the Mataura. Yes there was some wind but it wasn't enough to affect my fishing. The river was in good condition and I had it to myself.

I didn't see any fish in the first few pools but picked up a nice one fishing blind around the first corner. Rather than most of the fish being tucked under the willows they were sitting mid-stream. They were very spooky but I managed to pick up another couple. The wind eventually became a bit stronger but didn't stop me fishing. I headed home having had a good day when no one else wanted to go fishing.

The forecast for the January trip was for substantial (30 mm+) overnight rain easing inland at about 8am. I told Zanda and Isaac that I was going fishing regardless of the weather. We headed away just after 7. It was still raining. The forecast had changed to rain easing at 10am. We decided to call in to show Zanda the lodge as he hadn't been there. The rivers we crossed on the way were fishable so we looked forward to fishing when the rain stopped.

It was still raining at 10 but stopped at 10.30. We got into our fishing gear at the lodge rather than at the river and headed to Garston just as the rain starts again. Despite the conditions there was a vehicle parked at our chosen beat. Chris Dore and a client had beaten us by about 15 minutes. We headed to the beat below. The river at this stage was low and clear. We fished upstream and cast to a few sighted fish. Eventually I hooked a large slabby fish that was over 3lb. Zanda was happy to net it for me on the second attempt.

We continued to fish as the rain finally stopped. We saw a number of nice fish and a huge eel. Zanda and Isaac both got to cast to willow grubbing fish but nothing was hooked. Eventually we got up to the start of the next beat. Chris Dore had left so we fished up to the next corner. We crossed just as a car pulled into the beat. I decided that as there was a lot more debris coming down river and the new arrival had rights to the beat we would head back downstream. We crossed back over and headed 100 yards down to the next crossing. In the time it took to walk between crossing the river had risen and turned brown. We decided not to cross as we would then have to cross back further down to get to the car.

After some thistle bashing (note to self, Zanda and Isaac do not like tall thistles when they are wading wet) we caught up with the guy who had pulled into the top beat. He had crossed the river and in the time he took to set up his rod the river had risen. Like us he was not keen to try and cross it. I suggested he walk down with us to our car and we would give him a ride back to his car. He was happy to accept our offer.

I checked the ES river levels when I got home. The Mataura rose over 600 mm in less than 30 minutes. I had seen it happen before so that is why I was keen to head back when I saw all the debris start going past.

So two trips where Invercargill weather was not conducive for fly fishing but I went anyway caught fish and an enjoyable time.

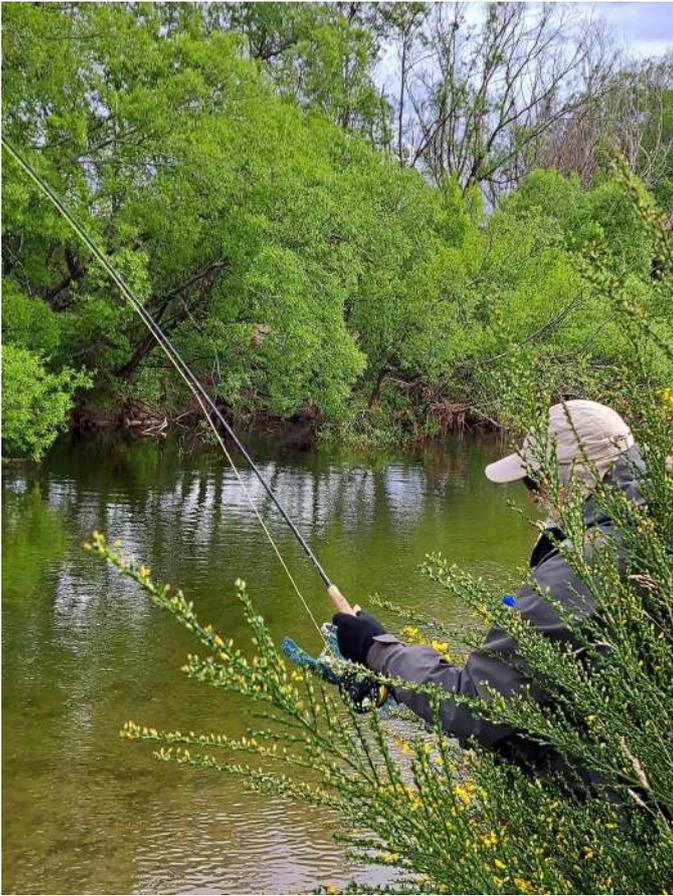


Zanda on the Mataura during the January Club Trip

January Club Trip. Mataura at Garston. Time to go home.



## Out and About



Sometimes the greenery makes it difficult but not this time. Dave on the Upukerora during the November Lodge Trip. Sitting down about to net a nice brown.

Also on the November Lodge trip. Some of the willows on the Upukerora didn't fare well in the September floods.



We get to fish some beautiful country. The Eglinton River in December.

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

27/28 <sup>th</sup> Jan		Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel
30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	MM	
3-7 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Lake Alexandrina Trip
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	CM	Fly Tying
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb		<b>Club Day Trip</b> , meet at Fish & Game - 7am
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb		On the Fly Festival – Gore
27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	MM	This meeting is “On the river” --- BBQ Tea about 6pm
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
3 <sup>rd</sup> March		Teviot Fishing Competition
5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	CM	Fly Tying
10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Fishing	<b>Club Day Trip</b> , meet at Fish & Game 7am

## 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 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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