

# “Ripples”

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

June 2025

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



Next Club Meeting - June 24th - 7:30pm      Fish & Game Office, 17 Eye Street



## Southland Fly Fishing Club

## President's Report by Dave

The season is over and it is well and truly feeling like winter. There is good news however in that it is only a few days to the shortest day so the days will start to get longer again.

I managed a few outings at the end of May but struggled to find fish. The rivers I fished were the Upukerora and the Von. These are both lake tributaries and during May a number of brown trout will migrate up these rivers to spawn. They tend to come into the rivers during a fresh and tend to move up together. This means that many times you can only find a few stragglers or leaders but occasionally you can find a good number. Unfortunately, this season I only managed to find a few.

With there being no river fishing it is time to start tying your flies for next season. With this in mind we hold a couple of fly tying days during the off season and the first of these was on June 15<sup>th</sup>. There were only three of us there so it was a pretty quiet day. These days allow you to see what other people do, how they tie their flies and what they use. I picked up something different at the June day so I am sure many of you would have if you had made it along.

We have our photo and video night at the June meeting. You need to get all your photos from the season on to a memory stick and bring them along to show us at the meeting. I have a short video from the trip I made to the Worsley River in February (no I didn't make the video). At this meeting we also have our annual photo competition and I have four \$10 Hunting & Fishing gift cards to give away to the winners of each section of the competitions. Competition details elsewhere in the Ripples.

Our July meeting is the Annual General Meeting and prize giving. We need a good number along to that meeting especially as we have to accept a new constitution for the Club. This is required due to changes to the laws governing incorporated societies and all clubs are going through this. The new constitution will be up on the Club website [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz) before the end of this month.

## Fly Tying Day - June 15<sup>th</sup> by Dave

We held our first fly tying day of the off season on June 15<sup>th</sup>. I was first there and Chris arrived a short time later. Gerda was a bit late but that was our total attendance.

Chris was keen to start with the June competition fly and I was also tying a couple of these. I led Chris through the fly as I tied one of mine. Chris then followed this up with the fly for July and I took a few photos as he tied it but unfortunately the photos were pretty poor quality.

Gerda was keen on sorting out her fly for August and I worked through this with her. We were copying a fly she had but couldn't identify the material used for the rib and eventually decided it didn't add anything significant to the fly (and we didn't have anything like it) so in the end we left it out.

Later in the morning Chris headed off to play hockey in Gore just leaving the two of us behind. After we had been out for lunch we both concentrated on nymphs for the next season. Gerda was tying variations of the dobsonfly that is the June competition fly while I concentrated on hare & coopers and green stoneflies. The biots on the green stoneflies were much more co-operative than usual and I managed to get a number tied.

When Chris was tying his dobsonfly (and using my materials) I mentioned that I didn't have much gray vinyl rib and to conserve this he didn't cut a length off the spool but tied it in and wound it on still on the spool and only cut it off once it was tied in. I tried this with my stoneflies and the result is that you don't finish up with a number of short lengths of waste. This just goes to show you can always learn new tricks when you are tying with others.

## Final Fling by Dave

In the past I have written my final fling about the May Lodge Trip. However this year the May Lodge Trip was replaced by a one day trip for me and I managed two more days out after the Lodge Trip before the end of May.

I had no-one else who was keen and available for the Lodge Trip so was going to go on my own. However the weather forecast was not great for the Sunday so I decided to do a one day Saturday trip instead. There are only a few rivers open in May, other than the Mataura from Gore down, and generally that means a reasonable drive. I was away early and headed up to the Upukerora to my usual access. At this time of the year you can find brown that are heading up from the Lake to spawn as well as a few resident rainbows. The rainbows are generally in the deeper pools and because of this I decided to head downstream where there are more deeper pools, although not as many this year as in the past. I walked downstream for about an hour before setting up and starting to fish. Conditions were pretty good although the sun is pretty low in the sky at this time of the year and that doesn't help spotting especially if you are looking towards the sun. I hardly spotted a fish during the long walk back up to where the car was and decided to keep going up as I didn't want to finish with a blank day. Not far up from the car there was a good looking pool that was quite deep but I couldn't see into it. I put a nymph through it a couple of times and came up solid on a nice brown that came to the net. I continued up as I knew there was good water not much further up but when I got there, I didn't see any fish. Time to head back to the car and head for home. My Sunday was spent at home and during the day I kept an eye on the Environment South website to see how heavy the forecast rain was. There was no rain recorded at any of the ES rain recording sites for the whole day. I was not very happy as I could have been out fishing and stayed dry.

The following Tuesday I decided to head up to the Upukerora again. This time I went in further up and fished upstream, still trying to find the browns heading up to spawn. Once again fish were hard to find but I finally spotted a brown on the edge of some fast water. It was great to watch it swim over to my nymph and even better to get it in the net. I continued up but just before I got to a nice pool I had caught fish in before, a ute went past and I thought he was heading for the good pool. He didn't stop so I could search the pool and see what was there. Unfortunately the broom bushes along the accessible side made it impossible to cast as there were a number of fish in this pool. I couldn't see any way I could cast in two metre plus broom and the water was too deep along the edge for me to wade in as well as looking a bit soft. I tried running a nymph down to them from above but none were interested. As I headed up the river I saw some splashing in the river and realised it was a deer crossing over. I always see plenty of deer sign on the Upukerora but this is only the second time I have seen a deer. It was a long way away but I suspect it was a fallow. I spotted another fish a bit further up but it was off almost before I could cast to it and then another one that came out of the shadows. Finally I spotted another fish (a rainbow this time) and it was keen on my nymph. It came to the net and it was the last fish I saw for the day. On the way back down the 4WD track I found the ute I had seen earlier parked just off the track. I hadn't seen him come back down but clearly he had. There was no-one there and I found the owner walking back to the ute just around the corner. He was hunting for deer and pigs in the riverbed but hadn't shot anything. He used to be the manager of the local farm and I had met him before a couple of times. After quite a long chat and he offered me a ride back to where he had come into the river bed but that is not where my car was (he said there was a car there when he came in). My car wasn't far away so I could easily walk.

The following Saturday was May 31<sup>st</sup>, the final day for the high country rivers. I was keen to go but once again the weather forecast didn't look good for fishing. We had a strong wind warning for the whole of Southland and that wasn't going to make fishing easy. Not to be deterred I headed off early in the morning. My wife said I was mad and with that forecast she was probably right. This time it was to the Von River, once again looking for browns migrating up to spawn. There are a couple of fords to cross, the first being Gorge Burn which is an Oreti tributary and the second Station Burn that flows into the Von near the Old Nicolas homestead. I was a bit worried about crossing these as I thought they may have been up a bit but I was surprised when I got to the Gorge Burn as it was very low. My plan had been to fish the river at the bottom of the hill but when I

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## Final Fling (cont)

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got there it was also low so I decided to head down to Chris's favourite spot in the lower gorge. I parked by the bridge and had a look at the river there. I could just see a rainbow in the fast water and noted that for later. Up the hill and drop down into the gorge before setting up. No fish in the first pool. A little further up I spot a fish moving in some shallow water and well before I am close enough to cast to it, it moves across into the fast water and disappears downstream. I take it as a good sign but I don't see any more fish in the gorge. At the bridge I can't see the rainbow but have a couple of casts. As I lift at the end of one drift I see the fish right by my nymph but by then I was already committed to lifting the line. The fish spooked. I decide to move up to the flats above the homestead. As I am heading across to the river I nearly get blown over by the wind and decide there is no way I can fish in this wind. It hadn't been too bad in the gorge but is very strong on the flats. I head up to where the North Branch flows in as I know there is some shelter from the wind there. I spot a fish straight away but it has already seen me. Then another that isn't keen on my nymph. I look up the North Branch and decide the bottom couple of pools look worth a look and sure enough I spot a fish straight away. No joy with this one but there is another on the edge directly above me and after a few casts it decides my nymph looks like food and comes to the net. The river gets very rocky after the first couple of pools so I head back down and up the main river. I see fish but they all seem to have seen me first so no joy here. From here I headed to the bottom of the hill where I was going to start the day originally. There is not much water and I only get a fleeting glance of a couple of fish. On my way back down I see a fish exactly where I was about to step into the river. I was quite high up so it saw me and was gone. That was it for the day so it was off home. Another river fishing season over.



Von North Branch brown



Looking up the Von North Branch. The brown was sitting on the edge just down from the bridge.

## Club 50th Anniversary Dinner - August 9th, 2025

According to Secretary/Treasurer Chris the Southland Fly Fishing Club is fifty years old this year. We are planning to have an anniversary dinner and all present and past Club Members will be invited. Planning is only at the initial stages but we have set the date of Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. This is the same day as our August Fly Tying Day so you can come to both the Fly Tying Day and the Dinner. If you are interested in coming to the dinner, let Chris (027423 7016) know so we can get an idea of numbers to help with our planning. Further details to follow as we progress with the planning.

## Competitions by Gerda

### Photo Competition

Our annual photo competition will be held at the June meeting. There are four categories - trophy, scenic, action and general. Members chose which category their photos are and can enter up to three photos in each category. Photos are to be from the past season (or at least from the past 12 months) and are to be as they come off the camera. **Prints are to be 5" x 7"**. Judging will be by member vote and there will be a Hunting & Fishing voucher for the winner of each category.

### Fly Tying Competition

There were just two entries in the May fly competition. There were more flies tied but someone didn't make it to the meeting with theirs and one was left at home. Dave's fly was the winner and he also won the draw for the Hunting & Fishing gift card.

### Trophies

If you were a trophy winner last year please get the trophy back to me before or at the June meeting.



May Fly Tying Competition entries

## Annual General Meeting - July 29th

### Southland Fly Fishing Club (Inc)

Notice is hereby given that THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Club will be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7:30pm.

#### AGENDA

Apologies

Minutes of the 2024 AGM

Matters Arising

Chairman's Report

Annual Accounts

Election of Officers

Signatories to Bank Account

Presentation of Trophies

Adoption of New Constitution

General Business

**C McDonald**  
Club Secretary

## July Competition Fly by Chris

### Parachute pheasant tail

#### Materials

Hook	Black Magic E16
Thread	Unithread 6/0 or 8/0 brown or camel
Tail	Pheasant tail
Abdomen	Pheasant tail
Rib	Copper wire
Thorax	Peacock herl
Post	Poly yarn
Hackle	Brown cock hackle



Tie poly yarn post on top of the hook and run thread up the post.



Tie hackle to post



Run thread to the bend of the hook and tie in copper wire.



Tie in five fibres from a pheasant tail to form tail. Only tie the pheasant tail down at the bend.



Run the thread forward to just behind the post and then wind the pheasant tail fibres forward. Tie off and trim ends.



Wind the copper wire forward and tie off. It should be wound in the opposite direction to the pheasant tail fibres.



Tie in peacock herl. Wrap forward, tie off and trim.



Wrap the hackle several times around the post and tie off around the post under the hackle



Whip finish around the post under the hackle.



Lie the post along the hook and trim to the length of the hook.

Cover Photo by Gerda

Dave tying green stoneflies at the Fly Tying in June.



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

24 <sup>th</sup> June	MM	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
1 <sup>st</sup> July	CM	Fly tying
29 <sup>th</sup> July	AGM	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	CM	Arranging the calendar for the next season
9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Fly tying	Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am
9 <sup>th</sup> Aug		50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner
24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Fishing	<b><u>Club Trip (winter)</u></b> Fish & Game 9:00am
26 <sup>th</sup> Aug	[MM]	

## 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 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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