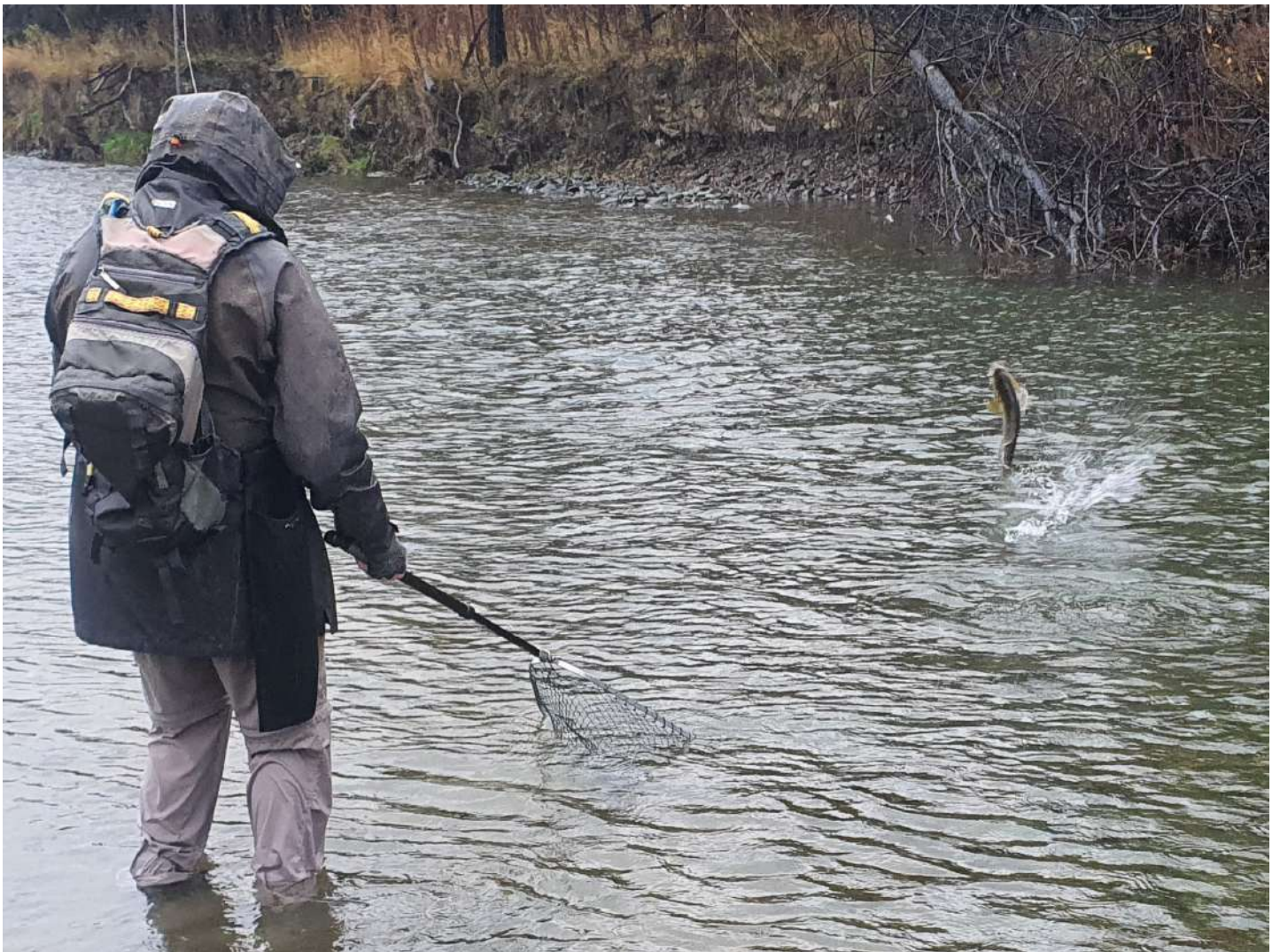


“Ripples”

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

June 2026

www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



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



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

It is winter so for me that means fly tying rather than fishing, although I haven't done much of that yet. Of course, I tied the prince nymph that is the competition fly shown in the last Ripples. I tied another as a demonstration at the May Club Meeting. I also tied a number of flies at the Fly Tying Day but not as many as I probably should have. I will have another go at the prince nymph to see if I can get a better looking one for the competition at the June meeting.

I have also started thinking about what I need to sort out with my gear before next season. I don't want to leave it late and have to rush just before the season starts. I have been having a few issues with a couple of my reels. I use Vision Coma reels and these are getting quite old. There is nothing fancy about them, they are just a nice low cost, large arbor reels. I have been having drag problems with them and attempts to find new cork drag washers have been unsuccessful, so I have tried making them without much success either. I have also made up some teflon drag washers and these have been more successful but they need to be the correct thickness and I haven't got this sorted yet. Something to work on.

I did manage to fit in a bit of fishing at the end of May. May 27th was scheduled as the mid-week trip. No-one had contacted me so I headed out to the Mataura on my own after lunch. I went in above Edendale and the track was still pretty challenging but I managed to get in without scraping the bottom of the car on the ground. I spent a long time just wandering around looking for rising fish but initially the only sign of life I saw were a couple of swallows well downstream. I was about to head home when I spotted a rise well out in slow water. I didn't try and wade out as my feet were still dry and I wanted to keep them that way unless there was something rising well that would require me to wade out. There were a few more rises but nothing was steadily rising and my flies remain unmolested. At last I spotted a fish rising well mid-current. As I was watching it and deciding if I could wade out far enough, I just let my flies drift off downstream. Suddenly there was a fish on and it came to the net. By the time I had released it, the fish I was looking at had stopped rising so I never got to cast to it. I also went on the end of season trip to the Lodge on the last weekend in May and this is reported elsewhere in this Ripples.

At our June meeting we have our photo and video night and our photography competition. Bring your photos and videos along on a memory stick and they will be shown to all present. Also print out your best photos in large 7x5 inch format and enter them in the photo competition. There are four categories – trophy, action, scenic and general. There will be a Hunting & Fishing gift voucher for the winner of each category.

Annual General Meeting - July 28th

Southland Fly Fishing Club (Inc)

Notice is hereby given that THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Club will be held on Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 7:30pm.

AGENDA

Apologies

Minutes of the 2025 AGM

Matters Arising

Chairman's Report

Annual Accounts

Election of Officers

Signatories to Bank Account

Presentation of Trophies

General Business

C McDonald
Club Secretary

Final Fling by Dave

The May Lodge Trip had to be the final outing for all but the lower rivers and lakes as it was on the 30th and 31st of May.

There were just three of us on the trip, myself, Isaac and Keith. We all went to the Lodge on the Friday night with a few stories told before heading for bed.

Saturday morning and after having breakfast and making lunch it was away to have a look at the Upukerora River. Unfortunately there were two utes at Ladies Mile and a car at Dale Road so we finished up in the Whitestone River at the Mount Prospect Bridge.



Dave with his Whitestone rainbow

Although the river was in good condition and the weather good it was a tough day. We only spotted a few fish and I was the only one to hook anything. The first rainbow came to the net but the second one came off. Just before I hooked the second one on a nymph, it had a go at my dry fly but didn't actually take it. We had a long walk back to the car and the old vehicle track I have used in the past had pretty much disappeared so we had to deal with quite a bit of long grass.

Sunday the weather was forecast to be wet. I was quite keen on going to the Eglinton but it looked like it was going to be heavy rain there so we headed into the Von where the rain was forecast to be lighter.

When we got there it was raining and would continue to do so all day. We started near the top of the lower gorge and I was surprised that the water had some colour. It still looked okay for fishing but if the fish were sitting deeper we wouldn't be able to see them. The usually difficult crossing part way up this section of the gorge was pretty easy so at least we didn't have to turn back. In the pool immediately above this crossing I spotted a dark shape moving around. One cast to it and it disappeared into deeper water and out of sight. That was all we saw in that beat and just above the bridge at the top of the gorge we could see where the colour in the water was coming from. A small side stream was very dirty and above this the water looked good.

We drove up to the old homestead and after eating lunch we headed across to the river. We spotted fish almost immediately but I was the only one that managed to hook one of these. One of the fish looked to be a good size but it wasn't interested in anything we offered it. When we reached a place where two branches of the river came together, Keith headed up one branch while Isaac and I headed up the other. We soon spotted a fish and it took Isaac's nymph and came to the net. A little further up I spotted another fish but an old tree on the edge made it difficult. From below the tree I couldn't see the fish and from above I was going to spook it. Finally I was able to figure out where it was from below the tree and it came to the net. Keith didn't see anything on the other branch. We spotted a couple more fish and it was Keith's turn to cast to sighted fish. The fish were moving up and he managed to get his flies caught in his clothing and by the time he was untangled the fish had gone.



Rain falling in the Von River lower gorge

(Continued on page 4)

Final Fling (cont)

(Continued from page 3)

Finally I decided I was getting too wet so headed back to the car while the others continued on up the river. Part way back to the car I was offered a ride by two ladies which was gratefully accepted. I headed back up to where the others were and we all got changed. I didn't have a full set of dry clothes with me so I was still a bit damp for the drive home. The others said the river had started to colour up after I left to get the car so my timing was pretty good.

From here it was back to the Lodge, put on some dry clothes, clean up and turn everything off before heading home.



Isaac with his Von River brown

Fly Tying Day - June 14th by Dave

We had our first Fly Tying Day of the off season on Sunday, June 14th at Fish & Game. We had four members, Dave, Chris, Isaac and Gerda, along for most of the day. A potential member, Andrew arrived at the same time as Gerda. He has recently shifted to Winton from Christchurch. He didn't have any fly tying gear with him but did tie a couple of flies using Club gear. Gavin also dropped in but just for a short visit and to give away some moose and deer hair that he had excessive to his requirements.

Chris was very busy all day and tied a number of nymphs to hand out at next year's Fly Fishing Course. Gerda concentrated on the fly for the June meeting competition and Isaac tied a few different things. I tied a number of parachute adams dries (and Chris tried to steal them for the course) as well as a couple of tiny black parachutes. I also showed Isaac how to tie a royal wulff but I am short of decent hackles the right size so that is something I will have to find.



Gerda and Chris busy tying flies

All in all a successful day for those who came along. We have another Fly Tying day scheduled for 8th August starting at 9:00am.

Cover Photo by Isaac

Dave playing an active brown on the Von River during the May Lodge Trip.

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 choose 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. Chris's fly was the winner and he also won the draw for the Hunting & Fishing gift card. The June fly was in the May Ripples and the July fly is shown below.

Trophies

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

Competition Fly for July by Chris



Materials:

Hook: Black Magic B10
Weight: 0.10 lead wire
Thread: Olive 6/0
Tail: Olive marabou
Body: Olive chenille
Rib: Copper wire
Hackle: Brown hackle



Instructions:

1. Secure lead wire 8-10 winds
2. At the point above the hook barb, measure and clip a small bunch of marabou feathers (the tail length should be the same length as the hook shank) and tie them down to the hook shank.
3. Strip the end of the chenille to the core and tie in the core above the hook barb.
4. Tie in the copper wire at the same point. Take thread up the hook almost to the eye.
5. Select a brown hackle that has fibres about two times the length of the hook gape. Tie in 3 mm behind the eye.
6. Wrap the chenille up the length of the hook shank until you reach the hackle. Tie it off with the thread and clip off the excess.
7. Take the hackle fibre and stroke the fibres backwards with your fingers. Palmer the hackle down the hook to the tail. Tie the hackle in with a wrap of the copper wire. Snap the excess hackle off.
8. Wrap the copper wire forward up the length of the hook shank (trying not to catch any of the hackle fibres) and tie it in behind the eye. Clip off the excess.
9. With the thread, build a small, neat head and then whip finish and cement the head thoroughly.

Photos by Dave

Gerda and Dave talking with members of the public during a fly tying demonstration at Hunting & Fishing in September, 2025



Conditions Isaac and Dave found at Piano Flat on opening day this season.

Dave's first fish of the season. Piano Flat on the Waikaia River.



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

30 th June	MM	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
7 th July	CM	Fly tying
28 th July	AGM	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
4 th Aug	CM	Arranging the calendar for the next season
8 th Aug		Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am - Meal at night
23 rd Aug		<u>Club Trip (winter)</u> Fish & Game 9:00am
25 th Aug	MM	

Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz
- President Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (027 201 6722) daveharris823@gmail.com
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- Vice-President Gerda Johnstone, (022 166 1149) gerda.johnstone10@gmail.com
- Editor Dave Harris daveharris823@gmail.com
Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month
- Librarian Chris Cowie (027 236 9576)
- Lodge Custodian Isaac Coburn, Marama Ave Nth, Invercargill 0204 1205 855
isaaccoburn72@gmail.com

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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