

# “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*

## Editors Choice Tippets

### DAIRY FARMER'S AWARD RECOGNISES 'SUPERB ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORT'

Dairy farmer Phil Musson's 'can do' attitude has won him the annual Working with Nature environment award from North Canterbury Fish & Game. A fourth generation dairy farmer from Springston, south of Christchurch, Mr Musson has been recognised for his efforts to change his farming practices to make them more sustainable and environmentally friendly, while still farming profitably. Musson milks 400 cows on 120 hectares near the Selwyn River. The thing that sets the dairy farmer apart from his farming colleagues was his investment in the environment, specifically in a wintering-over feed barn, pictured above right. Being able to keep all of his cows in the feed-barn over the wet cold winter has improved their welfare through improved "feed conversion" and protection from the elements. But crucially, this also allowed pasture to receive far more protection than that provided by traditional farming methods. The soil and grass is protected from damage, pugging for instance, meaning that in the spring it produces more feed grown on-farm that is about 40% up on traditional methods. The feed-barn uses hi-tech robotic sweepers to catch animal waste and stops it from reaching the groundwater and rivers by diverting it and storing it in an effluent holding tank. This means there is no direct animal discharge onto pasture in the wet winter months, and in spring the effluent is used to achieve the best results for feed growth. Since the barn's completion, Mr Musson has managed to reduce nitrogen discharge on his farm to around 10kg per hectare, a fantastic result and a rate more commonly associated with a dry stock farm rather than a dairy farm. Other efforts by Mr Musson included the fencing off a spring head on the farm and planting it out as a wetland. He also restored a section of the Powell's Road Drain (a tributary of the Selwyn River) outside his property with the goal of enhancing trout spawning in the area, and carried out additional riparian planting to control sediment run-off from his paddocks. Unexpected benefits from the completion of the feed barn and effluent holding tank have included reduced fertiliser costs, and increased feed production has meant that the farmer doesn't have to buy in feed. All these measures have helped make the farm profitable, but also lifted animal welfare and environmental standards.



Cover Photo: Johnny Mauchlin



Excellent fly and photograph by Martin Westbeek



### Sun Gloves 50+

I purchased a pair of these sun gloves and am very pleased with them. At \$15 they are a bargain when compared with the likes of Simms overpriced product.

Essential protection for all especially pale skinned fly fishers. Check them out on Ebay.

"People get the Politicians and fishing tackle they deserve."

John Gierach

## Fishing Report by Redtag



Again the weather has been foremost in our face over the last month and although there has been an improvement high winds have again predominated. The river has however come good as the rains have abated and has been well below datum level which is always a good thing as it opens up water that was unreachable or un-wadeable before.



Mayfly hatches have been in-consistent and may take some time to recover after the floods, but willow grubs continue to fall from the trees and the trout are hungry and eat them. Good fishing has been evident especially in warm conditions with wind. Some excellent fishing in the early afternoons and evenings.

Plenty opportunities abound to fish for willow grubbers. I had some terrific fishing lately in gale force winds which knocks the grubs off the trees. Finding a spot where there is a bit of shelter and good light to see the fish can occupy you all day long. I have spent interminable time in the same pool and hardly ventured far at all constantly finding feeding fish in the one location.



The season is now in an autumnal phase and the fish will be focusing on spawning activity before we know it. However they are still feeding well and if the current settled weather continues we will have the prospect of an Indian summer. One can only hope

*Redtag*

## Fly Fishing Course

Another successful course was fully attended by a new group of fly fishers including ? Lady fly fishers which is always good to see. Inclement weather and gale force winds on the Oreti didn't dampen spirits and a good time was had by all.



## Fly Fishing Course—Hunting and Fishing prize winner

**Tracey Ashton**, who attended the fly fishing course won the draw for the Hunting & Fishing Southland prize of a Simms wading jacket. Well done ?????.



## Letter To The Editor from Dr. Ian Michelson



I have been a holder of a New Zealand fishing license continuously for the past 34 years and wish to give a response to the address given by David Linklater from Kiwi Anglers First to both the Otago and Southland Fish & Game Councils and the Southland Fly Fishing Club all of which I attended.

I have always respected the fact that as a non-resident angler from Australia I am a guest in your country. My contribution to New Zealand angling for the pleasure my time here has given me has been to become involved in the maintenance of fishery habitat and the importance of sustainable river management. Prior to the formation of the Kiwi Anglers First angling group I considered myself a useful and valued member of the New Zealand fly fishing community. Now as a non resident annual license holder I am beginning to feel more like an endangered species.

Kiwi Anglers First are promoting a hierarchical system devised by a guide they call a 4 step plan which puts commercial interests ahead of recreational visiting anglers. I suggest that the organisational name which Kiwi Anglers First has adopted and their reactionary views are very much in conflict with the welcoming New Zealand way. Their policies do not address the root cause of the issues of overcrowding on New Zealand waters and are in direct contravention to the intentions of the founders of New Zealand angling who were adamant that angling in New Zealand should not be commercialised or exploited by vested interests to the detriment of others. The founders were particularly insistent that public waters should not be privatised or syndicated for profit.

A recent bid has been made by guides to franchise and obtain concessions on certain so called tier 1 waters including waters in National Parks. One can only imagine the limitations that would be imposed on the access rights of all anglers should such a proposal go ahead and the controls of such waters under regulation by guides themselves. Unguided visiting anglers are unfairly being made scapegoats for the problems of the New Zealand fishery. The suggestion that visiting anglers should always have to be guided is in conflict with the essence of fly fishing which embodies the experience of solitude and closeness to nature. There is no doubt that problems of overcrowding do exist especially in backcountry waters and this needs to be addressed. There are continuing reports of younger anglers (both kiwis and overseas visitors) taking over backcountry DOC and other huts and tracts of Backcountry Rivers for extended periods. This long term use to the exclusion of others should be examined and regulated as required. However Kiwi Anglers First are prepared to remove the rights of both visitors and New Zealanders alike in order to attain their stated aims of drastically reducing the numbers of visiting anglers. However their approach does not take into account the complexities of fisheries management required for different areas and circumstances.

My contention is that primary consideration should be given to the preservation of the fishery and to the lot of the unguided local angler. I have a considerable amount of empathy for them as they are finding it more and more difficult to enjoy the total Kiwi angling experience. For example NZPFGA guides from Queenstown are constantly seen in Northern Southland waters which is out of their NZPFGA registered region.

Kiwi Anglers First proposes that there should no longer be a non resident annual license. Many of these annual non residents have taken an active part in attempting to help preserve the fishery over a number of years and have been involved through fly fishing clubs with juniors and those new to fly fishing. New Zealand will be worse off with the loss of the social and financial benefits this group brings each year to the fishery and New Zealand society.

One might suggest that the guides and commercial interests are the main contributors to the perceived plight of the local angler and the problems of potential overcrowding. Even though the Fish and Game magazine has recently been taken over by Fish and Game New Zealand itself the editorial and general content still appears to make it a channel of communication for the guiding community seeking to create an unregulated monopoly to serve their own interests. In a recent issue beautiful photographs abound. It is ironic however that three of the most emotive photographs are part of an article discussing the overuse of the fishery show separate scenes related to guided anglers in drift boats, helicopters and rafts. The magazines articles are in the main written by guides or ex guides exposing the fishery as the mythical land down under that is the epitome of world class trout fishing. Just turn up and you too can have a grip and grin experience with wild trophy trout! It is also implied that they have some measure of expertise in fisheries management though there appears to be no proof of any formal intellectual or scientific training to support this. I put it to you that a commercial interest in the public fishery is not a qualification for expertise in fisheries management. Whether or not they are members of the New Zealand Professional Fishing Guides Association or not, guides appear not to have any formal qualifications or accreditation required to operate commercially. Even so they have managed to become the self appointed custodians of New Zealand freshwater fishing cleverly appointing their executive members to organisations such as Fish and Game, Tourism Board, Bio Security or at a Political/Government level.

They have managed to create a self interest aura of influence of perceived knowledge and an altruistic interest in the public fishery. Their stated aim is to increase membership. There are currently according to their website over 40 NZPFGA guides active in Southland and Otago. There is no information readily available on the number of independent guides who operate outside of this voluntary unregulated organisation. However it is apparent from the number of guides on Southland and Otago waters that the number is many times more than is recognised by NZPFGA. Guides contribute little if anything financially toward the fishery and utilise it for their own advantage. Most fair minded New Zealanders will find it incongruous that guides whether members of the NZPFGA or independents who guide on public waters do not contribute financially to the sustainability of the fishery.

Commercialisation of the fishery increases the incidence of abuse motivated by greed. A couple of years ago a Wakatipu landowner told me that he was aware that local anglers were avoiding the Lochy River because guides from Queenstown were taking advantage of the present lack of controls and taking in parties of 10 plus anglers on a weekly basis. During the same year I reported to Fish and Game a plan by guides to take a party of 12 plus anglers to Canadian Flat on the upper Taieri River two days in a row. Fortunately this was thwarted by the actions of a local landowner. Unfortunately the response from Fish and Game was that under present guidelines they were not able to interfere in any way. Guides spreading out parties of 4 to 10 client anglers along the lengths of rivers such as the Waikaia, Nevis, upper Oreti and Maitai and other prime rivers is now commonplace and does far more to ruin the experience of the local angler than would any non resident annual permit holder. In my opinion behaviour of this sort by guides is totally unacceptable and is extremely detrimental to the fishery and the enjoyment of local anglers. There is no question that resident New Zealand guides should have exclusive access to the available guiding market. Non resident guides should not be allowed. They almost certainly do not have the appropriate work permits. Australian guides probably have an automatic right to work in New Zealand however if payment for their New Zealand guiding activities has been previously paid for in Australia they may well be in contravention of New Zealand income tax and GST laws.

Fish and Game needs to review and revise the current fisheries management plan and should have the political will to regulate all guides. Guides should make a significant financial contribution to fisheries management for the commercial use of the public fishery for personal profit and be regulated and licensed appropriately. Their numbers should also be restricted and the regions they are allowed to fish should be regulated.

The hierarchical structure proposed by Kiwi Anglers First which puts commercial interests ahead of recreational anglers directly contravenes the original intentions of the founders of New Zealand angling. Commercial interests should always be placed last.

*Editors note: The SFFC will debate Kiwi Anglers First policies at their next monthly meeting and determine any action required to address the issues brought forward by Kiwi Anglers First.*

## From the President by Dave Harris

I am writing this early as Les (who puts the Ripples up on the website) is heading away on holiday so I need to get this to Johnny earlier than usual. Unfortunately I am out of town and that means I am trying to type this on my laptop using Libre Office rather than Microsoft Office and it is a bit of a challenge but I am getting there.

Our Fly Fishing Course is over for another year. It was another successful course in spite of the best efforts of the weather to derail it. We again had a nearly full course with one late withdrawal and one only able to come to the first day after a prior accident left him with a leg in plaster. He would be coming down from Mosgiel to take the course. Finally I would like to thank the members who took time out to help, both at the casting on Saturday and on the river on Sunday. On the Friday I didn't think we would have anywhere to go on Sunday but after a look at the Aparima, Oreti and Mataura Rivers, it was only the Mataura that was definitely out. After consulting the weather forecast on Saturday afternoon I decided that the Oreti at Dipton looked like a good choice and it turned out to be not too bad. It was a bit windy and the river was up a bit but was reasonably clear. Three fish were caught during the casting in the morning and there were some more caught in the afternoon, although not as many as we would expect on the Mataura.

I would like to thank Hunting and Fishing and Manic Tackle Project for their sponsorship and also Hunting and Fishing for sending people our way. We were able to fill the course without having to advertise in the paper and this was good. I would also like to thank Chris for his efforts in taking the enrolments and ensuring everything was ready on the day. I would also like to thank Mike for Game regulations need to be approved by the Minister for the Environment.

At our January meeting we had David Linklater from Kiwi Anglers First speaking to us. He also brought along Dave Witherow, another member of their group and an Otago Fish and Game Councillor. I understand what their issue is but I am not sure that he knows how to do something about it, and if any proposals will make it through Fish and Game and the Government. Of course any proposals to limit overseas anglers will have an effect on some of our members so we need to be careful not to disadvantage them.

Unfortunately I haven't been out anywhere near as much as I should of and as I write this it is a glorious day here in Westport. However I am on a Vintage Car Tour and have not brought any fishing gear with me. I would not have had much chance to use it as the rivers further down the coast are still dirty from very heavy rain a couple of days ago. I will be home in time for the Club trip on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February (god and my 89 year old car willing) so that will be my next outing.

## Name This Stream Competition

One correct answer last month. Ian Michelson correctly identified the Mataura River at Garston Bridge. The picture this month is by Johnny Mauchline. Answers by email only please to [info@eis.co.nz](mailto:info@eis.co.nz) Correct answers will be placed in a draw for a \$10 Hunting & Fishing voucher sponsored by EIS.

If you have a photo of a Southland stream you would like to include in the competition please email the Editor.



## Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	(CM)	Fly Tying
12 <sup>th</sup> Mar		<b>Club Day Trip</b> , meet at Fish & Game 7am
21 <sup>st</sup> Mar		Mid-week Trip
28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	[MM]	
4 <sup>th</sup> April	(CM)	
9 <sup>th</sup> April		<b>Club Day Trip</b> , meet at Fish & Game 7am
18 <sup>th</sup> April		Mid-week Trip

## Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
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- Editor Johnny Mauchline, 10 Carlyle Street, Matura (021 2877 323) [service@eis.co.nz](mailto:service@eis.co.nz)  
*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, 159 North Road Invercargill. [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 Les Ladbrook.

## Club Sponsors



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