

# “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 Tippetts

### "A Good Start" - Government's New Tourism Levy Welcomed



Fish and Game is backing the government's proposed levy on overseas visitors, saying it is a good start to tackling the growing pressure on New Zealand's back country.

The government today announced it wants to introduce a levy of up to \$35 on inbound visitors to pay for tourism infrastructure and conservation. It is planned to introduce the new charges in 2019.

Fish & Game Chief Executive Martin Taylor says the move is welcome and is long overdue.

"Our back country is coming under increasing pressure from burgeoning tourist numbers. This tourist tsunami is unsustainable - we can't go on like this because it's hurting the environment and Kiwis' ability to enjoy the outdoors," Mr Taylor says.

"Tourism is a valuable income earner but it shouldn't be operating at the expense of the average New Zealander wanting to go camping, fishing, hunting or tramping."

Martin Taylor says the money raised from the levy must be spent improving backcountry facilities and protecting the environment.

Mr Taylor is also welcoming the government's new strategic approach to tourism.

"Ensuring we protect this country's reputation as a tourist destination is vital for the economy. The previous uncontrolled approach was threatening to kill the golden goose by providing an overcrowded and second rate experience," he says.

"Today's levy proposal and the new policy of charging overseas visitors more for using huts and campsites on the Great Walks are welcome."



Cover photo by Johnny Mauchline

Excellent fly and photography by Mark Giorgio

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

John Gierach

## Final Fishing Report 2017 -18 Season By Redtag



The month of May was a bit disappointing on the river with most of the month unfishable due to plenty of rain putting the river in flood for long periods. It was especially frustrating to still see good hatches of Mayfly coming off the discoloured and high water but no trout activity to be seen. On the 5 occasions I could fish to rising trout there was excellent activity with numbers of trout taking Mayfly. Dads Favourite being the go to fly.

With the fishing on the river now over until October it is interesting to look over my diary and evaluate just how the season went and how it stacks up to previous seasons.

Its not all about the numbers but they do give a picture of events and patterns. On average total numbers caught are down by about 25% on previous seasons which gives some understanding of the unfavourable water and weather conditions especially in the last few months.



November was the best month by far followed by December and January. April and May were well down and fishing days were few which is unusual at this time of the year.

Biggest fish caught was a 6 1/2lb brown on the first cast on opening day from a small stream in the hills. He was rising to duns and took a Parachute Adams size 16. Best numbers day was surprisingly enough on the 15th May with pods of trout rising to a prolific hatch of Mayfly. 21 caught on a fully aspirated Dads Favourite size 16.

Season highlights were catching very well conditioned trout under the willows on a favourite stretch of water on willow grubs. I love the technical aspects of this close quarter fishing. Spotting nymphing fish in the riffles and getting them to take a dry was also a good memory. Apart from a few duckings and tangles in the trees there were few bad days on the water.

90% of fish caught were taken on a dry or emerger. The balance were caught on nymphs mainly small Pheasant Tail variants. 3 fish were kept for the smoker and the others were released in the water.



## May Fly Tying Competition



Last month's Fly Tying Competition saw 6 black creepers entered. The winner on the night was Dave Harris (winning fly above) and John Day won the Hunting & Fishing draw.

This month's fly is the parachute adams (in Ripples last month) and July's fly will be Chris McDonalds damsel mink (details in this Ripples).



## Annual Club Dinner



The Club Annual Dinner was held after the fly tying day on June 9<sup>th</sup>. With Ainos gone we had to find somewhere else and unfortunately the first choice decided they couldn't cope with the numbers so we ended up at the Cabbage Tree in Otatara. 18 of us enjoyed a lovely meal with the exchange of gifts. Two cakes of chocolate proved very popular, changing hands several times as people exchanged their gift for it. I think it finally went home with Julie.

Thanks to Chris for organising the night and Les for conducting the gift exchange.

## Fly Tying Day



A good turnout on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Southland Fish & Game offices with a total of eight people attending. These ranged from the very experienced to raw beginners. Two sets of nymphs for next year's course were completed and quite a bit of time was devoted to helping out the beginners. Chris tied a couple of damsel mink to allow photos to be taken as part of the instructions for the July fly. A good day and it was great to see new members along.

## Final Fling by Dave Harris



In the past my Final Fling has been the end of May lodge trip but this year the lodge trip was reduced to a one day trip to the Von River (where the few fish we saw were totally unco-operative). It was however an interesting trip into the Von River with snow on the road virtually all the way from Mavora. Also for the past couple of years I have been able to make trips during the week after the lodge trip.

My final fling this year was on May 31<sup>st</sup> when I went to Te Anau to fish the Upukerora River. It was a cold frosty start and I had my eyes on the road looking out for ice. I finally found some just over Gorge Hill but was stopped as the road was closed by a bus crash. I detoured via the Mavora Road and once back on the main road there was plenty more ice espe-

cially between Princhester Creek and The Key.

I finally got to Ladies Mile Road and there was no one else there so I was free to choose up or down stream. Having been down two days before (3 fish landed) it was upstream this time. It was still very cold (1 degree) and the fog had risen a bit to be low cloud. I got all set up and by the time I left the car it was 10:45am.

I decided to fish the pool just below where the 4WD track fords the river (that would keep my feet dry for a bit longer). I had fished this pool two days before with no joy but maybe some fish had moved in. I had to fish blind as there was no way you could see into the water but it was not long before I hooked and landed my first fish for the day. I had to wade into the water to net it so failed in keeping my feet dry. Thank god for neoprene socks. By the time I reached the top of that pool I had landed 4 fish (3 browns & 1 rainbow) so clearly it was going to be a good day.

Crossed the river and walked up the edge of the next pool. I could see into this pool and could see a fish. I cast to it but the nymph never even made it down to the fish as another I hadn't seen grabbed it. He was soon in the net and I was able to spot another fish. This turned out to be a rainbow and he went like mad and when I tried to stop him getting into fast water the tippet broke. I spotted and hooked another fish in this pool but the hook pulled.

It got a bit quieter from here as the light conditions still made spotting difficult unless there were trees on the other side and I had a few pools to go before I got to the next pool with trees so had to fish blind without any luck. When I got to the next pool with trees on the other side I had to look hard before I started spotting fish. First one on the other side, then one in the middle and one on my side. I cast to one on my side and he was on. Unfortunately he shot across the river and spooked the other two. The hook pulled but the one in the middle was still there but wouldn't take anything. I moved up the pool a bit and spotted another. He was keen and soon in the net. Once I released him I looked again and there was another fish sitting behind the same stone that the one I had just caught had been behind. He was just as co-operative and was soon in the net.

I went a bit further up without landing anything and found a nice tree to sit on to eat lunch. After lunch I didn't see as many fish and quite a few I did see just faded away. However I did find some more and finally turned back towards the car at 2:50pm having landed a total of 12 for the day, 11 browns and 1 rainbow. The sun had finally come out about 1:30pm so it had warmed up a bit (to 4 degrees).

Not far from the car I noticed wet footprints on the track and was not surprised to find other anglers back at their car. Unfortunately they had missed the "Gone Upstream" sign on my dash and had followed me up the river, seeing just one fish and not catching anything.

Changed (dry feet at last) and back on the road. No ice and the road over Gorge Hill was open again so it was a clear trip home.

All in all a good day and a great way to finish the season.

# July Fly Tying Competition - Damsel Mink by Chris McDonald



This fly is based on the Peter Scott's Damsel Rabbit page 128 New Zealand's Best Trout Flies. I spoke to Peter and he suggested changing from Rabbit to Mink.

## Materials:

Hook: Black Magic B10  
Thread: olive  
Tail: golden pheasant tippets  
Rib: copper wire  
Eyes: black mono  
Body: olive mink  
Wing: olive mink strip  
Head: olive micro chenille



Tie thread to hook at the eye and tie in the mono eyes about 2mm from the eye of the hook.



Take thread to bend in hook and tie in a clump of golden pheasant tippets and the copper wire. Take thread to bend in hook and tie in a clump of golden pheasant tippets and the copper wire.



Dub a thin body of the excess fluff from the mink strip up to the eyes.



Tie in the mink strip against the eyes.



Pull mink strip tight along the body and rib it with the copper wire.



Tie in the chenille. Wind it around the eyes in a figure of 8 and tie off. Form head and whip finish in front of the eyes.

## Presidents Report by Dave Harris

As you will be aware the river fishing season is over (except for the lower reaches) so it is time to get on with getting ready for next season – tying flies and planning trips. I have already made bookings in Te Anau for my annual trip at the end of November but haven't yet made much progress with tying flies. I managed a few at the fly tying day, generally as demonstrations to others who were interested but most of the flies I tied there will be given to those on next year's fly fishing course. I did tie a blue dun variant with a wings from a mallard flank feather. This worked quite well but it will be interesting to see how it lasts on the river (and if the fish like it). If you are interested let me know and I will demonstrate how it is done.

I had a good May fishing wise although I missed the best of the rises on the Mataura. I did find some small fish rising on the days I went to Wyndham and they were great fun, if a little hard to hook. I also had some good days on the Upukerora River although, other than May 31, there were not a lot of fish caught but it was a great way to finish the season.

At the June Club meeting, we have our annual photo competition. There will be a \$10 Hunting & Fishing voucher for the winner of each class so you need to be in to win. Details elsewhere in Ripples.

June meeting will also be the member's photo and video night. Bring along all the photos and videos you have taken this season (on a card or memory stick) and show us all where you have been fishing and what you have caught.

## Competitions

### Photo Competition

The annual photo competition will be held at the June meeting (Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June). There are four categories: trophy, action, scenic and general.

You can enter up to three prints in each category. These must be 7" x 5" and must be from the past season.

There will be a Hunting & Fishing gift voucher for the winner of each category.



## Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

26 <sup>th</sup> June	[MM]	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
3 <sup>th</sup> July	(CM)	Fly tying
31 <sup>st</sup> July	[AGM]	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
7 <sup>th</sup> August	(CM)	Arranging the calendar for the next season
5 <sup>th</sup> August		Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am
12/13 <sup>th</sup> August		Club day out, fishing practice – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
29 <sup>th</sup> August	[MM]	

## Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
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- 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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