

“Ripples”

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

September 2019



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippets

From Fish & Game NZ

Feds 'acknowledge need to improve water quality yet fight against rules'

12:56PM, 13 September 2019

In the face of overwhelming public opinion that farmers need to clean up after themselves, Federated Farmers has mounted an offensive to try and stop some of its members having to do just that.

Federated Farmers are still in denial that they have directly contributed to the degradation of New Zealand's long heritage of freshwater recreation, continuing to look for anyone else to blame.

This is despite the fact that researchers at Massey University, whilst examining what types of E.coli existed in the water and sediment of three major Canterbury rivers the Rangitata, Selwyn and Ashley, found that the two most common E. coli strains, 0157 and 026, only come from ruminants, such as cows.

Federated Farmers has obviously forgotten the words of its Senior Policy Advisor Darryl Sycamore, who said under oath in the Environment Court earlier this year:

"I acknowledge that we need to improve water quality now. It is clearly degraded in some locations," Mr Sycamore said on June 10.

Federated Farmers need to listen to DairyNZ Chair Jim van der Poel and Beef + Lamb NZ Chair Andrew Morrison, who in Rural News today wrote, "throwing stones, slamming our fists and stamping our feet may gain some temporary satisfaction. But in our experience, it's ineffective in advocacy, risks destroying any chance of policy gains and alienates New Zealanders."

Mr van der Poel and Mr Morrison also noted that "we don't want to be on the wrong side of history" and "we're not just thinking about tomorrow, we're thinking 20 to 30 years ahead to the next generation of farmers."

"Federated Farmers should follow this sound advice from their fellow sector leaders," Fish & Game New Zealand Chief Executive Martin Taylor says.

"Many farmers don't want to be on the wrong side of history.

"That's why they are already following good practice and taking action to reduce their impact on freshwater. The new standards should have minimal implications for these farmers.

"However, farming's bad performers are having a disproportionate effect and are severely damaging our rivers, lakes and streams, taking away the ability of Kiwis to enjoy their waterways.

"The proposals in the Government's discussion document are intended to make sure everyone contributes. It's the view of Fish & Game New Zealand that best practice should become usual mandatory practice."

A recent Colmar Brunton poll conducted for Fish & Game New Zealand showed that pollution of our rivers and lakes remains a top concern for Kiwis, with two-thirds expecting the Government to put rules and regulations in place to protect water quality. Three quarters - 77 per cent - of those surveyed said they were extremely or very concerned about the pollution of lakes and rivers.

"With Federated Farmers talking out both sides of their mouth, maybe they should start listening to the public and acting to rectify the damage they have done to New Zealand," Mr Taylor concluded.

Coming Events

We have our **Casting Day** at Queens Park on Sunday, September 29th starting at 1:00pm. This is organised as a chance to sort out your casting prior to the season or at least give you a chance to exercise your casting arm.

Our first fishing trip of the new season is the **Lodge Trip** on the first weekend of October. We normally go up to the Lodge on the Friday evening to be ready to head away first thing Saturday. Someone organises the food for all and transport is also pooled to make things easy. Recently we have gone to the Mossburn Hotel for Saturday dinner but Chris has suggested we may cook our own this trip. These Lodge trips are great as you get to fish with people you don't normally fish with and for beginners it is a chance to head out with experienced members and this is a great way to learn more about fly fishing. Where we go is worked according to river conditions, weather and ability of those that are on the trip. We won't expect you to walk long distances if that is beyond your abilities. If you are interested in coming away for the weekend or even just joining us for one day over the weekend contact Dave on 027 201 6722.

President's Report by Dave

September is a busy month for the Club with fly tying demonstrations at Hunting & Fishing, a Lodge Working Bee, a fishing trip to Te Waewae and finally our casting day on September 29th at Queens Park. So far, I have missed the first fly tying demo and the fishing trip to Te Waewae due to other activities and feeling a bit unwell (just a cold) but should make the rest.

Just a few days to the new season so hopefully you have sorted out all the flies you need, checked your gear, bought your licence and planned where you are going to go if you are going out opening day. The Club has its first Lodge trip for the season on the weekend of October 5th & 6th. We will go to the Lodge on Friday night and fish Saturday and Sunday. If you are keen to go give me a call (027 201 6722) so I can sort out the food, transport etc. Even if you can only make it for one of the days come along. It is good to get out with others, it's amazing what you can learn off other anglers. These trips are great opportunities for beginners to get out with experienced members and see how they fish.

There are a couple of things going on that I will comment on as they will be of interest to many of you. The first is a proposal to run commercial rafting trips on the Mataura, Waikaia and Oreti Rivers. I have known about this for some time as the proposal came to Fish & Game as an affected party. The operator proposes to run trips that make their way slowly down the rivers with stops to fish if they have anglers and to camp overnight. They are not allowed to fish from the rafts in the Mataura or Waikaia but it is permitted in the Oreti (not sure why this is but the rules regarding fishing from boats in Southland are pretty open). The furthest upstream trip proposed on the Mataura starts at Nokomai and this has been opposed by Fish & Game along with the proposed trips on the Waikaia due to likely conflicts with anglers. The operator has applied for resource consent for these expeditions but I understand these applications will not be notified so unfortunately the public will not get to have their say on this.

The other major item is the Government's proposals to improve water quality in our rivers and estuaries. These are very significant and will require some significant changes by the farmers with the worst polluting farm practices. There have been "consultation" meetings held, although they were very poorly publicised. In spite of this there was a huge turnout at the Invercargill meeting, mainly farmers. Unfortunately, the meeting was a farce and there was really no consultation. Two groups dominated the meeting, farmers and the group that is trying to improve the quality of the lower Waiau River. Both groups were really angry and spent a lot of time getting not much across that could be considered consultation. I had a couple of questions I wanted to ask but felt it would have been dangerous to ask anything that indicated I might consider the proposals to have any merit and that cleaning up the rivers was more important than some farmers bottom line. The farmers tried their usual tactics, divert and delay. One questioner had either not read the proposals or just wanted to divert attention with questions on why there was nothing about urban pollution when this is actually covered in the proposals. They all wanted more time to prepare submissions, anything to try and delay introduction of new rules. The Waiau group probably had cause to be concerned because the Government's proposals don't do anything to control the major hydro generators, leaving them alone in the interests of renewable electricity generation.

It is in our interests to make a submission on this and, if Fish & Game have your email address, you will have received an email from them detailing how to make a submission. In case you haven't here is their website for forwarding submissions <http://saveourstreams.nz>. They have been getting a strong response with over 450 submissions going through the website to MfE by Friday 13th September. You have until October 31st to get your submission in. The more submissions the better as it is important to show support for the initiatives to improve the state of our rivers. You can be sure the farming community will make sure they have plenty of submissions trying to dilute the proposals so they can continue farming the way they are doing it now.

What will happen in Southland will be interesting as, of the total of 14 rivers mentioned that require immediate reduction in nitrogen levels, five of these are in Southland, namely the Oreti, Aparima, Mataura, Waihopai Rivers and the Waimatuku Stream. There will need to be immediate action for farmers in these catchments under the proposals. This shows how poorly the Southland Regional Council has been managing land use and river condition. I guess this isn't surprising when 50% of the elected members of the Southland Regional Council are farmers and another is a retired farmer. Their Water & Land Plan is still before the Environment Court but I suspect it will now require significant changes to comply with the new National Standards. Unfortunately, enforcement of the new regulations will still come under the Regional Councils and we know how well that has been working locally.

Lodge Working Bee by Dave.

We had a working bee at the Lodge on September 14th and this was well attended. We had David, Allan, Simon, Jake and myself there. The main project was to replace the lino in the kitchen. This occupied three of us for most of the day. Other tasks to be carried out included weed cutting and weed killing to try and control the grass, shampooing the carpet and painting the door. Unfortunately, we didn't get a chance to paint the door as there was too much other activity with the floor work and David couldn't get his carpet shampooer to work so those two jobs remain to be completed later. Allan had quite a bit of trouble with the weed-eater but did manage to get quite a bit done.

The good news is that the kitchen floor looks really good. We decided to lift the old lino as it was just sitting there and install laminate flooring. This went pretty well with Simon measuring and cutting, Jake handling the sections while I did the actual installation. Simon and Jake then installed new skirting while I battled with the edging in the doorways and cupboards. I was a bit worried that I had purchased more skirting than required but we needed some of the last length. It would have been a pain to have not got that completed so I was glad of the last length. We had one final issue when we couldn't get the range plug back in. It just would not slip into the contacts and finally I chamfered the corners of the pins a little and in it went.

Somehow, I finished up with all the rubbish (off cuts and old lino) in my trailer so it meant a trip to the tip the following day. There didn't look to be much and I loaded into the Jeep rather than take the trailer. According to the scales there was 70kg but that seems a bit high to me.

Thanks to Simon, Jake, David and Allan for their attendance and to Murray for offering to come as well. I didn't think we had enough work for another person so didn't take him up on his offer.



Simon laying the underlay for the flooring.



The finished floor looking really good. No more dirty boots inside please.

Annual Fish Competition by Dave

The Club Fishing Competitions this year take the same form as in the past. This is an honesty competition where you hand in your cards at the monthly meetings (or any other time you can find me). You were given 7 cards when you paid your subscription and that is one card for each month of the season. You can put more in but you will need to buy more cards from the Secretary to make it through the season. All cards go into a draw at the meeting for a H&F gift voucher.

There are 4 sections – heaviest brown, heaviest rainbow, total weight and condition factor. The first two are easy to figure out, total weight is the total for one fish per month (hence the seven cards) and the condition factor is based on the length and weight of the fish.

Calculation is:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight}}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}} \times 100000$$

Weight is in pounds and length is in inches

If you use metric instead of imperial measures it looks like this:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight}}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}} \times 3612.8$$

Weight is in grams and length is in cm.

A very good fish gives a condition factor of 60 – 70. If this calculation gives numbers over this I get very suspicious of the data.

There is also a Junior Competition and this is based on taking part in Club activities. Points are awarded for attending meetings, coming out on Club trips, putting in fish cards each month, entering the photo competition and entering flies in the fly tying competition.

There will be a one night photo competition at the end of the season with 4 classes – scenic, trophy, action and general. So remember to take your camera and take plenty of photos.

Fly Tying Competition by Dave

The August fly was the Spotlight fly. Members were given a selection of materials that came from Spotlight, along with a hook. They had to use all but one of the materials to create their fly (which is more of a work of art than a fly). We had eight flies entered which is really good as John only handed out 8 kits so they all came back. Some of the materials were a little challenging to incorporate in a fly but all manged. Joint winners were Dave and Simon. The fly for September is Simon's cicada (see August Ripples).



Dave's Fly

Winning Flies



Simon's Fly



The other flies



Fly Tying Demonstration - Hunting & Fishing September 7th

On 7 September John Day and Chris McDonald spent a couple of hours at Hunting and Fishing, Invercargill tying flies and promoting the club. It wasn't too busy but had some interest in the casting day and the course. One of last years course members took the details so he could pay his sub on-line.

Cover Photo

John Day and Chris McDonald giving a fly tying demonstration at Hunting and Fishing on September 7th.

Te Waewae Day Trip 8th September by Chris

A team of 6 headed out on the club trip to Te Wae Wae. Dayne and Murray headed out early so Dayne could launch his kayak before the tide dropped too far. When Chris, Julie, Daniel and Joel arrive Murray had headed into the distance and Dayne was preparing his kayak having already spooked the trout in the small inlets.

When we reassembled for lunch Chris and Julie had each landed a fish and most of the others had managed a hook up. Yes, a fish that is on the bank but flips back into the water when you put the rod down counts as landed. You just didn't get to weigh it. Most of the fish had been sighted close to the edges.

Murray and Dayne headed away after lunch as the tide was dropping fast. Joel and Chris headed east to towards the top of the lagoon. Joel landed two and Chris was lucky to catch a fish that swam within half a rod length of him and took the woolly bugger after it had turned around and headed away.

A couple of locals had arrived just after lunch to go spin fishing and one of them proceed to catch a nice fish at the boat ramp. He also proceeded to land more weed in half an hour than we did for the whole day.

Only five fish landed this trip but it is always a good place for a pre-season trip. The weather was cold and overcast for most of the day making spotting difficult but when the sun came out for a while conditions were great. Roll on 1 October.



Dayne taking his kayak on its maiden voyage

Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

19th Sept		Hunting & Fishing Fisherman's night
21 st Sept	Demo	Fly Tying demonstration at Hunting & Fishing
24 th Sept	MM	Fish & Game speaker
29 th Sept		Casting Day at Queens Park 1:00pm
1 st Oct		Opening Day
1 st Oct	CM	Fly tying
5/6 th Oct		Lodge Trip [Weekend at the Lodge]
13 th Oct		Club Day Trip meet at Fish & Game – 7am
29 th Oct	MM	Speaker – Julie Cook
30 th Oct		Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722

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 (03 215 6068) dcharris@southnet.co.nz
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733)
mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz
- Editor Vacant - Send articles to Dave Harris dcharris@southnet.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 (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



Disclaimer:

The opinions or views expressed in this newsletter, are those of the respective authors, and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Southland Fly Fishing Club. The Editor takes no responsibility for the factual content of this publication.