

# “Ripples”

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

October 2019



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



*Southland Fly  
Fishing Club*

## President's Report by Dave

Well we made it through a very busy September and on into the new season.

We had a stand at the Hunting & Fishing Annual Freshwater Fishing Evening and attracted some attention along with one new member. Special thanks to Gerald for having us along at the evening and to Sarah, John and Chris who manned the stand. Two days later Chris and I were back at Hunting & Fishing for another fly-tying demonstration. We had a bit of interest in the casting day and the fly-fishing course.

The casting day turned out to be a good day with a break in the weather. We had a lot of interest from new fly fishers as well as at least one experienced angler who was keen to join the Club. At one stage all five of the Club rods were being used so hopefully we will see some of these people again in the future. We also had a good turnout of Club members – a good day.

Two days later opening day arrived after a pretty poor day weather wise on the Monday. Simon and I headed to my usual opening day river. The forecast wasn't too bad and the river levels in general looked okay although there is no information available for the river we were visiting. There was plenty of water in the river but it was nice and clear and not too difficult to cross. Simon got the day off to a good start with a nice rainbow and I was soon into a brown. Unfortunately, he came unhooked when I had to lean on him to stop him getting into some trees. Not long after I had a brown I that had spotted come up and take the dry fly I was using as an indicator and he came to the net so I was on the board as well. From here we continued to spot and catch fish (as well as drop them in my case). The browns were in very good condition but the rainbows were pretty battered looking. Spawning must be tough. We were two happy anglers when we returned to the car after a good day.

I also made the Lodge trip with Simon, Chris & Joel. There is a report on this elsewhere in this Ripples. Since then I have only managed a couple of days out, both with John from Rangiora. The first of these days we fished the Upper Oreti but due to wind, overcast skies and a bit of rain we had a really hard time spotting fish before they spotted us. I had one hook up but the hook pulled as I was trying to manoeuvre it into slower water for netting. The second day was on a small stream and we had a better day. Once again early on spotting was difficult, but nowhere near as difficult as the day before. However, as we progressed up the stream spotting improved. We managed three fish by lunch and called it quits as we were fast running out of river. We headed to the Oreti at Lumsden but there was really too much water and there was another angler ahead of us who had fished the slower bits under the willows. We didn't stay long as John had a flight to catch.

What have we got coming up? Julie will be telling us all about her trip to Ireland at the October meeting, there is a mid-week trip the next day (give me a call on 027 201 6722 if you want to come). The following weekend is the November Lodge trip. I am not sure who will be there but I will be heading up Thursday night as the Friday is the 1<sup>st</sup> November, high country opening day. Once again if you are keen to join us give me a call.



Dave with a nice opening day rainbow

## Good Start to the Season by Julie

Since returning from ROI and drift boat fishing I have eagerly awaited the opening of this year's fishing season and the promise of increased numbers of fish. Opening day this year saw me at Transmission Line Rd as Wreys Bush was already taken both sides of the bridge. Two anglers (Father and Son maybe) seemed to be doing well on the western side of the river with their spin rods and I sat and watched awhile as they took a few nice fish. I found it bitterly cold despite ducking in and out of the car during the hail storms. I was thrilled in such bad conditions to get a nice looking trout and enjoyed playing it for a good while before it managed to get off. Hmm memories of Te Waewae came flooding back, those of you that went on that trip will also remember my nice fish that got away. Still a take and a play is enough to keep the adrenalin flowing. Heading home I vowed to get further up county later in the week as I hear the water was remaining clear.

A big change for me this season is that I have purchased an emergency location beacon so feel a little safer heading out on my own. I do prefer to fish with others but at this point so few are available to go fishing on my available days (Mondays and Fridays and 1/2 days Tuesdays and Wednesdays). Please keep me in mind if planning to go these days.

By Thursday I heard that the Mataura was still reasonably clear around Garston despite the heavy rain and forecasted for more over the weekend. I have fond memories of a mighty mornings fishing above the Garston bridge last year with Dave and Chris where we had five fish lined up on a shelf waiting for us. So, Friday morning I eagerly headed North in 4° temps- What a day I had, the temp rose to 13° and was very pleasant even with a little hatch in the afternoon.

Early in the day the water remained reasonable clear running at 6 cumecs and I didn't have to walk far to see these awesome shadows in the water (were they logs or little fish?) It was cloudy and still a bit difficult to spot for me but great practice. Eventually, once my eyes adjusted, I saw so many I couldn't count them. Not long after I had what I thought was a little fish take on a decent sized nymph. I lifted the line and when it eventually surfaced I almost died of shock at its size and stood like a stunned mullet before getting into action, unfortunately all my reeling and the fish dancing ended in another loss....I was to say the least, frustrated to lose the third fish I'd had on for the season so far.

Within the hour I had another take this time on an artificial beaded worm and again I thought it was little, that was until my 5wt rod with a 5lb tippet was being dragged all over the river with me in rampant pursuit. I'm afraid many negative pictures flashed through my mind and I could not envisage a good ending to this as my mind danced through the scenarios watching my rod bending double and wishing I had my 6 or 7wt. Even more so when I saw the size of the nice brown I had. I have never ever been so cautious, constantly using my drag so he could run when he felt like it, holding the line up and trying not to jerk when reeling in. I gingerly kept steering him away from the furthest point of the far bank where he was headed for the trees, only to have him instantly run for the trees on the near side. This drama went on for what seemed like an eternity (maybe 20mins) before I got him in. I could not believe I actually had him. He felt like the heaviest fish I have ever held, was so pleased there was someone there to take my photos. I decided he was a keeper as who would believe if I didn't take this one home. He was a very long fish at 26.5" but appeared to weigh just over 4lbs, after gutting him and taking him home and processing him I re weighed him and the processed trout meat still weighted over 4lbs - I might add those free giveaway scales when I got my fishing license I am blaming as they are very coarse. But just maybe it was me as I was so excited, buzzing and leaping around how accurately did I measure him. I am feeling very proud of my catch and the more I think about it the bigger he becomes. I'm hopeful but unsure if I will ever catch a bigger fish than this one and how I would ever manage it if I did. Need to keep the practice up, I think. Later that night with feet 6 inches off the ground I called into the fishing lodge to do a skite with the biggest fish I have ever caught on a fly line and unfortunately the club members had not arrived up for their weekend's fishing at the time I called in. So, I had to settle for sending photos and facebook. I will be very interested in what the club members think its original weight might have been. I acknowledge its small by comparison to the club trophy fish members catch but to me it was enormous and I'm still buzzing when I think about it.

## Cover Photo

Julie with her Mataura brown.

## October Lodge Trip by Joel

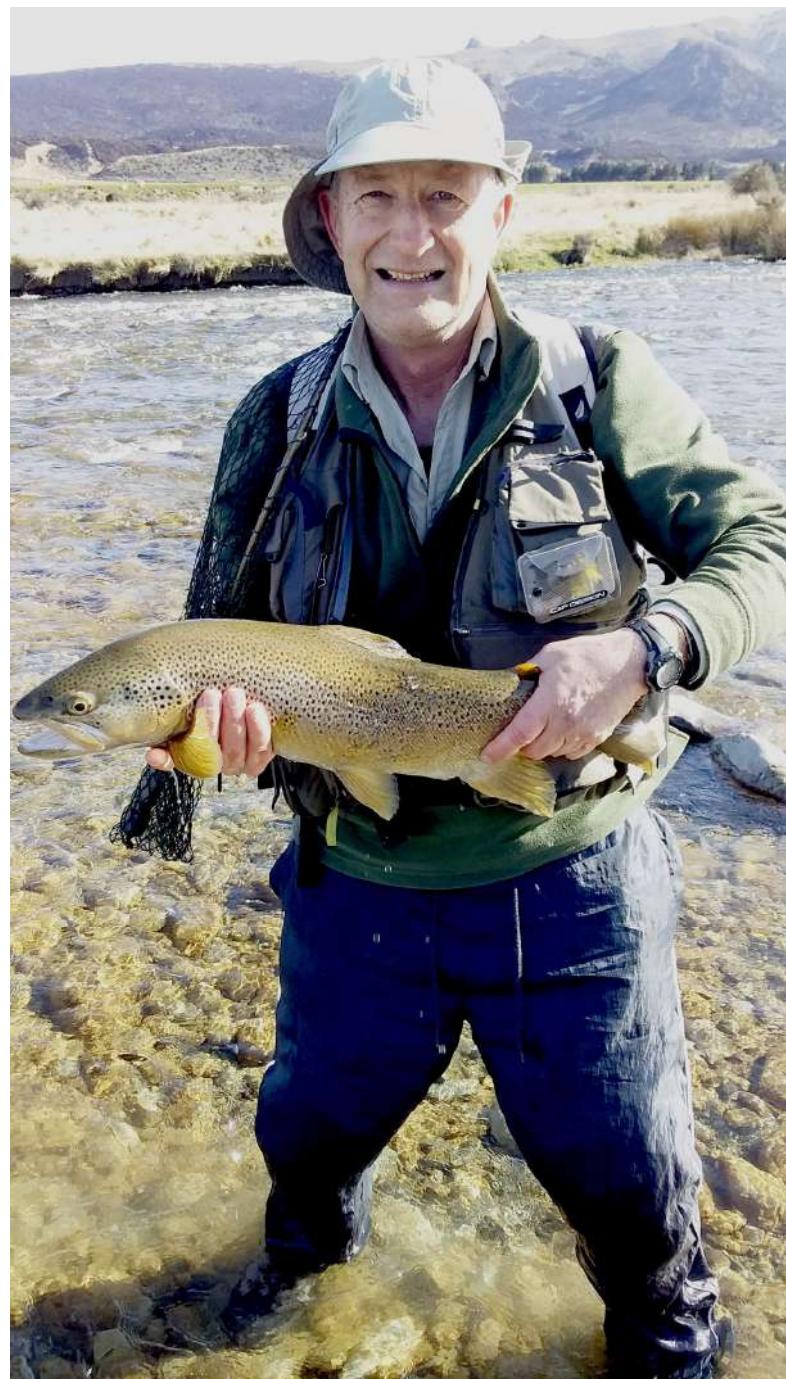
The first lodge trip for the season saw Chris, Dave, Simon, and I head out early on Saturday in search of some clean water. Weatherman Dave's report wasn't very heartening with over 100 mm of rain recorded overnight in some of the catchments. We headed West from the lodge where the weather forecast looked slightly hopeful for the day. Dave and Simon had already managed a highly successful trip for the season earlier in the week, but for Chris and myself this was the 1<sup>st</sup> fishing trip for the season.

Chris and I began in the Mararoa with a river that looked fishable. Over the coming hours the river became increasingly difficult to sight fish with water becoming more and more dirty. We headed back to the car having had very few opportunities at fish and nothing hooked. Back at the car we headed up to South Mavora Lake where we ran into Dave and Simon who had also had to pull out of their plans to fish the Upper Oreti. We all fished the lake for the afternoon in very changeable weather – spots of sunshine dispersed with periods of hail and a stiff wind coming from the South. The day ended with a fish each to Dave and Simon, with Simon showing how persistence pays off, catching a nice 6 lb rainbow just as he was about to turn back.

Starry skies on Saturday night meant we woke to a solid frost on Sunday morning. Another early start meant we were able to head back west to fish the Upper Oreti fishery. Chris and I found an unoccupied beat immediately, but with Dave and Simon finding most of the beats occupied before they eventually ended up with a place to fish. They had a cracker day between them, landing 12 browns, with Simon extending his reputation as having an eye for big fish when he landed 4 trout over the 6 lb mark, the biggest over 7 lb. Chris and I enjoyed a "bluebird" day on our beat. A crisp start, no wind, clear sunshine, and a river that had cleared overnight made sight fishing possible. Our 1<sup>st</sup> fish each for the season were landed at the same time, with simultaneous hook ups about 40 m away from each other. Chris landed a 5 ½ lb brown, and a 4 lb brown was landed to start my season. Over the day we landed another 3 fish between us, and you couldn't wipe the smile off my face with a personal best 5 ½ lb brown landed from a nice pool where the fish came up for a weighted blood worm. Green caddis and stone fly nymphs seemed to be the fly of choice between us all, with most of Dave's 7 fish for the day being caught on his green stone fly pattern. Credit to Chris who didn't drown me when a good brown broke off his line after I had tried to fish it out from under a bank – the line caught on my gloves and as the fish ran the tippet broke. Sorry Chris!

Overall a great lodge trip to start the season. What a great facility we have as a club and I'd encourage more members to make the most of it.

Chris with a nice Oreti brown caught on the Lodge Trip.



## Competitions by Dave

### Fly Tying Competition

The final fly of the competition was a cicada. We only had five flies in the competition and the clear winner was Simon with a very nice tie.

Simon's cicada.



### Fish Competition

The fish competition for the season is well underway and it looks like some good fish have already been landed by those who have been out. Remember to get your cards to me before or at the meeting to go into the draw for the Hunting & Fishing voucher at the meeting. If you are late with your card it will go into the next draw.

## Fish & Game Angler's Notice by Dave

Every three years the Southland Fish & Game Council reviews the trout fishing regulations for Southland. This is happening this year and I have seen some of the proposals but missed the last Fish & Game Council Meeting so haven't caught up with exactly what is going to be proposed.

The proposals are just that and feedback is requested from anglers along with any other suggestions anglers have for regulation changes. There is some time for this process to take place as it is a while before the final decisions are made. Keep an eye out for the proposals and have your say on the matter. I should have full details for the November Ripples so will put anything I get in that. Don't be afraid to have your say on the regulations.

## Casting Day by Dave

We had a good turn out for our annual casting day at Queens Park. Most of the members of the public that came had not fly fished before so it was great to see them out having a go at casting. Hopefully we will see some of these people on our Fly Fishing Course in January, and hopefully along to join us on some of our trips.



Casting day at Queens Park.  
Foreground - Simon explaining to a first timer how it is done, Julie talking to a couple while in the background Chris takes another beginner out to start casting.

## Early Season Photos



Joel on the Oreti during the Lodge Trip. Above hooked up, and below landed.



John with a small stream brown.

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

29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	MM	Speaker – Julie Cook
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov		High Country Opening (Friday)
2/3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov		LodgeTrip - High Country Opening – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	CM	Fly Tying
10 <sup>th</sup> Nov		<b><u>Club Day Trip</u></b> meet at Fish & Game – 7am
26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	MM	
27 <sup>th</sup> Nov		Mid-week trip - Julie Cook 027 630 2949
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	CM	Fly Tying
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec		<b><u>Club Day Trip</u></b> , Catlins – Meet at Fish & Game 7:00am

## 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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- Editor                   Vacant - Send articles to Dave Harris [dcharris@southnet.co.nz](mailto: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](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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