

“Ripples”

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

November 2019



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

I am writing this early due to my busy schedule for November. I will actually only be home for 3 days during November so that doesn't leave much time to do anything. At least 12 of the days I am away will be fishing days so, hopefully, I will get to catch a few fish. December looks a lot better as I come home on the 1st and don't have any other trips planned at this stage. With a bit of luck, the weather will be better by then as well.

Unfortunately, October weather continued with belts of rain followed by fine days but most of the time the main rivers were too high to fish. When I have got out and caught fish, they have been in pretty good condition so that is good but it has been tough having the time to go fishing but bad weather and high rivers stopping me from going. Over the Lodge weekend the fish Chris and I caught in the Mataura, while still good fish were not in quite as good condition as some from other rivers. In contrast to that we got some excellent condition fish on the Sunday. At least we had fine weather over the weekend but there was quite a bit of wind and still some colour in some of the rivers.

I have had a couple of reports of fish with numbers of mice in their stomach. These have been caught in the Hollyford and Upper Waiau, both rivers that have a lot of native bush along their edges. Looks like there is a bit of a mouse plague so it may be worth fishing the bush-clad rivers to see what you can catch. I expect to have some big fish entered in the Club competition this year.

While I haven't done much fishing, I have made a couple of trips to Wyndham to show some of the Menzies College students (and teachers) how to tie flies. So far we have only looked at hare & copper nymphs but I have had a report that one of the flies tied during these lessons has been used successfully.

The October Club trip did not attract any takers due to the conditions and the mid-week trip was also cancelled due to both weather and river conditions. Hopefully we will manage to get together for the Club trip on November 10th (although I won't be there) and Julie will be taking the mid-week trip on November 27th.

We had a trip to Lake Alexandrina scheduled for February but unfortunately the accommodation we use is not available. At this stage we are considering a trip to Gunn's Camp in the Hollyford instead. There is the Hollyford River to fish as well as Lakes Gunn and Fergus and the top end of the Eglinton River.

Julie has had a booking pencilled in for a trip to the Pomahaka River in April. See her information elsewhere in this Ripples. I am keen to go, as is Julie so we will need two more at least to make it work.

I know it seems early but this is the last Ripples for the year so I wish all the best for the festive season. See if you can get out and catch some of those big fish.



Day 2 of the Lodge weekend. A nice spring morning on the river.

Cover Photo by Dave

Chris hooked up with the first fish of the day on the Saturday of the November Lodge weekend.



Proposed Angler Notice changes 2020-2022

The Southland Fish & Game Council is reviewing the Angler's Notice that sets rules for fishing for trout & salmon in the Southland Region for the season beginning October 2020, and for two seasons after that.

The Council at its October 2019 meeting has considered a series of changes and now seeks further input from Anglers.

- 1) A bag limit of two trout across all Southland waterbodies.**
- 2) Lakes Fergus, Gunn & Hankinson be open to fishing all year.**
- 3) That all methods (fly, spin and bait) are permitted in all Southland waterbodies.**
- 4) That the season for the Windon Burn be changed to 1st November – 31st May to keep in line with other rainbow fisheries.**
- 5) That the Worsley & Clinton Rivers be managed with a booking system.**

Submissions on these suggestions must be received by the Council by **Monday 20th January 2020.**

Please send submissions to PO Box 159, Invercargill 9840.
or email to cheryl.mason@southlandfishgame.co.nz

Those wishing to speak to Council on their submission, at the 4th February 2020 meeting, should identify so in their submission.

Comments on F&G Angler Notice by Dave

The above notice is the start of the procedure to set the regulations for the next 3 fishing seasons. The bag limit change is an increase on some rivers and a decrease on others. This along with the proposal to allow all methods everywhere is an attempt to simplify the regulations so anglers don't need to try and figure out what the rules are for where they are fishing. The change to the season for the lakes mentioned is to put them in line with the other lakes in the region.

If you have any comments on these changes, either for or against, or any other suggested changes to the fishing regulations please send them to Fish & Game at the address above.

Proposed Hukarere Fishing Trip – April 17-19. 2020 by Julie

The Pomahaka River runs through the property of Hukarere Station and is renowned for its Brown Trout fly-fishing and late season Sea Salmon. This is for fishers wanting to fish the pristine clear waters of the Pomahaka River in remote surroundings.

Walk out of your accommodation onto the riverbank and take your choice of fishing up stream or down

The following is available:

PACKAGES AND PRICES

UNGUIDED FISHING:

Exclusive Round Hill hut accommodation

Unguided fishing \$300/night for 4 people. Minimum stay 2 nights.

Additional persons \$50 per person per night

GUIDED FISHING:

Full day \$700

We can also arrange helicopter trips to fish other rivers if you would like.

Accommodation

A refurbished musterer's hut, with 2 bedrooms, located on the upper Pomahaka riverbank.

It has open plan living and dining area and opens onto a deck. All beds are bunks with inner-sprung mattresses. The beds can be single or made into king (if spouses are interested in coming). All linen is provided accompanied with a cosy duvet. You need to bring your own towel and toiletries

The kitchen is fully equipped with: a gas oven, 3 way fridge, BBQ on the deck, cutlery, pots, plates, coffee plunger, tea towels, wine and beer glasses, items for washing up and a lot more.

The hut has a flush toilet and shower. Hydro power electricity and running water.

There are chairs and a table for outside dining and a shade sail providing cover from sun and rain. An outside couch and bean bags provide options for relaxing and enjoying the peaceful evenings.

There are magazines, cards, board games, stereo and a cricket set for your enjoyment.

All facilities are there to help you relax, enjoy the company of other fishers and to reflect on your day's achievements.

The upper Pomahaka is a back country fishery so Otago back country licence endorsement is required from Fish and Game.

Quintin and Rebecca Hazlett (Directors) live at Hukarere Station. They have 3 children, Olivia, Jack and Toby. Hukarere Station is New Zealand's largest organic sheep and cattle farm. The property is currently running 11,000 sheep and 2,000 cattle on 20,000 acres ranging from 1200m to 250m. It is a 2 hr drive from Invercargill or 1hr 5min from Gore.



Proposed Hukarere Fishing Trip – April 17-19. 2020 cont.

The address is 919 Hukarere Station Rd. Can go via Waikaka or Heriot on Switzers Rd on to Hukarere Station Rd.

This is a very special fishing place and only accessible via the directors. I have seen the trout in the pool outside the door of the Round Hill Hut and they have to be seen to be believed. We are very fortunate to get a tentative booking during April which is the peak fishing season at this location. It is currently being held for us until the end of November.

The hut holds 8 and we need minimum of 4 definites to commit. The price is \$75 PP per night. May be slightly cheaper if more go. There will be shared petrol costs for those going in cars plus shared food costs.

It has been suggested that someone who is very good at cooking fish on the BBQ may be interested and also someone who is excellent on cooking a bacon and egg breakfast may also have an interest....We have a lunch maker already committed.

Please contact Julie on 0276302949 very quickly if you wish to go on this unique opportunity.

To confirm your place a \$50 deposit is required before the end of November . (In the case of not getting the numbers required by the end of November the \$50 will be refunded.)

The proposed plan is that groups will travel up on the Friday at whatever time suits, with potential fishing from when we arrive Friday until we leave on Sunday. As you will read in the above information if anyone wanted a guide this can be arranged and will cost an additional \$350 each for a shared days guided fishing. Some newer members may be interested in this and considerably cheaper than hiring a guide for a day on your own. If interested in this option please let me know.

The price of \$75 pn that I have given above is for unguided fishing.

PS: This does not replace the Waitangi fishing trip but is in addition to this and other already planned events.

November Lodge Trip Days 1 & 2 by Dave

With November 1 being a Friday the lodge trip was extended to 3 days. Julie, Chris and I arrived at the lodge on Thursday night. Julie was first there so had to get everything sorted out with instructions from both of us over the phone.

Friday morning saw an early start and off to Chris' favourite high country river. There were a couple of parties there already when we got there. We split into two groups with Julie and myself taking some easier water and Chris heading to his usual spot. Unfortunately fish were few and far between with only 4 being spotted for the morning. All four were hooked along with another couple blind fishing but only two were landed, rainbows about 2 lb. We then headed upstream to where one of the other parties had started for a quick look. Four more fish were spotted but only one was fished to and it was already moving up so didn't take anything. Time to head back to the lodge for the night.

Saturday morning and we split with Julie heading to one of her favourite spots on one of the main rivers before heading home at the end of the day and Chris and I heading to a tributary stream. All looked good so we got set up, dropped down a bit and started fishing. Shortly afterwards we came around a corner to see another car parked beside the river and other anglers fishing. We were not happy to say the least. Back to the car and off to another spot. We hadn't gone far when we came across another car stopped in the middle of the track with the driver (a guide) out of the car while his clients watched another angler fishing a pool.

We headed down to the main river and set off upstream. There were fish to be seen in both the river and some gravel extraction ponds but see them was all we could do. They just weren't interested in what we had on. Finally Chris managed to hook and land a nice fish. I followed up with one myself and then we managed a double hook up. Chris got a bit of extra exercise with his fish as it hit the fast water and was away down the river. He eventually landed it. That made our tally for the day 4 fish between 4 lb and 4^{3/4} lb and we decided we had had enough and headed back down the road. It was a long hot walk back to the car and we decided a quick dip in the river was in order before heading back to the lodge and then onto the Mossburn pub for dinner.

November Lodge Trip Day 3 by Joel

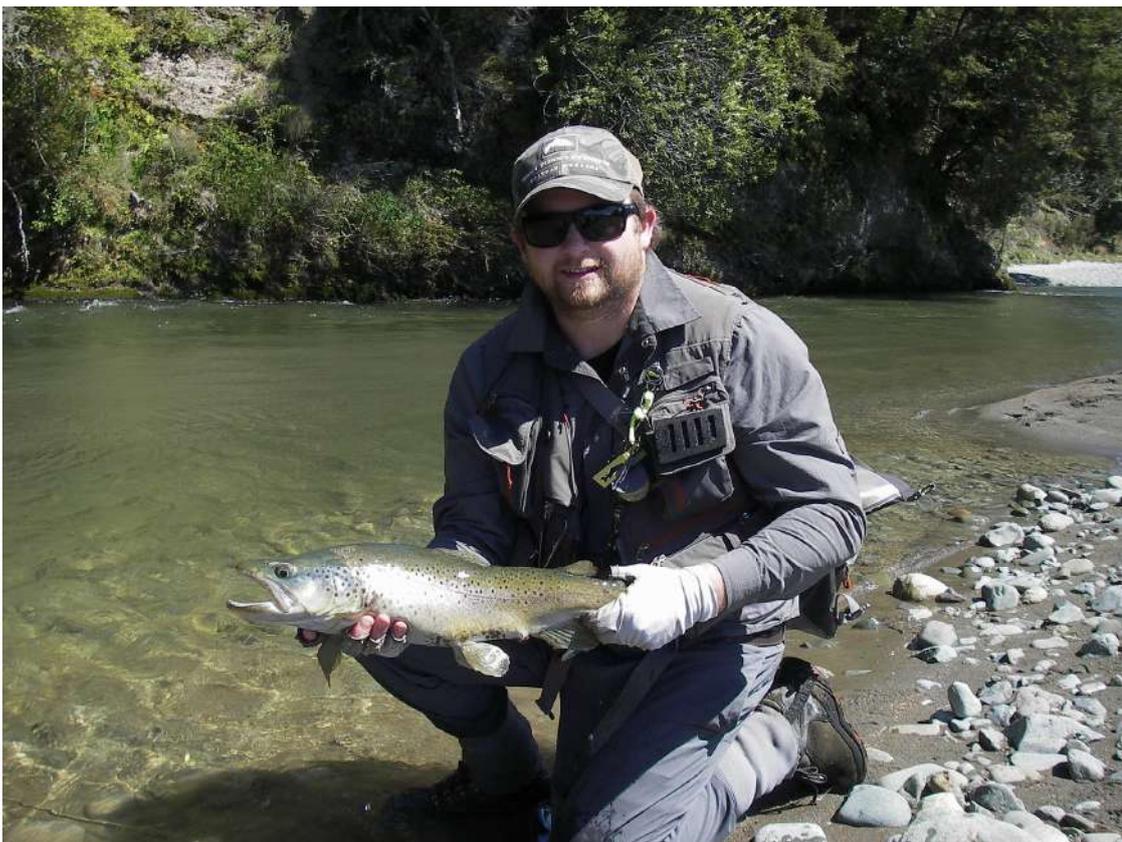
I met up with Dave and Chris early on Sunday morning of the November lodge trip. Our destination was in the Te Anau area so it was good to hit the road early. A steady wind had blown through the night but a hot day was forecast. Rivers had been clearing after one of the wettest Springs in the south in many years. I hadn't been in to this particular part of the river before so there was some keen anticipation on my part. I had spent the last couple of weeks at my fly tying vice and was keen to try out a green stone fly pattern that Dave had given to me, as other patterns had proved quite tricky and time consuming to tie.

We geared up and were on the river before 8 o'clock with a steady north westerly wind already blowing over our shoulders. Spotting conditions were difficult over the first couple of hours, although we managed to pick off a couple of browns feeding close to high banks. Fish seemed delighted to accept our fly offerings, with very few refusals, and most trout taking the nymph on the first pass.

As the sun rose higher sighting conditions improved. We fished carefully through several nice pools, one of which produced a beautiful 7 lb brown which Dave coaxed into his net. The pool of the day was a long one running 30 m or so alongside a steep cliff bank. It appeared to have 6 or more trout deep underneath the foam line feeding, most of which looked of a good size. A large rainbow took one of my nymphs and busted off shortly afterwards much to my disappointment. I don't think I had ever felt head shakes so wild or strong on the end of my 5 weight rod before, the energy of the fish was amazing. The tippet had broken where it was tied onto the leader, perhaps a good lesson to re-tie those important connections every couple of hours or after each fish landed. My disappointment certainly didn't put Dave off who immediately latched onto a 6½ lb brown from the same pool.

In all, 12 fish between 2 and 7 lb were caught between the three of us in what was a glorious Southland day. None of the fish were very long, however their condition was exceptional with huge bellies and impressive humps behind the head. From memory Dave's 7 lb fish was only 23 inches long. Dave's green stone fly pattern landed the vast majority of fish, with the odd one caught on hare's ear, hare and copper, or green caddis nymphs. Nothing on the dry this time.

It was a long hot walk out to the vehicle. I had hoped to find my nippers and scissors on the way back which I had lost next to the river somewhere. One of my zingers had unknowingly snapped after changing a fly at some point. I never found them but it was hardly going to put a dampener on the day - a great day out in a beautiful part of the country.



Joel with a nice brown from "the pool" on day 3 of the lodge trip.

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

26 th Nov	MM	
27 th Nov		Mid-week trip - Julie Cook 027 630 2949
3 rd Dec	CM	Fly Tying
8 th Dec		Club Day Trip , Catlins – Meet at Fish & Game 7:00am
18 th Dec		Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
12 th Jan		Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game – 7am
14 th Jan		On the River, Tuesday straight after work, Coal Pit Rd
25/26 th Jan		Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel.
28 th Jan	MM	
29 th Jan		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.ccmd@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



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