

“Ripples”

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

April 2020



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

Well no fishing for the past month due to lockdown. However, we will drop to alert level 3 shortly and fishing is permitted at level 3 but there will be restrictions on how far you can go. Locally the bottom reaches of the rivers are open all year so they will be fair game and the Mataura from Gore down is open until the end of May. You may need to watch out for the opening weekend of the duck shooting season on the Mataura if that happens before the end of May. This is possible but will depend on the alert levels as hunting is not permitted at level 3.

Instead of fishing, I have been tying a few flies. I have organised a fly swap on the NZ Fly Fishing Forum but forums aren't what they used to be with most people now posting on Facebook instead. I only managed to get 7 others for the fly swap but at least two of us have tied two different patterns. My two were green stonefly nymphs and damsel fly nymphs. I had run out of my nice olive natural fur that I used for dubbing these and hadn't managed to find any more. In the end Brendon at Hunting and Fishing got me some awesome possum in olive and this has turned out pretty good. I could find plenty of olive dubbing but it all had some form of flashy material and I didn't want that. I asked Mike Weddell what he used for his damsel flies (I tie his pattern) and he said he was using antron but that is too flashy for me.

I have also been trying to go for walks but have been a bit slack and need to go every day and need to go a bit further to ensure I will be fit enough to go fishing when I am allowed to. Unfortunately, I have found the lock down to make me feel really restricted and not being able to go and get what I need for projects at home has been frustrating. I have been working on one of my cars and need parts and some assistance would have been great (and safer for some heavy lifting) but I have managed on my own. It will be great when I can take bits away to get repaired so I can start reassembly.

All Club activities are still cancelled until we come out of lock down and get down to alert level 2. I am hopeful we may get to that stage next month, but in the meantime, there are no Club meetings or trips.

Our competitions will continue and hopefully we will have them all sorted by July in time for the AGM and prize giving.

It is sad to report that one of our ex-members met with an untimely death recently. Ben McLean was a member of the committee in 1988-89 and was Ripples editor 1990-1992. He remained a member until 2002. Ben was killed by a stag on his farm at Makarewa.

Competitions by Dave

I have not received the fish cards for February as the February meeting was our barbeque at Coal Pit Road and we haven't had a meeting since. I will only be accepting one card for March and April so this year you will only have six fish count towards the Masters Cup. That fish can have been caught in either March or April (provided we are allowed to go fishing before the end of April). We all had a pretty good chance to catch a March fish so if you managed that you have one for the competition. I will collect the cards at the first opportunity and will have a couple of draws for Hunting and Fishing vouchers once that happens (hopefully at the May meeting). The fly competition will run as normal with the hope that we can judge the first fly at the May meeting. If that is not possible, we will judge each month's fly as soon as possible. If it means judging two or three on the same night so be it. Details of the fly for May later in this Ripples.

Cover Photo by Dave

A lovely Southland stream. Wouldn't it be good to be allowed to go there and fish.

Upper Mararoa Trip - February 2020 by Dave

The last few years I have tried to get to the Mararoa above North Mavora in February. Some years I have made it and some I haven't for various reasons. This year was one that we made it.

Cole and I set off on a fine Wednesday morning with the boat in tow and plenty of supplies on board. When we arrived at the lake there was a school party there from Fiordland College and they were learning to kayak on the lake but were well out of our way so we launched the boat and headed up the lake to Careys Hut which was to be our home for three nights. There were also 6 boat trailers parked by the ramp when there is normally no one there during the week. Fortunately, they were not at or planning to use the hut.

As you will remember the start of February was very wet with major flooding. Mavora did not miss out on this and both lakes were quite coloured, making spotting fish quite difficult. Fortunately, the Mararoa was quite clear and not carrying a huge amount of water.

We had lunch before we headed out fishing and by this time the wind was starting to come up. Wind was a problem all trip, much worse than forecast. The drop-off where the Mararoa flows in is a favourite spot of mine but it was deeper with a lower flow than expected. There was a clear section in the otherwise bluish lake and this looked to be an ideal place to find fish. After a while we decided to move on as nothing was eating our flies, so up the river we headed. Spotting conditions were difficult and the only fish we spotted was a brown that was already on its way. Further up I had a take on the dry fly by a nice rainbow but it only stayed attached for a short time. No more action so back to the hut for the night.

The second day we were away earlier but conditions were not great - windy and overcast. A quick fish at the outlet, then on up the river. Spotting was really difficult but shortly after Cole said any fish spotted in these conditions would be very unlucky, I spotted a brown sitting behind a stone mid-stream. The wind made casting difficult but eventually I landed the nymph in the right place and the fish obligingly took it. It weighed 4¼lbs and I suspect it was the fish we had seen the previous day. It was certainly in the right spot. We continued up the river, spotting a few fish but not managing to catch anything. We decided to head back down and have a look in the lake. On the way down we came across a group of pack rafters. They had paddled up the lake and a couple of hundred yards up the river. Their plan was to pack up the rafts and walk up to Boundary Hut for the night and then raft back down the river the next morning. We headed back to the boat and went up to the very top of the lake. No fish were spotted but Cole landed a little rainbow that was just the right size for an entrée. It finished up in the smoker and was very tasty.

Day three and our plan was to fish the bottom of the river until the rafters came down and then fish around the outlet for the rest of the day. Once again spotting conditions were difficult and while we spotted a couple of fish in the river nothing was hooked. Near the outlet I managed to spot a few fish in the lake and some of them were rising. I had one take the dry but missed it and that was our lot for the day.

On the final day we decided we would go further up the river so didn't fish the lower section. I had a look at a couple of spots we had seen fish on the previous two days but spotted nothing. Cole hooked a nice rainbow that we had spotted (last month's cover photo). This fish was on the move almost as soon as the fly hit the water and came upstream to take. Then we spotted a brown in shallow water. It moved on. It was then my turn to land a nice rainbow on my dry. Cole decided he walked far enough but I went up to the next pool where I managed another rainbow. By then it was time to head back to the hut, pack up and head back down the lake. It was quite windy still and I wasn't looking forward to trying to load the boat onto the trailer but by the time we got to the bottom of the lake the wind had pretty much died out and had changed to a southerly. This meant that loading the boat onto the trailer was easy and we were soon on our way home. Another good trip but only five fish (and one mouse trapped in the hut).



Cole playing his Mararoa River rainbow

Deer Hair Emerger by Dave

The competition fly for May is a deer hair emerger. I have tied this in size 14 which is about as big as you want to go but is better for competition judging than going down to size 16. Part of the reason I selected this fly is that I need more practice with deer hair (I still hate it), I think the fly will work and I managed to find a good video on tying it on the net. This is important as I won't be able to demonstrate it at the April meeting.

The tying video is available here

<https://globalflyfisher.com/video/dhe-20-deer-hair-emerger-20>

but I have used different coloured dubbing for the abdomen to better suit our local fauna.

Materials:

Hook	Black Magic F14
Thread	Black 6/0
Wing	Deer hair
Abdomen	Grey squirrel dubbing (or similar)
Rib	Black tying thread



Run the thread down the hook and around the bend. Leave the free end of the thread quite long as this will form the rib.



Dub the abdomen with grey dubbing.



Wind forward the loose end of your tying thread to rib the abdomen.



Stack and tie in a clump of deer hair pointing over the eye of the hook.



Trim the deer hair behind where it is tied in.



Build up a dam of thread in front of the deer hair to stand it up.



Finally dub the thorax with hares fur and whip finish.

Boots - The Next Step by Dave

I have used my old Korkers boots with the aluminium discs quite a few times but the wear has been surprisingly high on the front discs. This has resulted in some of the contact being taken by the steel screw that holds the disc on and it doesn't grip as well as the aluminium. I have also received the "tee" nuts I ordered to try the discs on another pair of boots.

After quite a bit of thought I decided against the discs and to try aluminium bars across the boots instead. I think these have a number of advantages. They use less of the "tee" nuts (and I only ordered 40), are easier to make with less waste (all you need is a hacksaw and a drill) and I think they are less likely to fall off.

Still not keen to drill holes in an expensive pair of boots, I have put the aluminium bars on a new cheap pair of boots that I had bought but not used. In doing so I discovered you need to be careful to ensure that you have the holes in the soles far enough from the edge that you can get nuts inside the boot. I was surprised how much wider the sole is than the inside of the boots.

In the end I used 25mm x 4.5mm aluminium flat bar and put 5 bars on each boot. The bars on the heel and right at the toe are 75mm long and the other two are 100mm. The shorter bars have two holes 40mm apart while the holes in the longer bars are 50mm apart. This puts the nuts well in from the edges of the insole area. However, you still need to be careful when drilling the holes that you don't go in too far and catch the lining with the drill. My "tee" nuts have an M5 thread and are 6.5mm outside diameter so I had to drill 6.5mm holes. I used Loctite 222 to stop the screws coming undone as they have nothing solid to do up against.

What are they like? I have had five trips with them. They are great in the water (and there looked to be some algae on the stones), crunchier on the cycle track than the discs were, they weren't great on a bush track when walking on tree roots and, as the discs weren't good getting in and out of the boat, I am sure the bars won't be either. Aluminium needs some sharp texture to grip on and the gunwales of a fibreglass boat are pretty smooth even with a moulded in texture. Still I wouldn't get into the boat with tungsten studded boots so this isn't really a problem, just wait until you are out of the boat before putting boots on. I also managed to get my tippet jammed between the boot sole and the aluminium bar on one occasion while setting up. The result was a broken tippet and two brand new flies missing. Found the flies eventually but I need to be more careful in the future when setting up.

From here I think I would go to a 20mm x 4.5mm bar rather than the 25mm x 4.5mm. I also need to find a better/cheaper source of the "tee" nuts. Mine came from China but were still nearly a dollar each. The aluminium bar was about \$18 for a 2.5m length (the minimum they would sell me) and if you go a bit shorter than I did, that is enough to do three sets of boots.



25mm x 4.5mm bars on a cheap pair of wading boots

Photo Gallery by Chris



There is someone in there some where. Chris on the Oreti, October Lodge Trip



Dave releasing a brown on the Upper Mataura, November Lodge Trip



Joel on The Upukerora during the November Lodge Trip



Joel getting ready to net a fish on the Oreti during the October Lodge Trip.

For Sale

Simms wading boots. US size 10/ UK 9 and have adjustable wire lacing. They're in good condition, with a little bit of wear on the back of one of the ankles. Contact Sarah on 021 044 2136.



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

All events are cancelled until further notice.

Club Contacts

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- Librarian Simon Budd
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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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