

"Ripples"

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club

The club was founded in 1974

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www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



*Southland Fly
Fishing Club*

Editors Choice Tippets

Waterway Fencing Dosent Go Far Enough

Fish & Game NZ says if Fonterra is serious about addressing water quality and the dairy sector's environmental performance it would require cows to be excluded from all waterways, including permanently flowing small streams and standing water. Chief executive Bryce Johnson says those farmers who have worked hard to fence stock out of water bodies are to be congratulated but points out it is somewhat disingenuous of Fonterra to claim that "90% of waterways" will soon have stock exclusion in place. "Like the old Clean Streams Accord, the latest voluntary agreement only requires certain sized water bodies to be fenced. This means the smaller streams – the capillaries of our lakes and rivers, and essential breeding areas for many important freshwater fisheries – can still be treated like farm drains for animal effluent and farm run-off. "If Fonterra wants the New Zealand public to have faith that it is serious about addressing the industry's impact on our freshwater resources so that they are swimmable, fishable and safe for food gathering, then it has to require stock exclusion from all water bodies – regardless of size – and thus to include a riparian buffer zones in all cases." "The dairy cooperative should also be realistic about its growth plans and concede that New Zealand cannot, and is not coping with the current limitless dairy production agenda, and that there should be 'dairy no-go zones' in sensitive areas." Mr Johnson also notes that there are still only "very weak" provisions for the sector to take responsibility for its own poor performers – certainly nothing that is overtly clear to give comfort to the general public. "Let's not dress Fonterra's announcement up as a huge environmental win, but rather a much needed catch-up with a long, long way to go yet. Fonterra CEO Theo Spierings was dead right pointing out that Fonterra is 10 years behind when it comes to sustainability."



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Brown Chubby

Cover Photo— Johnny Mauchline



An exceptionally well tied fly and photograph

Around the Club

I have just reviewed our new library copy of The Distant Browns of Emerald DVD. Some great scenery and interesting vignettes of adventure fishing in the north of the South Island. Definitely worth a look and available from the Librarian at the club meeting.

Incredibly I was being spied upon by 2 Aussie anglers who hid in the bushes and watched me catch trout in the river recently. After confronting them as to their intentions I was asked to show them what fly I was using. I did show them and got no comment. They turned on their heels and left without even a goodbye. I kid you not.

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

John Gierach

Fishing Report by Redtag



With very unsettled weather conditions across the islands it was tough fishing over the holiday season and still is! But not to be undaunted I fished South Island highland waters with a fellow trout bum and with a combination of strategically accessed locations and intense analysis of the weather patterns along with a bit of good luck we had a remarkable time.

Finding rising fish or spotting them was not always easy but from time to time the fish would come on and rise to duns and emergers. We covered a lot of water and clocked up considerable km's hardly ever seeing any other anglers. Often fishing in a howling gale it was nevertheless encouraging to find large fish taking big duns in the mountain streams. Just to observe double figure fish in clear water feeding on top was exciting enough but to hook them and hang on raised the pulse considerably!

Larger river backwaters and tributaries proved very productive in the high water conditions with plenty of fish feeding on emergers and willow grubbing in the lower reaches.

I had great success on a CDC emerger sent to me from a fly tying friend in eastern Europe.

All in all we ended up with 120 fish over 12 days which when given the frustrating circumstances was an excellent reward and outcome.

Back on local waters the river is again coming good after rains kept it high and discoloured for many weeks. Fish are beginning to settle in under the willows feeding voraciously on willow grubs. As the high winds knock the grubs out of the trees the fish feed on regardless of the weather so it is most opportune to find wee spots of shelter and focus on them. I spent 4 hours today on one beat only the length of a football field and had excellent fishing.

Hatches are still coming off the water but wont key the fish in until we get some settled clear weather from the SW which on looking out the window at present doesn't seem likely.

Tight lines!



Catlins Club Trip by Linz Withington

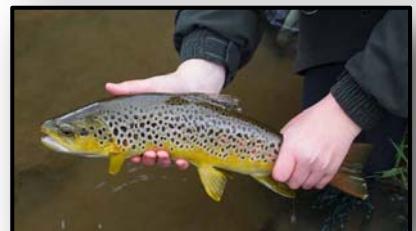


I finally made it, the trip to the Catlin's fishing that is. On the first Sunday in December some 6 members of the club met at Fish and Game before setting off to the Catlin's. I had Josh and Chris with me and Dave had Les and Ken travelling with him. We suggested that we would go to the Takopha river for a look but when we got there things didn't look appealing so we drove back to the Waikawa River hoping we weren't too late to get to a spot. Arriving at the upper bridge we found no-one about so we stopped setup and went fishing. Chris was into a fish first and then a second just as Josh and I were getting to the river. Moving up river, fish were spotted rising or just cruising, and tempted to the fly by all of us.

We fished for most of the day with all of us landing at least 2 fish each. It was 3 very happy anglers who turned for the walk back to the truck at the end of the day.

For me it was a pleasure to take these 2 young anglers fishing for a day and for them to catch some nice looking trout.

After getting some urgent work out of the road, a quick txt to a few anglers had Josh Moore, Ken Browne, and myself heading out to the Mataura at Coal Pit Rd to try our luck on some Mataura trout.



Shiftworkers and Retirees Club Trip by Linz Withington



After pointing Ken in the right direction and Josh heading to a favourite spot I headed downstream to find trout rising in the shallows, a couple took the fly offered, before Rick joined me for a yarn. He chose to head elsewhere before Josh came down to see how it was going. He proceeded to catch a fish as well before we headed back to catch up with Ken. A great day in beautiful conditions was had by all.

Char Chasing by Dave Harris



For some time I had been thinking about trying to find a brook char. A few years ago I went to have a look at Lake Emily in Canterbury but we didn't make it as the road was blocked by a fallen tree and it would have been a significant walk. Lake Emily has the best brook char in the South Island and seems to be the only place they grow to a reasonable size. It seems there are a number of small brook char in many of the Otago head waters, above where the brown trout are. Apparently the brook char can't compete with the browns. Several of the Nevis tributaries are listed as having brook char and this looked to be the closest place to find them. I had been talking to club member Jarred Martin about going to the Nevis and he had been told to look in the Roaring Lion Creek. In preparation I had tied a few #16 nymphs and dries with red bodies as brook char are supposed to go for red flies. Unfortunately

Jarred was a bit too busy so when the forecast looked right it was Les who joined me for the expedition to the Roaring Lion Creek. We were away bright and early and we arrived to find the rivers in good condition and the weather just about perfect. We both decided that as this was small stream fishing for small fish, small rods were in order. I had my 7'6" CTS #3 and Les his



old fibreglass 7' #5. We fished the bottom of the Roaring Lion but I think we were too obsessed with trying to spot fish rather than fish all of the water. This also resulted in us moving up the river quite quickly and soon we were mountain climbing rather than fishing. The water looked less and less likely but we continued some distance up the stream and then climbed well above to try and see what lay ahead. Just after lunch we decided we had done enough climbing and found a good sheep track that lead back down. We decided to fish up the Nevis and continued to try and spot fish as well as fishing what we thought was likely looking water. Les didn't make it far before deciding to go back and get the truck while I fished on. Having no luck in the Nevis I headed up a very small tributary. After crossing the road I saw two very fast moving small and very shallow ripples. Brook char at last. A bit further up I found a similar sized ripple and cast up it. Something grabbed the dry fly and I had my first brook char on. It was very small but all the information had suggested a size of about 150mm and that is about what I had. I continued a bit further up and saw a fish jump completely out of the water but that was all. I decided to call it a day but did spot another fish on the way back to the truck. It had spooked and in water that was too shallow for it to swim properly. I will have to go back but next time I will fish smaller water and not bother to try and spot the fish as they are too small to spot and look to be in quite fast flowing water.

Trout Whispering by Johnny Mauchline

It is never that easy to catch a trout but when you do then what do you do? If you generally practice catch and release then getting a trout to the point of release that ensures it is as trauma free as possible and is returned with a greater chance of survival is imperative. 'Playing' the fish out to the point of exhaustion and building up lactic acid in the muscle structure especially in warm weather is a death warrant for trout. Once lactic acid build-up is in their system it will only be a matter of time before the fish will die. Anglers with the best of intentions return these fish thinking that they will survive when in fact the fish will die a few days later. I have increasingly spotted dead fish in the waters of which I am sure the majority are victims of bad release techniques including the oft seen cardinal sin of beaching fish and having them thrash all over the bank out of control whilst cursing and swearing. Interestingly over the past year I have been developing my technique of photographing trout underwater with the fish attached to the line whilst holding the rod with one hand and photographing with the other. Not an easy task! I have been able to get the fish to lie calmly beside me and under control by holding the lower section of the leader only to take a few photos and release it using forceps whilst still in the water beside me. I try not to handle them at all if I can avoid it but I believe handling them in the water is less traumatic to the fish. It is amazing how with careful application of control the fish will lie quietly beside you and not be disturbed or distressed. I know there are exceptions to this and we have all had to deal with them but essentially it can be done. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks did an extensive hooking mortality study years ago, and the key to the survival of released trout is speed of capture and release. Apply pressure and control on the fish immediately. Do not mess about and especially do not let it fight on the drag. I use no reel drag at all. Take control by applying powerful side pressure and guide the fish quickly to either side of your position. Let it settle as it becomes aware of your presence then slowly bring it to your side. Do not attempt to handle it or make rash movements towards it. It will soon come in close especially in a current as it seeks a comfortable lie below your position. It is

then a simple matter of getting it along side you and using forceps gently remove the hook. Barbed hooks make for an easier release and I am using them more and more. Sure you 'lose' a few fish but if you are not intent on weighing measuring or taking a 'grip and grin' photo does it really matter? Best in my opinion to not cause undue trauma to the fish. So here are my top tips for conscientious catch and release:

1. Control it as quickly as possible. To achieve this use the largest tippet you can get away with and use an appropriately sized rod to control the fish quickly. Practice applying side pressure and work the angles. Do not use the straight up classic rod pose unless circumstances require it.
2. Leave it in the water as much as possible during the unhooking and photography stages. If you insist on a 'grip and grin' photo cradle the fish in the water pointed upstream while the photographer gets set. Then lift the fish out of the water just long enough to get the shot.
3. Do not move the fish backwards and forwards in the water to promote revival. Trout do not have a reverse gear. Gills are not designed to take up oxygen from water forced through the gill plate. Let them recover by being patient and allowing them to settle comfortably before swimming away on their own accord.
4. If you need to use a net use a knotless design and keep the net and fish in the water. Then simply reach in and remove the hook without holding the fish. With a little practice you can gently twist a fly from a fishes mouth without gripping it. If you weigh it use a clearly seen digital scale calibrated to the net and lift it gently out of the water until the true weight is felt.
5. Relax. Respect and be patient with the fish. If you and not the fish is in control then this will be reflected in the ease of the process and a good chance of fish survival.



Waituna Trip by Jarred Martin



Had a good morning at Waituna Lagoon today. Paddled to the mouth at first light to find big shoals of sprats moving in with the incoming tide. Tern and gulls were having a ball. Trout were very visible smashing shoals of sprats (3-4 inches) all over the place. Second cast I was in to a nice 3lber off the kayak. After that I parked up and fished the drop-off on the western side of the mouth.

Things went a bit quiet but turned on when the land breeze changed to a westerly. Got another 4 good fish with a lovely 5 1/2 lber being the highlight. Kept one 4lber for dinner and the rest all went back. All taken on a tan/olive baitfish pattern. A mate from work who's never caught a trout before got two on an Abu Toby, he was over the moon.



Guest speaker at this months meeting — John Morwood



Inimitable and erudite Tasmanian based globetrotting fly fisherman John Morwood will be the guest speaker at this months club meeting.

John will give an informative presentation on his recent trip to the western rivers of the USA.

A dry fly aficionado at heart John will regale you with tips and techniques to improve and advance your fishing strategies.

A must see for yourself experience. Grab a seat early to avoid standing up the back for this premium event.

Name This Stream Competition

Last months photo of a stream did not bring any responses, so this month we have a new photo.

Answers by email only please to service@eis.co.nz

Correct answers will be placed in a draw for a \$10

Hunting and Fishing voucher sponsored by EIS.

If you have a photo of a Southland stream you would like to include in the competition please email the Editor.



Coming Events

14th Jan 2014		On the River, Tuesday straight after work, Coal Pit Rd, river permitting
19th Jan		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game – 7am (Leader is Chris McDonald)
28th Jan	[MM]	Presenter—John Morwood, see the article in this newsletter
4th Feb	(CM)	Discussion & Fly Tying
6th Feb		Waitangi Day (Thursday)
1st-2nd Feb		Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel.
9th Feb		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game - 7am (Leader is ??? – depends on course)
15/16th Feb		Simon's Weekend, could be a 4 day trip to the Greenstone.

Don't forget the photo competition later this year, go to the web site for details,

<http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz/index.php/about/our-competitions>

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- Lodge Custodian Rick Gerrard, 44 Watt Road Otatara, 03 213-0920 (H) or txt 0275984322

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, 159 North Road Invercargill. **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, Jarred Martin.

A blow up Rubber Boat and a set of five Radio's, which can be borrowed by club members, contact Les Ladbrook.

Club Sponsors



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