

"Ripples"

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club

The club was founded in 1974

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Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippets

Irrigation impacts on waterways

A new independent survey shows an overwhelming majority of Kiwis don't want large-scale irrigation schemes and intensive agriculture expansion if there is failure to protect downstream waterways so that they remain safe for swimming, fishing and food gathering. The 'Farming and the Environment Survey' of 3134 respondents aged 18+ was commissioned by Fish & Game NZ and conducted independently by Horizon Research Limited. Fish & Game NZ chief executive Bryce Johnson says while the organisation's primary interest relates to the habitat of trout and salmon and the pursuits of freshwater angling and game bird hunting which are enjoyed by many thousands of New Zealanders, this research proves that Fish & Game and the wider public are united when it comes to freshwater issues. "The sole focus on ramping up primary sector growth, whatever the costs, has put the economy on a collision course with the environment and public opinion," he says. "What this research shows is that nine out of 10 New Zealanders fundamentally link their Kiwi identity and lifestyle to their natural environment.

It also exposes that a very clear risk of losing support exists for political parties which introduce policies promoting economic growth without guaranteed safeguards to protect the environment." "The 'precautionary principle' is being conveniently ignored here and this negligence is going to leave a legacy of pollution for future generations." The poll also found an overwhelming 74% of respondents do not want regional councils to allow new agricultural development and expansion 'if it restricts public use and makes waterways unsafe for swimming, fishing and food gathering'. "There are some very simple and clear message here on what the New Zealand public value and expect in relation to their rivers, streams, lakes and coastal waters." *fishandgame.org.nz*

RIO LT DT Fly Line Review

I have a new LT DT fly line. It is performing exceptionally well and I am very pleased with it. I am sure the LT WF are top lines also.

Double Tapers are excellent for presentation and ease of mending which is essential for fishing dry flies to selective trout. And you get 2 lines for the price of one!

So far it has shown no sign of memory and alights on the water exceptionally well. Best fly line I have had in years.



Cover Photo— Les Iadbrook



An exceptionally well tied fly and photograph

Around the Club

John Morwood and the Tassie Devils are long gone. I am hoping for an article of their exploits for the next edition.

The February club monthly meeting was held on the Matura River at Coal Pit Road. Chris and Ken cooked up an excellent BBQ of Matura prime beef steak and sausages with all the trimmings. Well done guys. Fish were rising and a few were caught which made it a very pleasant outing indeed.

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

John Gierach

Fishing Report by Redtag



The weather has been pretty good all round through February to mid March with good fishing to be had in the rivers and streams. The river has been below datum and fishing well but in the last week or so it has come up but is still remaining clear enough with duns coming off the water.

Fish have been feeding well on excellent hatches of mayfly with some hatches lasting all day long. Depending on the stage of the hatch they will change from emerger to dun to spinner at any time and back again! This is the challenge to ascertain the rise form and select the right fly. Once you have established that the fish take freely if you present to them with a drag free drift. Fishing on the flats to multiple fish is exciting with Adams and Dads Favourites pretty much covering the dun hatch.

Tributaries although low have been holding exceptionally well conditioned fish in good numbers. Although not getting the hatches that are coming off the river sight fishing for them and presenting a wee dry or emerger usually does the trick.

Best outing with a club member resulted in 39 trout for the day. A halcyon day that doesn't happen too often but shows the potential for dry fly fishing that we have here in Southland. Bulk of fish caught on a Parachute Adams size 16.

Some recent reports of willow grubbers appearing again could add to the mix and hopefully present an opportunity to fish for them again over the next few weeks. I am still developing grub flies so it will once again be interesting to monitor the results. If any!

Tight lines!

February expedition to Mavora by Les Labrook and Dave Harris



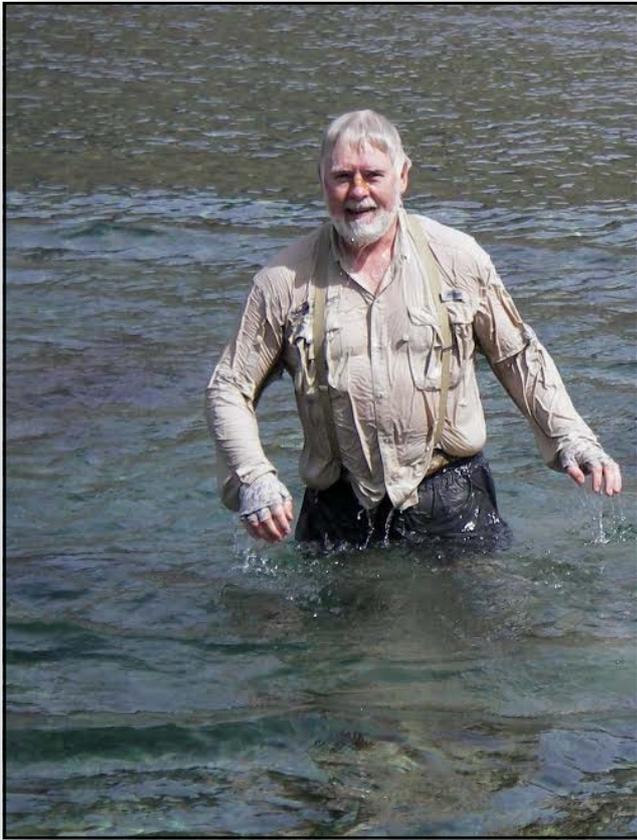
With the Fly Fishing Course out of the way we set off for Mavora early on the morning of February 3rd. The plan was to drive to Careys Hut near the top of North Mavora Lake and then explore the area from there. All went well and we were settled into Careys Hut for lunch with no-one else there at that stage. After lunch it was down to the river mouth to fish up the river. Conditions were perfect, fine, warm, clear low river and fish willing to rise to a dry fly. We landed some – browns to 5lb and a single rainbow, missed some and broke some off. It was a great afternoon and we arrived back at the hut to find we had the company of two German trampers until they went to their tent outside for the night.



Tuesday was tramping time for us and we walked up the 4WD track to Forks Hut. Neither of us had been here before and found a hut that was not of the best DoC standard but was liveable (photo left). After lunch we hit the river, finding plenty of fish but they would not play ball. They were generally a bit wary and would look at the fly and then disappear. Others were missed on the strike but one was landed eventually before we headed back to the hut. The following morning the weather was not inviting with rain and a cold wind. We finally went out after lunch and fished below the hut in cool windy and overcast conditions. We found a few fish and 4 came to the net. However we should have gone a bit further down the river to start as we were soon back above the hut with similar results to the day before except we couldn't find as many fish. That night we had company at the hut with a group having arrived with horses. They had tents and didn't bother us in the hut. They did party late into the night (well into the early hours) and the final members of their party didn't arrive until 11:30pm.



Thursday we packed up and headed back down to Careys Hut. Again we headed out after lunch and fished in fine but windy conditions. Another good afternoon fishing with some good browns and a couple of rainbows. All were taken on dry flies. This was the only day we saw another angler but he hadn't been far up the river and was walking back to fish the lake when we saw him. We did manage to catch fish in the area he had already fished.



When we arrived back at the hut we found we again had company, two lady dentists who had cycled from Walter Peak and an elderly lady who was walking the Southland section of the Te Araroa trail.

Friday and we were on the trail again, walking to Boundary Hut. This only took an hour and a half so we were fishing before lunch starting below the hut. Not much doing but one small rainbow was landed. After lunch at the hut we went up-stream. Once again enough action to keep us happy with good rainbows and browns landed and several others missed in fine but windy conditions. Again we had company, another German trumper who was heading up towards Wanaka via the Te Araroa trail and other tracks.

Saturday was a big walk as we headed up to Taipo Hut following the DoC marked "track". This was mostly along the heel of the hills and was quite difficult to follow at times. It took us 4 ½ hours and we were a bit stuffed when we got there. In the extremely hot conditions, and the hard walk our clothes were wet from sweat, so we headed down to the river for a freshen up. Les decided a wash was not enough and dived into a nice pool clothes and all (3 times), well that would save some washing. While having lunch we were joined by two ladies from Queenstown who were walking down to Careys Hut to meet one of their husbands. We didn't feel up to

river fishing so headed over to the pond called Pond Burn. It was very windy and spotting was difficult but the first fish came to the net almost straight away. A couple more were missed on the dry fly and that was our lot for the day. More trampers arrived at the hut with a West Australian arriving from the Greenstone on his way down Te Araroa and then not long before dark a group of three from Dunedin arrived having started at the Divide on the Milford road and planning to get back there via the Greenstone the next day. All these late arrivers had to use their tents as there were only 4 bunks in the hut.

The following day we headed up river above the hut. Conditions started out cloudy but reasonably calm. The river here is quite small and we found few fish. We did see a couple of big browns and a good sized rainbow. The rainbow should have made it to the net but in the difficult spotting conditions the take on the nymph was missed. On the way home it smashed at a dry but didn't actually take it. We also found a brown in a gorgy section but it wasn't interested in anything, even sticking around when poked with a rod. At the end of the day we headed below the hut and found a couple of co-operative browns.

That just left the small matter of the walk back to Careys Hut. We decided not to follow the DoC track but to make our own way down, mainly at river level. This was much easier than the track and we were back at Careys Hut in just over 4 ½ hours. After a quick swim (again clothes and all), then some fresh clothes it was time to drive home.

It was a great trip and we learned a lot about the area. The best fishing was actually at the bottom of the river and we didn't fish much of this as we only fished afternoons. We didn't try and drive any further than Careys Hut as the climb up out of the hut looked more than challenging and would have been dangerous to come back down. Also the track to Forks Hut would have been a bit much for the Jeep as the ruts would have been too deep. There was a Hilux parked on the track when we came out that had been abandoned the night before as the driver was finding the going too tough and decided to walk.



Mataura Brown Trout by Josh Moore



Fiordland Cicada action by Jarred Martin

I had some good Cicada action in Fiordland in February with fish definitely keyed into them. A good day on Lake Gunn cruising the lake edge with the kayak casting to sighted fish mostly browns and the odd rainbow. About a dozen fish for the day all 3—4lb range. Also had a good day on the lower Borland with fish up to 6.5lbs mostly on cicadas too.



From the President by Dave Harris



With the end of March fast approaching there is not much of the season left. Even worse for me as I have a business trip overseas early in April that looks like I will be away for the first two weekends of the month.

On the bright side I have managed a lot of fishing over the last couple of months with an extended trip to Mavora with Les (report in this Ripples) and another trip to Marlborough and North Canterbury with Cole Shirvell, as well as a couple of days on the Mataura and the Club trip to Mavora. The northern trip was not particularly successful fishing wise but I did some more exploring and did manage to find some nice fish. The weather didn't help. I also

walked far too far carrying a pack.

It is interesting how river conditions can change over a period and with different weather. The two trips to the Mataura were to the same place and only a few days apart although the river was higher and a carrying a bit of colour on the second trip. We saw a good number of fish (and some were rising) on the first trip but on the second we saw virtually no fish. I found the same changes on the Mararoa above North Mavora but the two trips were 5 weeks apart and the river was quite a bit lower for the second.

As the season winds down there are still a couple of Lodge trips to come. The first is the last weekend in April and the other is the last weekend in May. The April trip is programmed for just the weekend but as Friday is ANZAC day, the trip will almost certainly include Friday and may even be longer. I am still thinking of taking the two days between Easter and ANZAC day off so I may go up sooner. If you haven't been on a Lodge trip before they are great fun and it gives you the opportunity to fish with people you haven't fished with before. you could learn a few things.

Name This Stream Competition

Last months photo of a stream brought one correct response by Ian Michelson. The Eglington River. Cole Shirvell also got it correct but missed the draw which is done on the 10th of the month. This months stream is again by Les Ladbrook.

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

- 25th Mar [MM] Dave Harris & Les Ladbrook – February fishing expeditions
- 1st April (CM)
- 13th April Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game 7am (Leader is Jarred Martin)
- 18-21st April Easter
- 25th April Anzac Day (Friday)
- 26/27th April Lodge Trip (End of Season)
- 29th April [MM] Sally Chesterfield – Southern Rural Fire Service

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- Librarian Jarred Martin, 33 Willis Street, Invercargill jmjavamartin@gmail.com
- 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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