

"Ripples"

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club

The club was founded in 1974

April 2014



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippets

What do you value most about our rivers?

A new concept has been developed which may change the way Environment Southland and others manage riverbeds across Southland – and you can tell us what you think about it.

The Managing Unwanted Vegetation in Southland Rivers Concept Plan has been created as a result of some concerns surrounding the future financial sustainability of plant control within riverbeds throughout the Southland region. Catchment Works Supervisor Ken McGraw says he's excited by what this new approach could mean for connecting our communities with our rivers and reducing our reliance on herbicide.

The Plan also sets out a wish list of new or improved techniques for dealing with the issues around plant control. Councillor Ross Cockburn says the plan is a joint effort involving Environment Southland, the Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand, Iwi and many of our communities – and it's unique in New Zealand. "We want to hear what you value about our rivers and what you think of the concepts outlined in the plan," Councillor Cockburn says.

The Concept Plan and feedback form are available on our website (www.es.govt.nz) and from the Environment Southland offices at North Road in Invercargill. You can email service@es.govt.nz if you'd like a copy posted to you. [goto page 6 for the weblinks]



Designer Skin

Fly tiers Designer Skin is synthetic elastic skin with a peel off white paper backing. Draw the shape required with a pencil or a pen and cut out with scissors, snap off the paper backing and use. This unique new product is only available from Virtual Nymph and is gaining an international reputation with some of the worlds best creative fly tiers. Simple to use, just draw the shape and cut it out. An excellent product for cutting long strips with a straight edge for small segmented abdomens, round shapes for Shrimp backs, tapered shapes for head capsule covers and Thorax's etc. Supplied as a 5 x 5 inch sheet and very thin. Fly tiers Designer Skin will not snap under tension, does not fade and has been stabilized to prevent perishing. Fly tiers Designer Skin can be coloured with permanent markers to imitate realistic nymphs when matching the hatch. I can personally recommend this product and use it on my 'special' wee CDC nymphs. On special from Flyshop.co.nz



Cover Photo— John Morwood



An exceptionally well tied fly and photograph

Around the Club

Its always good to meet other anglers on the Mataura. Over the last few weeks I have met a few and I invited some that were staying locally to come for dinner.

A couple from the USA who both fly fish called Busby and Linh and a Japanese angler call Yuji had roast lamb dinners with all the trimmings. Kiwi hospitality.

Good times.

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

John Gierach

Fishing Report by Redtag



The weather has been pretty good all round through March to early April but a couple of flood events have made fishing difficult at times. There have been tremendous mayfly hatches and spinner falls. Timing and location is of the essence and finding the right fly for that particular section of river can bring splendid results. Interesting how the trout will take one fly readily at a pool and a few km away will not have a bar of it even when they appear to be rising to the same stage of the hatch.



Evening sessions on the pool have been patchy with easterlies keeping the fish down but on occasion everything falls into place and the fish rise from one end to the other. That's the easy bit sorted but the hard bit is catching them. Some new flies have been successful and going back to an old CDC favourite designed a couple of seasons ago has come up trumps recently. It always seems to work at this time of the year and never any other time.



Tributaries have been holding exceptionally well conditioned large fish in good numbers. Hatches of large duns are coming off the water and a normally aspirated Dads Favourite is a go to fly. I have been exploring and finding some new water on some wee streams and it is amazing the quality of small stream fishing available in Southland. If you do venture off the well trodden path always a good idea to ask for permission from the station or farm. It is very seldom you will ever be refused.

Some recent reports of good sea run fish in the lower reaches and potentially the last spate will have brought any salmon upriver.

Tight lines!

Mataura March Vignette by Johnny Mauchline



Tasmanian Devils in Southland Trip by John Morwood

A group of devils came over for a few weeks fishing. One of the great things about fishing in Southland is the wide variety of waters available, usually within easy drive time of base ie the Lodge at Castlerock. .

You locals are blessed.

The choice was particularly useful this year as wind and flooding events often dictated we seek shelter and/or clear water. [Its hard when you're on holiday and must fish everyday!]

Sometimes it was a lake that provided clear water. Johnny and I had an eventful trip to Poolburn in early January. Stunning scenery and large fish that "tailed" in the shallows at dawn and dusk. Something I'm well used to in Tasmanian lakes but great to see it in NZ especially when there's a spectacular sunrise!



The fish responded well to dries or corixa nymphs cast gently in their paths. Very handsome, heavily marked trout.

Spring creeks also provided the gin clear medium. They don't have to be large to house good fish. The best tactics proved to be stealth and small flies.

Discovering these gems is the best part, as nobody will tell you where they are! [and rightly so]

When the wind blew strong, we'd head to the smaller, meandering streams particularly those with incised banks. Somewhat difficult to fish due to restricted casting and overgrown banks but plenty of good fish to stalk.



Into February the weather improved and we able to fish just about wherever we wanted to most days. Spoilt for choice we were. "Where are you going today?" was the repetitive question every morning at the Lodge.

Pretty much we fished the Mataura system above Mandeville including the Waikaia and other tributaries. In itself a wide range of waters. The larger rivers were in top nick flowing well but low enough to allow crossing and wading. Some days were even warm enough to make wet wading enjoyable! In the latter part of February the tributaries got too low and weren't fished.

Willow grubbers were out and about but not as prominent as last season. But still in sufficient numbers to give good sport. A new feature were localized rises in the late afternoons to spent spinner particularly on the Waikaia. [Didn't find out when the duns hatch?] Often in quieter pools these fish were difficult. Then I remembered an old Gary Borger video on downstream presentations. It seemed to be the answer - on occasion. One memorable session taking 5 hard fish on this "new" method.



Completing the kaleidoscope of rivers were a couple of trips into the 'back country' Nevis and Upper Mararoa rivers. Stunning scenery and experience and we caught a few fish to 4lbs on cicadas. The more adventurous Joe and Pat went into Hunter Station and stayed in a shepherds' hut fishing the Hunter River, good fishing catching both browns and 'bows, until the dreaded Nor'wester got up each afternoon. "May time fly til mayfly time" in Southland!

River Corridor Concept Plan—Environment Southland

The Managing Unwanted Vegetation in Southland Rivers – Concept Plan presents a new approach to managing vegetation in our river corridors. The aim of the plan is to reduce the need for herbicide use and to move to more sustainable methods of managing the land.

The alternatives being considered are various types of livestock grazing, realignment of current fenced boundaries, cropping, commercial and carbon forestry, native biodiversity restoration and development projects/reserves, increased public access and facilities for recreation and tourism, greater use of biological control to suppress key woody weeds, etc. [River Corridor Concept Plan](#)

Fly Tying Competition—May fly by Dave Harris

Peter Carty's One Fly Emerger

This fly was devised to be used in a one fly competition and is designed to be used as an emerger but can be converted to a nymph by trimming off the hackles. With the hackles removed it is very similar to Stu Tripney's pogo flies and in fact Stu uses his as both a nymph and an emerger. My suggestion is use this pattern if you want an emerger and if you want a nymph don't put any hackles on.

I haven't tried this fly and suspect in some conditions it may be a bit difficult to see.

I will demonstrate the fly at the April Meeting. Don't buy any of the antron yarn, I have plenty so come to the meeting and I will give you some. You will need something to put it in as isn't like thread or floss. It will fall to bits.

Materials:

Hook	Black Magic E16
Thread	Grey 6/0
Tail	Antron yarn – Golden, plus two strands accent flash
Rib	Gold wire
Dubbing	Adams grey superfine dubbing
Wing Case	Grey closed cell foam about 1.5 x 3mm
Hackle	Dun



Step 1 Put hook in vice and run thread back to just onto the bend



Step 2 Tie in tail and trim to a length about the hook gape



Step 3 Tie in gold wire



Step 4 Dub very finely just past half way up hook and wind on ribbing excess.



Step 5 Tie in foam against front of dubbing front of under body bend in the hook.



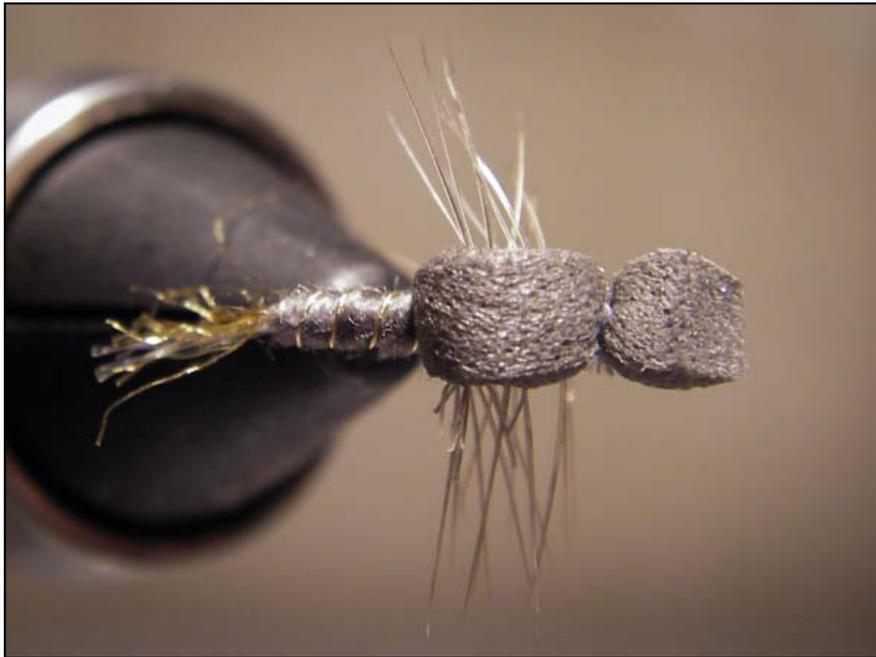
Step 6 Tie in hackle against foam



Step 7 Dub thorax making sure you leave enough room to tie of foam and whip finish in front of foam

Step 8 Wind on hackle (about 3 turns) along the thorax, tie off and trim

Step 9 Trim top off hackle and tie over foam wing case



Step 10 Put two or three turns of thread over the foam and then whip finish in front of (under) foam



Step 11 Finally trim off the bottom of the hackle so the fly sits low in the surface film

From the President by Dave Harris

As we get towards the end of April the season is quickly coming to an end, soon there will just be a few rivers open. The Mataura is still open except for duck shooting season and our May Club day out traditionally goes to the Mataura if it is fishable. This will be on May 11 and we will meet at Fish and Game at 10:00 am. Hopefully river conditions and weather will make for a good day out.

Unfortunately my April is looking like being a disaster. I am writing this in a transformer factory in South Korea and this trip will mean I don't get to fish on either of the first two weekends of April. On top of this I am on call for the first three days of Easter so my fishing opportunities will be very limited for the month. Hopefully the rest of you will have been able to get out and catch some good fish.

May sees the start of our annual fly tying competition. We have not yet sorted out all the flies but the fly for May is an emerger. Details are elsewhere in this ripples. The flies will all be detailed in the previous month's Ripples and will also be demonstrated at the previous monthly meeting. This to give you time to sort out the required materials in time to tie the fly.

We are also planning a couple of Fly Tying Days during the winter. For those of you that don't tie or are struggling this is an opportunity to get some help with your fly tying as there will be a few experienced tyers along who will be able to show you the ropes. These Fly Tying Days are at Fish and Game in North Road on June 14th and July 19th. People will be there from 9:00am but who can come and go as you please during the day. Also on June 14th we will be having our annual Club Dinner. More details on this later.

Meanwhile enjoy what there is left of the season. There will be some good fishing to be had in the rivers that are open right through to end of May.

Photo Competition reminder



Dont forget the Annual Photo Competition will be coming up in June. So plenty time to get those awesome shots sorted for your entry.

Name This Stream Competition

Last months photo of a stream brought one incorrect response by Ian Michelson. A clue is one of Southlands Main Rivers. Answers by email only please to service@eis.co.nz

Correct answers will be placed in a draw for a \$20

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 April		Anzac Day (Friday)
26/27th April		Lodge Trip (End of Season)
29th April	[MM]	Sally Chesterfield – Southern Rural Fire Service (sure to be a hot topic)
6th May	(CM)	Fly Tying
11th May		Club Day Trip, Fish & Game 10am, Lower Matura (Leader is Johnny Mauchline)
24-25th May		Lodge Trip – End of Season run
27th May	[MM]	

Club Contacts

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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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