

# "Ripples"

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club

The club was founded in 1974

June 2014



[www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)



# Southland Fly Fishing Club

## Editors Choice Tippets

### Irrigation Industry Pushes Pollution Subsidy

Fish & Game says Irrigation NZ's scaremongering about nitrogen leaching limits should be seen for what it is – a push for a pollution subsidy.

The irrigation industry already reaps massive taxpayer-funded hand outs for infrastructure development and free water, says Fish & Game chief executive Bryce Johnson, now the sector is telling the public they are going to have to suck up the social, financial and environmental costs of more pollution in their waterways.

“That’s a slap in the face to the 93% of Kiwis who, we know from research, want our waterways to be safe for swimming, fishing and food gathering.

“Irrigation NZ is claiming that to have an economy based on intensive agriculture, which goes hand-in-hand with irrigation development, we have to have toxic rivers and unsafe drinking water. This is the reality in parts of Canterbury – the most heavily irrigated region in the country – and Southland. It’s almost like they’re saying, ‘What’s a little pollution between friends if it makes us rich’.

“I seriously wonder whether Fonterra and Dairy NZ subscribe to Irrigation NZ’s extreme stance calling for Kiwis to accept more pollution in their rivers and drinking water supplies. Perhaps they could tell us?

“The fact is, Irrigation NZ’s ‘either/or’ argument is a myth. We can have a healthy economy and a healthy environment. All the evidence, and the reality on the ground, is that farmers can be profitable and productive while significantly reducing their environmental impact. In some instances they can reduce their nitrogen leaching by up to 40% or more with no or little impact on their profitability.\*

“Heading in this direction is New Zealand’s only strategic future.”

### Barbless Hooks

These barbless hooks are of an excellent quality and if you are a serious catch and release angler I can personally recommend this hook and use it on my ‘special’ wee CDC emergers. Check them out at [troutine.ro](http://troutine.ro)



### Cover Photo— Les Ladbrook



Exceptionally well tied flies and photograph

### Around the Club

So what do we do in the off season in NZ?.

Beside tying flies.

Club member Ian Michelson is undertaking a big trip into the Northern Territory in Australia and fly fishing for barramundi. Watch out for the crocodiles Ian!

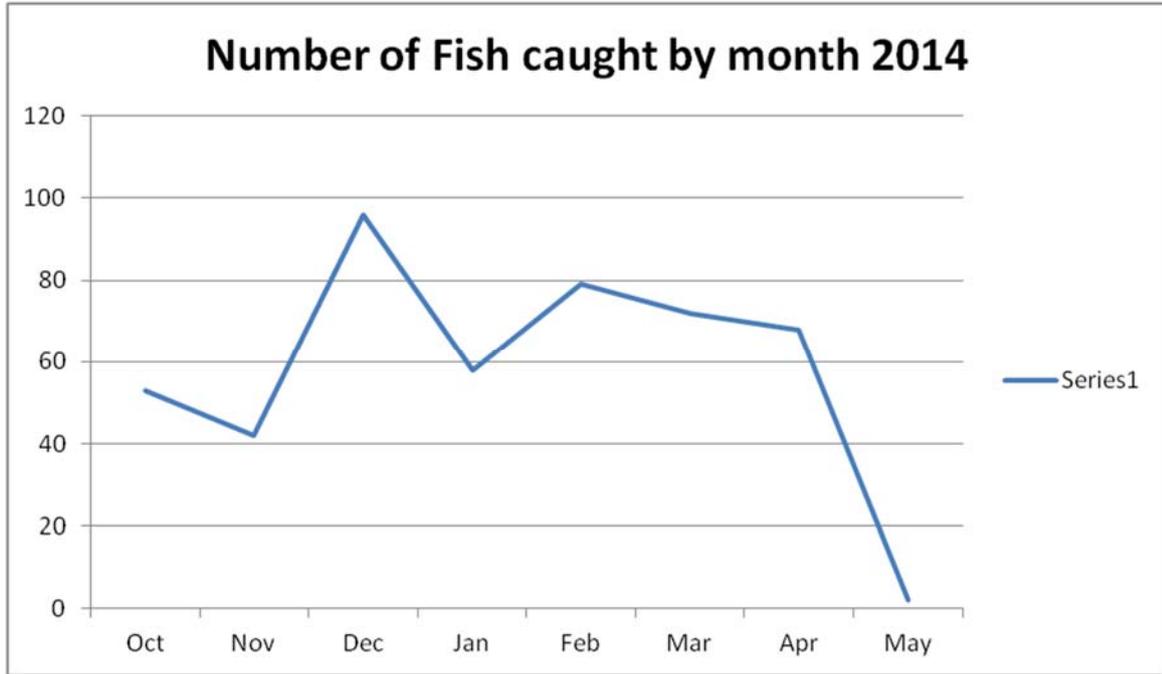
I am undertaking a fishing trip to Scotland, Wales and Canada. I will admit that is not exactly how I proposed it to my wife who will accompany me on these travels. Thankfully she loves to walk the trails and mountain climb in the wilderness. How do I keep this going? Answers please to Swiss Bank account #314 C/O Geneva, near the mountain stream 3127

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

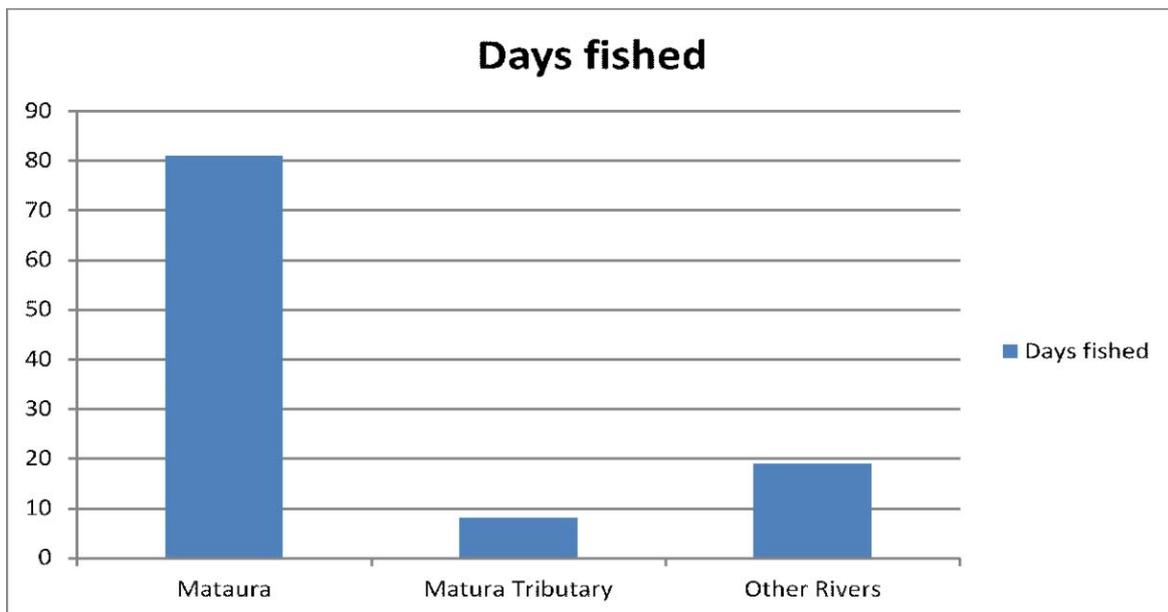
John Gierach

## Season Fishing Report by Redtag

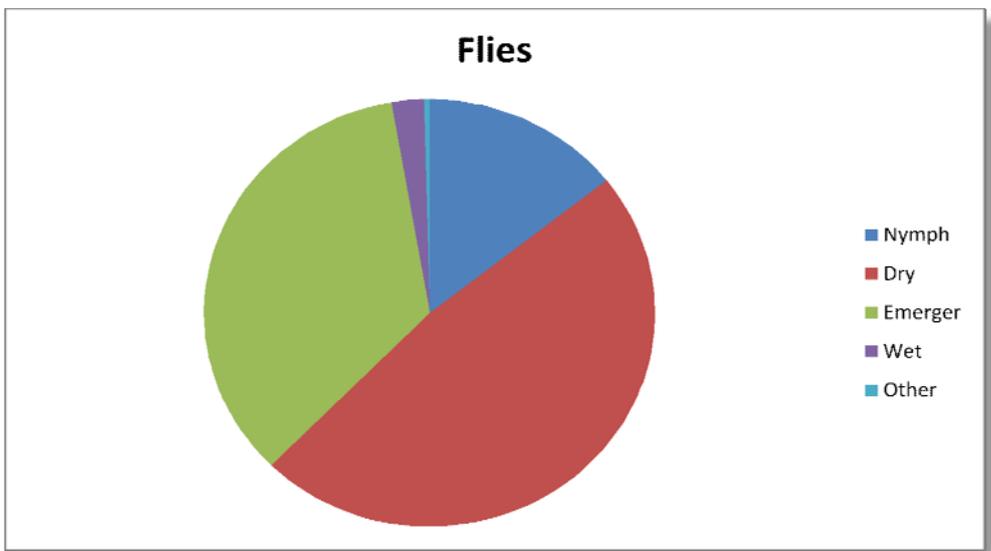
The season is over and I have to say it was the best one ever! According to the records in my diary I caught 470 fish this season. Given that the previous best season (2013) was 445 this is an exceptional result. There are a number of reasons for this I believe. The weather played a prominent part as it always does but the stable conditions and low water overall proved a godsend during the prime months of insect activity. Apart from high floods during May that made fishing virtually impossible the impact of flooding through spring and summer was not great with most fish caught between December and March.



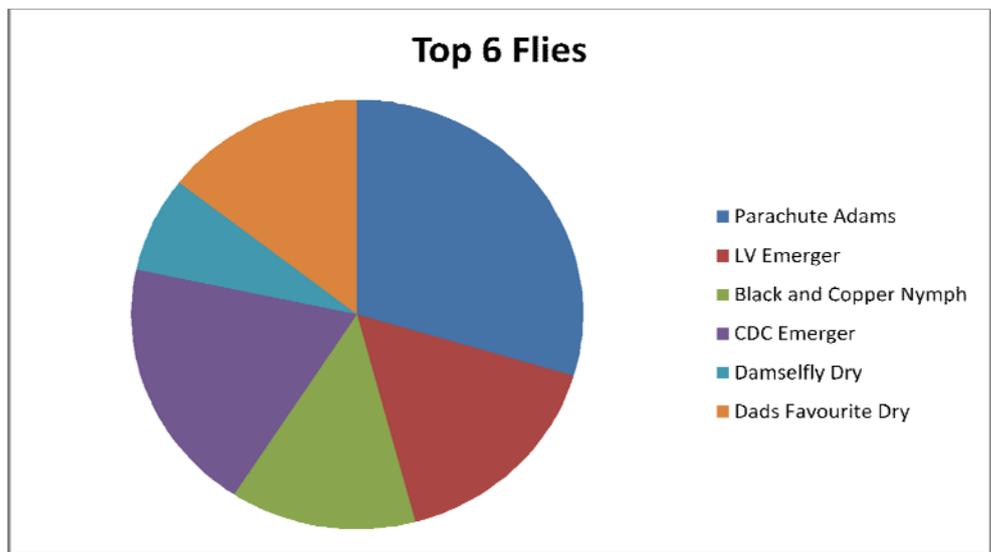
Total number of occasions spent fishing over the season were 108. This equates to 4.35 fish caught per trip. Most week days this would be a couple of hours fishing locally after work with weekend day trips away and holidays over the Christmas period. Given that there are approximately 180 fishing days through the October to end of April season we can assume that the 70 or so days not fished were primarily due to inclement weather conditions and flooded rivers. Locations fished reflect the local after work sessions primarily on the Mataura river.



Most fish were caught on dry flies and emergers which indicates the type of fishing undertaken. With the exception of a very few caught blind fishing all fish were either sighted or were rising fish. This is the techniques I prefer and have perfected especially this season . This has led me to be a more selective fly fisher and has meant that much more time is spent studying the water and slowly approaching each opportunity stealthily with a focus on patience, persistence and presentation.

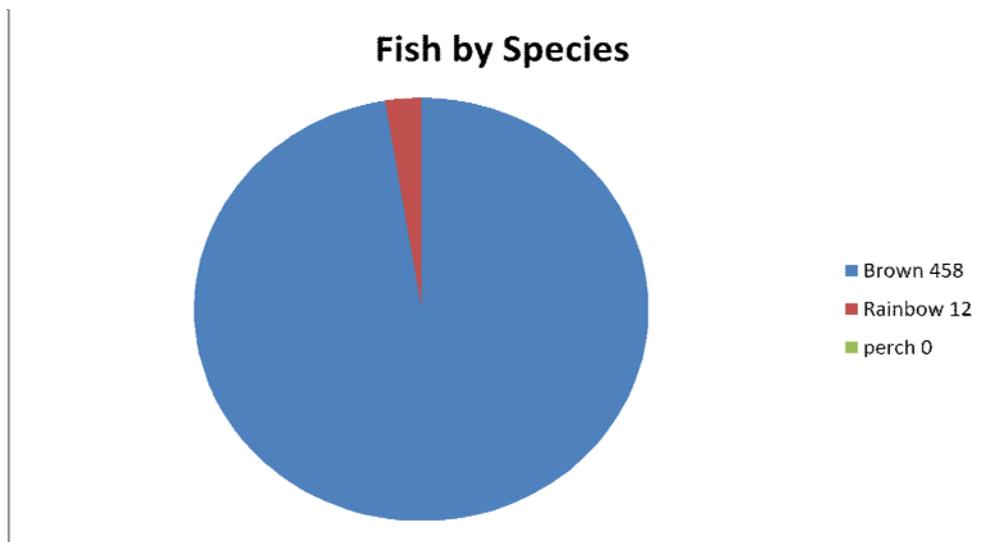


Flies used by type vs fish caught indicate that dry flies are the main flies used and include traditional, parachute and terrestrials fished up or down stream. Emergers are generally CDC patterns fished either on or in the surface film across to rising fish. Nymphs are generally tungsten bead heads from size 18 to 12 fished up or down stream. Wets are generally soft hackle flymphs fished down and across to rising fish. Other flies include dragonflies, damselflies, cicadas and humpy's fished dry to spotted or rising fish.



Top fly for the season is once again the Parachute Adams. I am very particular about the pattern which I tie from a pattern bought from a tackle store on Vancouver Island. It has to be very slender and sparsely tied. Size 16 being the favourite on the Mataura. The LV emerger has been a great success and a new CDC pattern developed during the season is also proving an excellent fly. Top nymph is a black thread body, copper wire rib and a black ostrich herl thorax with copper bead head. Small red and green Humpy's have also worked well.

Given the rivers mainly fished browns have been the predominant catch for obvious reasons with only a few rainbows caught this season.



Best brown of the season was 7 lb caught in a Fiordland stream and best rainbow 4 1/2 lb caught in North Otago. Although I didn't catch many large fish this season 21 were over the 4 lb mark. Best trip was on a Mataura tributary with 5 fish totalling 21 1/2 lb. Best session was 22 fish caught in the Aparima on a Parachute Adams with the largest being 3 3/4 lb.

Highlights of the season were:

Exceptional willow grubbing sessions on local rivers and streams. Conditions through summer were brilliant with long hot days resulting in fantastic fishing to these selective feeders and I am glad to say I mostly came up trumps with fly selection being less important than presentation and observation overall. Two old Aussie codgers I reluctantly accompany from time to time also had great success on the willow grubbers. Or so they say!

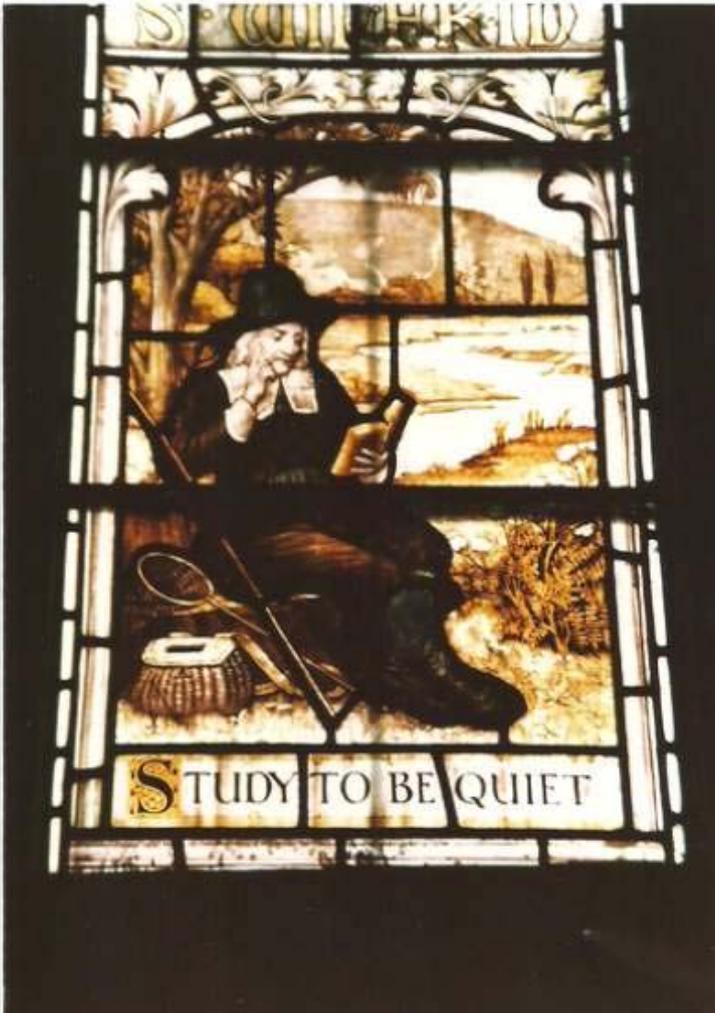
Losing 2 rather large potential double figure browns in a splendid North Otago stream and watching my compatriot cast to an enormous double figure rainbow whilst I was sitting high up above the wee mountain stream and spotting for him. He didn't catch it but it was wonderful sight to see a fish of this size rise to duns in crystal clear water. My turn next season! We have been after this one for years. It is our Christmas day fish.

Some good sessions spent with a good friend on an Otago lake with big browns rising freely to large bushy dries was excellent fun even if one of the flies he brought back from a trip to the USA looked utterly ridiculous but did catch fish!

Apart from partnering up with a couple of good friends that I put up with obligingly on occasion, fishing alone is always my preference. I find that I get into that zone where I feel complete with no distractions. With few exceptions I had splendid days of relaxed fishing stalking trout and learning new lessons every day.

However interesting fly fishing statistics may be it is not what fly fishing is all about. Keeping records in a diary can be fun and it does give an overview that can be helpful to future success in many ways but the joy of being able to fly fish for wild trout in NZ rivers and streams irrespective of results is a privilege and a passion that every fly fisher will recognise. I look forward to the coming season and experiencing once again quality time spent on the water.

## An Izaak Walton moment by John Morwood



Greetings Fellow Brothers of the Angle,

Now is the "winter of our discontent"....

Johnny, your mention of Izaak Walton in the Ripples, got me thinking and digging out an old photo I took of the Izaak Walton window in Winchester Cathedral, which I thought you Bros might like.

What do you think Izaak Walton is reading? Perhaps the original angling tome by Dame Julianna Berners?

I leave you with a quote from 'The Complete Angler' -

"Rivers and the inhabitants of the watery elements are made for the contemplation of wise men and for fools to pass by without consideration"

From the depths of Tasmanian hibernation, dreams of tight lines.

## Fly Competitions



Dave Harris tied this fly and was voted best fly in the May competition. Well done Dave and Dave asserts it does catch trout!

## From the President by Dave Harris

I find this time of the year a bit tough with no fly fishing. I did have a few of casts into Lake Manapouri with a spinning rod a couple of days ago but it was pretty half hearted as the spot didn't look at all fishy and time was too short to find somewhere better.

However I have managed to tie a few flies and still have plenty more to tie to get ready for next season. I have also started work on maintaining one of my rods. It is to get a new tip ring and a new handle. The tip ring has a few wear marks on it and I have never liked the handle I put on this rod. Biggest problem is I need a new tip ring and no other rod building supplies and the ring I need is not available in New Zealand. I guess I will get it sorted before next season. I have the cork for the handle so this isn't an issue.

The June Monthly Meeting is photo and video night. It is also our photo competition. Bring along any photos or videos you have to show off on a memory stick so we can show them at the meeting. Also bring along your photos for the photo competition. Details also on the website [www.SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz](http://www.SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz) We need plenty of entries for the photo competition as they go on display at Hunting and Fishing and we don't want display boards with only a few photos.

**Fly Tying**— This month's fly is the wee muddler as featured in last month's Ripple. The July fly will be the Spotlight Special. Kits and instructions will be available at the June Monthly Meeting.

**Photo Competition**— Our annual photo competition will be held at the June Monthly Meeting. There are 4 categories; action, trophy, scenic and general.

You can enter two photos in each category. The photos need to be 5x7 prints and a copy of the file is required. Photos must be as taken with no editing allowed.

Prizes will be sponsored by Hunting and Fishing (action, trophy, scenic) and EIS (general).

**Fish Competition**— I can still accept cards for the fish competition up until the June Meeting. If you have any more cards please get them to me.

**Trophies**— I need all trophies returned at the June Meeting so I can get them engraved for the prize giving.

### Fly Tying Day—Sunday 20 July

After a disappointing turnout at our fly tying day on June 14 we have decided to change the July fly tying day from Saturday to **Sunday**. Hopefully more people will be able to attend on the Sunday. Timing is the same – 9:00am to 4:00pm and at Fish and Game in North Road. You can come for as long as you like and beginners are welcome.

## Name This Stream Competition

Last month's photo of a stream brought one response from Ian Michelson. Ian correctly identified the Matura river and will receive a \$30 voucher. The photo was taken at the Wyndham bridge.

This month's photo is again by Les Ladbrook. Answers by email only please to [service@eis.co.nz](mailto: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

24th June	[MM]	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
1st July	(CM)	Fly tying
20th July		Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am
29th July	[AGM]	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
5th August	(CM)	Arranging the calendar for the next season
26th August	[MM]	Meeting at Hunting & Fishing

## Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)
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- Librarian Jarred Martin, 33 Willis Street, Invercargill [jmjavamartin@gmail.com](mailto: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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