

“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

Fish & Game appeals Cycle Trail decision

A protracted and costly court battle could be looming over the best route for part of Southland's Around the Mountains Cycle Trail.

The 175km trail will eventually link Kingston with Walter Peak Station, on the western shore of Lake Wakatipu, via the Mavora Lakes and the remote Von Valley.

Stage One, from Kingston to Mossburn, opened in November.

Last month, independent commissioner Denis Nugent granted the Southland District Council consent to build part of stage two of the cycleway through the Oreti Valley, beside the headwaters of the Oreti River.

Now Fish & Game New Zealand has appealed the decision to the Environment Court, saying it is committed to protecting the Oreti Valley's pristine outstanding features and internationally recognised brown trout fishery.

Fish & Game Southland manager Maurice Rodway said yesterday \$100,000 had been budgeted from reserves for the appeal process but he hoped time and costs could be saved if the council entered into mediation and seriously considered Fish & Game's favoured alternative route, through the neighbouring Mararoa Valley.

The Mararoa route would add 5km to the trail but would protect an "existing important economic and recreational asset" fished by people from all over the world, he said.

However, there may be no mediation.

Council services and assets group manager Ian Marshall said yesterday while the council would enter mediation if directed by the Environment Court, the Mararoa Valley route was "just not an option, as far as we are concerned".

"We want the best route and the best cycle trail product and we think that is through the Oreti Valley. Fish & Game does not agree. It is hard to mediate when the parties' views are so black and white."

The appeal would probably cost the council at least \$100,000, too, he said.

Otago Daily Times



Cover Photo— Johnny Mauchline

Around the Club



Well the last of the Ozzies have gone home with Ian Michelson throwing in the towel after heavy snow and rain left the rivers unfishable for at least 5 days.

Ian is heading over to the British Isles for the summer and will fish in the NW of Scotland on limestone lochs and around the Tweed and Clyde upper catchments for wild brown trout and in England on some very posh chalk streams.

Will Ian cope with having to fish in his tweeds and cravat having finished his cucumber sandwiches and dealing with ridiculous regulations . Watch this space.

Exceptionally well tied flies and photograph

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

John Gierach

Fishing Report by Redtag



Fishing over the past month or so has again been up and down just like the rivers. The first flurries of snow have arrived and autumn is finally with us. However some good fishing has been had with hatches not uncommon when the conditions are right and the last of the willow grubbers in evidence in the quiet corner pools and backwaters.

Again spinner falls have also been heavy at times with the fish rising steadily to the feast. Finding a pool on the river where a steady hatch is in progress is the key and there are consistent pools where this happens. Much time can be spent finding these and tern and swallow action is often an indicator. Often much time is wasted on unproductive water and attuning oneself to the river conditions is the key. Only time spent over many years can give you a handle on this. It pays to visit pools on a regular basis and determine whether they are a viable hatch pool. The configuration of a pool makes all the difference and researching and wading through the flats and runs observing the fish and the water conditions will give you an understanding of where a hatch is likely to occur.

The last of the willow grubbers are almost at an end. It is amazing the focus the fish can have on these protein pills. Many a time recently I have had fish feeding on willow grubs on the edges and other fish taking mayfly alongside them. This makes for constant fly changes which eventually gets so frustrating that you just have to concentrate on one or the other. A good choice to have indeed. Which rising and feeding fish will I select? The choice is often based on whether the fish can be sighted or not. Even with rising fish taking duns off the top it may be more fun to fish the willow grubbers which can be sighted and cast to directly rather than blind to a rise or vice versa.

My good friend and fellow local Mataura fisher Colin has been diagnosed with bowel cancer. He was almost recovered and ready to come home when he had a heart attack! He is now back home and recovering but won't be fishing out the end of this season. Hopefully he will be back on the river next season on his beats where I do not fish as they are his fishing grounds and not mine. I guess it is an old understanding that you don't fish where another has his special pools. It may well be at some stage that I will take over his pools. Time will tell.

Well it has been a very different season and it is almost at a close. Hopefully the river will come down in the next week and the autumn hatches will continue until the close of the season.

Tight lines!

Tight lines!



Your Odds Go Way Up When You See The Fish By Louis Cahill



Seeing fish equals catching fish.

More than casting. More than fly selection. More than any other skill, one thing separates highly effective anglers. The ability to see fish.

I don't care if it's tarpon or trout, bonefish or bass, seeing the fish is the best first step to catching the fish. For some species it's absolutely crucial. Seeing the fish allows you to plan your presentation, observe the fish's behaviour and know with 100% certainty when it has eaten your fly. It's the difference between winging it and applying real skill and technique. There is no substitute for this tactical advantage.

Far too many anglers start with the assumption they can not or will not see fish. And they don't, either because they don't have the confidence or because they don't try. If you slow down, and take the time to look, you will find a world of possibilities opens up.

Reasons you should spend more time looking for fish —

- Spotting fish allows you to plan your presentation. Get in the right position, get your rig dialed in, figure out how far you need to lead the fish or how to get the best drift.
- Watching fish let's you judge their behavior. You may gain valuable information on what a fish is eating or what may spook him. You may be able to vary your retrieve in a way that prompts an eat.
- Having eyes on the fish lets you make an accurate cast. Get right in a fish's feeding lane or get the perfect lead. Have the fly where it needs to be when it needs to be there.
- Seeing the fish lets you pick your fish. There may be several fish in a run or in a school. If you can see them you can present you fly to the best fish.

Learning to see fish is a matter of training you eyes. Once you brain learns to recognize the visual cues, you'll start seeing fish everywhere. But as long as you expect not to see fish or rely on your guide to find them for you, you'll never get over the hump. Take the time to study the water. Spend time looking. Work at it. The rewards are big. You too can be one of those highly effective anglers.

www.ginkandgasoline.com

May Fly — CDC nymph by Johnny Mauchline



This fly is excellent for fussy selective feeders on the Mataura during a hatch. Variations using different materials are also effective but I find this pattern and colouration works well.

Wrap up brown thread on a size 16 hook, use an emerger style which lets the body of the fly sink into the surface film which is what you want with this pattern as I use it to target bulging fish taking the mayfly emerger just under the surface.

Then tie in 3 pheasant tails and trim off.



Tie in some brown nymph skin or peacock quill and wrap to the thorax. Keep the body slim.



Dub plenty of CDC around the thorax. I chop the CDC in a coffee grinder to get fine material. Any colour of feather will do. I have even used fluoro yellow and pink CDC for adverse light and glare conditions which also catch fish. The trout don't seem to mind.



Tie in a small piece of black or brown foam over the thorax and finish off.



Tease out the CDC to form wings then trim off short along and under the body.



The finished fly should just sit in the surface film with the body well down in the water

Presidents Report by Dave Harris

As it is the end of April the season is nearly over with the local rivers closing on April 30 except for the tidal reaches and the Mataura from Gore down is open for another month (don't forget the Mataura is closed on May 2 & 3 for duck shooting). However it is still not time to put the rod away as the high country rivers are still open until the end of May and there can be some good fishing on these. Hopefully they have enough water in them now as they have been pretty low. There are a couple of Lodge trips still to come. One at the end of April (you will need to let me know that you are coming now) and the final trip at the end of May. For those who haven't been on a Lodge trip it is time you came along to see what we get up to. My fishing in April hasn't been great although better than planned as my Easter non-fishing trip didn't happen so I was able to get out for a couple of days at Easter. I found a few browns on the Aparima but they were only feeding below the surface as were the little rainbows I caught on the Mararoa. The rainbows were really keen and I had a busy day landing plenty of the wee things. However there was a lot of didymo and other weed in the river so you had to keep your nymphs off the bottom and it made a hell of a mess in the landing net that had to be picked out. The club has a few things coming up. Over the winter there will be a couple of fly tying days and also our club dinner. The fly tying days will be at Fish and Game in North Road from 9:00am and are on 13th June and 2nd of August. These days are just a group getting together to tie flies. If there are people that need it there is tuition available from those present otherwise it will be tying flies for next season, both old favourites and new patterns. If you want to learn how to tie or need some guidance you need to come to one or both of these days. You can come and go as you please during the day. The Club dinner will be held the same day as the first fly tying day, 13th June. Mark these events in your calendar now.

Fish Competition

As the season comes to a close so does our fish competition. The final card draw will be held at the April meeting so get your cards in to have a chance at winning a Hunting and Fishing gift voucher. I will still accept cards until the June meeting so even if you haven't managed to get your cards to me by the April meeting you have not missed out. However the fish need to be caught before the end of April.

Fly Tying Competition

The fly tying competition starts in May and runs for the five months of the off season. The flies this year will be:

May	CDC nymph
June	Spinner
July	Partridge and orange
August	Spotlight fly
September	Red damsel fly

These flies should be in the previous months Ripples and will be demonstrated at the previous monthly meeting except for the Spotlight fly.

Dave

Name This Stream Competition

One answer from last months photo and John Morwood was correct in identifying the Mararoa. John wins a \$30 voucher. This months photo 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

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

25/27th April		Lodge Trip (End of Season)
28th April	[MM]	
5th May	(CM)	Fly Tying
10th May		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game 10am, to the lower Mataura
26th May	[MM]	
30-31st May		Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge

Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz
- President Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (03 215 6068) dcharris@southnet.co.nz
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- Editor Johnny Mauchline, 10 Carlyle Street, Mataura (021 2877 323) service@eis.co.nz
Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month
- Librarian Ken Brown, Invercargill
- Lodge Custodian Dave Murphy, 35 Brown Road, Invercargill dmurphy@southnet.co.nz 03 230 4698
(Leave a message on the answer phone please and Dave will get back to you)

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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