

# “Ripples”

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club. The club was founded in 1974

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



# Southland Fly Fishing Club

## Editors Choice Tippets

### NEW FISH AND GAME COUNCILS WARNED THEY FACE CHALLENGES

New Fish & Game councillors are being told they face big challenges representing their fellow anglers, game bird hunters and the environment after their success was announced in the results of the national Fish & Game elections.

In many regions, new councillors will be taking their place at their region's council tables and Fish & Game New Zealand Chief Executive Bryce Johnson says they will be tackling significant issues in the coming three year term.

"I congratulate all those anglers and gamebird hunters who've had the courage and commitment to stand up and be counted in these elections," Mr Johnson says.

"This is the unique strength of Fish & Game's 'user pays, user says' model. The individual angler and hunter gets a say in how the pursuits they enjoy are governed," he says.

But Bryce Johnson is reminding councillors that their new jobs are bigger than just deciding how many trout can be caught and where.

"While councillors often stand for a particular issue dear to their heart, the big challenge facing New Zealand is the threat to the environment. Anglers and game bird hunters know this well – they see the steady decline of water quality and abuse of rivers and streams first hand, and want better protection for our outdoors, including access for recreation.

"Fish & Game is one of this country's leading environmental organisations. It does the hard yards when it comes to protecting the environment to ensure that every New Zealander can swim, drink and gather food from our lakes, rivers and streams.

"Fish & Game councils throughout the country play an important role in making sure development, ignorance and exploitation doesn't destroy what we hold dear," he says.

Mr Johnson warns that access to the outdoors is also shaping up as a significant issue.

"Increasingly, access to the outdoors is being restricted or blocked by landowners and vested interests. This slow erosion of New Zealanders' traditional rights is insidious and must be challenged," he says.



Excellent fly and photograph by Lucian Vasies

Cover photo: Johnny Mauchline

### AROUND THE CLUB

Congratulations to SFFC members Dave Harris and Michael Harstonge on being elected to the Southland Fish & Game Council.

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

John Gierach

## Fishing Report by Redtag



A tough start to the season is an understatement. At the time of writing we are already over halfway through the month and I have only been able to have 5 outings on the river and local tributaries. Howling north westerly and southerly gales and heavy rain in the headwaters has had the river up and down like a yo-yo.

When fishable the river has been fairly clear and there have been steady but limited hatches of mayfly. However the fish have been generally un-cooperative with not a lot of feeding going on either on top or bottom of the runs and flats. The low barometric pressure seems to be a significant factor and definitely the fish were inactive or hiding away under the banks.

I spent 4 hours on one wee stream and the only fish I saw was one that I spooked from under the bank when I was crossing over.

I had some success on another wee stream the following day using a big size 10 Royal Wulff which enticed immediate reaction from some very well conditioned fish that wouldn't look at anything else.



So it can only get better from here on in unless we get big flood on Labour Day which is never out of the question.

Until there is an improvement in the conditions its back to the tying bench to replenish stocks that were lost hanging up on trees and left attached to debris in the river during the gale force winds.

Tight lines.



## Fly tying Competition - September Damsel Fly by Dave Harris

The September meeting saw the last night of the fly tying competition which brought 6 entries this month.

The winner by popular vote was Chris Lawson



Chris Lawson's winning fly is bottom right.

# Casting Day at Queens Park



Once again we had our Casting day at Queens Park which was well attended. New fly fishers were given tuition by club members and had a great day learning the basics.



## Fly Rod Grip - Keep it Consistent by Louis Cahill



A common mistake that I see with many of my first timers is they fail to keep a consistent fly rod grip when they're first learning how to cast a fly rod.

Without notice, they often shuffle their rod hand around on the cork, which ends up altering their grip slightly from one cast to the next. Probably the most common grip movement I see with my students is they reposition the thumb during the casting stroke. To be more specific, they slide their thumb off the top of the cork to the side of the cork, and it causes problems with casting form, makes it more difficult to abruptly stop the rod at the end of the back cast and forward cast, it seems to make it harder for anglers to feel the fly rod loading, and direct a cast to a designated target. I'm always quick to point out the thumb grip position error, but I've yet to come up with an explanation of why it comes up time and time again with my beginners. Perhaps it feels more comfortable to them, and maybe when I see the thumb sliding off to the side of the cork I should take it as a clue for me to suggest students to try a true v-grip or palm out fly rod grip instead. Regardless of why it happens or how I proceed with my instruction, the most important point that should be heard loud and clear to all newcomers, is good fly casting form and accurate fly presentation all starts with a fly rod grip that's consistent from one cast to the next. I like to think of a proper fly rod grip as the foundation for fly casting. Once an angler has that, they then can focus their attention on developing good casting mechanics and form. At that point, they should feel comfortable experimenting with other fly rod grips like the index finger grip or the v-grip which can sometimes prove to be better grip choices for certain fly fishing situations on the water.

If you're new to casting a fly rod, the next time you're on the water and notice your fly casting isn't up to par, try taking a close look at your fly rod grip because there's a good chance it could be the root of the problem. Gripping a fly rod incorrectly can contribute to multiple casting flaws, encourage bad habits, which will limit skill growth.

## From the President by Dave Harris



Prior to the start of the season we had our casting day at Queens Park. The turnout was not too bad considering we didn't have our usual ad in the paper. Normally the Southland Times has a fishing feature just before the start of the season and we put in an ad for both the casting day and the fly fishing course. This year they have decided to have their fishing feature in October so it will be no use for advertising our casting day and the timing doesn't suit the fly fishing course. There were a few members of the public out to have a go at casting as well as a few members of the club. The weather was kind as well.

The new fishing season has started, you can tell by the weather. That said, the rivers were in pretty good condition

and the places I fished had a lot of slippery growth on the stones and could probably do with a flush. In one stream the didymo was quite bad. I started on the Wairaki as I have done the last couple of years. I had Steven Withington with me had we had a reasonable day. It was wet to start and there was a troubling wind all day. Steven landed a nice brown which was the only fish that was spotted and landed. The others we spotted weren't interested in anything we threw at them. We managed to land a few blind fishing likely looking water. On Friday we headed well up the Mataura but the river was up a bit and carrying a bit of colour. I had tried to check river levels the night before but the Environment Southland web site was not working so was unaware of the increase in level until we got there. I think the fish were on holiday as there was very little happening. On Saturday I took Chris well up the Mataura to fish a tributary neither of us had fished before. We had a pretty good day spotting a good number of fish but most were not co-operative. Chris had a look at the Mataura further down on the way home while I had a nap in the car (up too early and suffering from a cold). Sunday was completely blown out. We did have a look at a couple of rivers before returning to the Lodge to tie a few flies before heading home.

Unfortunately Steven and I found some very worrying river works on the Wairaki that have the potential to divert the river straight down the middle of the river bed, bypassing some nice trout habitat in the process. I have communicated my concerns with Environment Southland but I suspect there is not a lot we can actually do about this type of vandalism as ES have given themselves all the permissions they need. However I will be following this up and this will require another trip to the Wairaki to take some photos and precisely locate where the channel they have dug. I will keep you updated on the outcomes of this.

### Competitions

October sees the first month of the fishing competition so make sure you get your cards in before or at the meeting. See last month's Ripples for details

## Name This Stream Competition

No correct answers last month. 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 \$20 Hunting & 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)

27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	[MM]	Speaker: Jarred Martin from Environment Southland
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct/1 <sup>st</sup> Nov		Lodge Trip [Weekend at the Lodge] - High Country Opening
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov		High Country Opening (Sunday)
3 <sup>th</sup> Nov	(CM)	Fly Tying
7/8 <sup>th</sup> Nov		Club Trip [Weekend at the Lodge] - High Country Opening 2
15 <sup>th</sup> Nov		<b>Club Day Trip</b> meet at Fish & Game – 7am

## Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
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*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](mailto:dmurphy@southnet.co.nz) (03 230 4698)  
or (0276752324)

## 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

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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