

“Ripples”

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

November 2015



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



*Southland Fly
Fishing Club*

Editors Choice Tippets

ASHLEY RIVER IN NORTH CANTERBURY DRYING UP

Staff from Fish and Game NZ had to rescue fish from North Canterbury's Ashley River as it dried up. Rangers Steve Terry, left, Tony Hawker and Dirk Barr at work in a dwindling run. The National government is intent on delivering 'water management' of significant major irrigation schemes for Canterbury



CDC OIL

This is an excellent product if you fish with CDC patterns. One wee tiny drop of the oil on the CDC wing ensures floatability even after catching a fish! Especially if you dry off with an amadou patch. Available from troutline.ro along with many other excellent products from master Romanian fly tyer Lucian Vasies



Excellent flies and photograph

AROUND THE CLUB

Word on the street is that the Aussie contingent are on their way. First up is Ian Michelson in late November followed by the Tassies escorted by Captain John Morwood in early February.

Just when I was getting used to being on the river by myself. Haven't come across another fly fisher so far this season. That is about to change.

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

John Gierach

Fishing Report by Redtag



After the toughest ever start to the season in my nine years in Southland fishing has resumed as normal.

Fair weather and less rain has resulted in the river being clear and fishable over the past few weeks.

Warmer weather has brought the hatch on and although not the 'mad Mataura rise' (yet) it has been significant with fish starting to be keyed in to emerging mayfly.

It never ceases to amaze me as how good the mayfly hatch is in this part of Aotearoa. Has to be some of the best sight and rise fishing available on the planet. Why anyone would want to do anything other than dry fly fishing on this and many other rivers and streams is beyond me.



I used to flog the water when I was young and stupid. Blind fishing and covering every possible lie and then some. Upstream nymphing and down stream 'swinging' they call it now. What a waste of time. I spent hours and days on the Tongariro as an example of blind fishing ad nauseam.

To stalk and hunt for trout is the epitome of fly fishing. There is nothing else like it. The sight of a trout rising freely in front of you and taking a artificial fly is the Zen of fly fishing. To stalk a trout and present a fly and get a result is what it is all about in my book. I started fishing with a worm when I was five years old and it has taken me almost fifty five more years to get to this point.



What a journey it has been and I have learnt so much along the way and continue to do so. But each to their own. Rant over.

Fishing on the river has been exceptional of late with big solid fish taking the usual favourites when the hatches are happening on flies that have been developed by myself and exceptional other local or itinerant fly pattern designers.

Tight lines

Tasmanian spring has started by John Morwood



Tasmanian spring has started on the 19th of October.

After a long, cold winter hibernation, Spring arrived last week with mild weather bringing some light hatches on lowland rivers allowing an interesting outing on my local stream. It was such a lovely Spring day, to sit on the bank and admire, that trout seemed incidental Well almost, until some duns brought out a few risers and shook me from my reverie...The duns were *Australis Atalophebia* of red spinner fame, not that the trout cared it was just a feed.

Fortunately a few fish liked my #14 grey parachute well enough.

All was well with the World. You know the feeling I'm sure.

May the trout rise for you.

Government blamed as Fish and Game pulls out of water forum

A key member of a national water use and quality taskforce has quit, blaming the Government for "a lack of good faith" over collaboration.

Fish and Game New Zealand - the first to coin the phrase "dirty dairying" - formally resigned from the Land and Water Forum last week.

Chief executive Bryce Johnson said changes to the forum's rules around membership and restrictions on the ability to speak out had "essentially compelled us to resign".

"It's been clear the Government's goals all along have been about natural resource development, not about environmental protection. They make the growth strategies, and add on the end the words 'within environmental limits'."

Fish and Game had bridled at the change of its forum status from "active observer" to "active partner", and the implications of that on its independence.

"When you sit down at the table with Irrigation New Zealand there, the question isn't, 'will there be water for irrigation?', but it becomes a given of where and when and how. It limits your ability to advocate for water.

"This process is more superficial than substantial. For industry, it's ideal to have all the environmental groups neatly corralled inside the tent, inside the process," Johnson said.

Until last week, Fish and Game, a statutory body with national and local councils, was one of more than 50 environmental, recreational and industry organisations on the forum.

The forum's objective is to "develop a shared vision and a common way forward among all those with an interest in water". It has already produced three reports on freshwater and in February was asked by the Government to help the "further development and delivery of water policy reform".

Johnson said the collaborative approach to governance model envisaged for the forum had failed.

"The Government essentially split that into collaboration and governance, and kept the governance bit for themselves.

"Now when there's a discussion [on water] in Parliament, the Government can claim the environmental groups are all supportive and it closes the debate down."

Environment Minister Nick Smith was disappointed at Fish and Game's move to "leave a very constructive process".

"That they have left on the basis of a change in status ... seems fabricated. They were key players in both the first report in 2010 and [second] in 2012. I'm left wondering what has changed.

"Bryce has always been a bit edgy and keen to play the protest rather than engagement role."

Smith encouraged Fish and Game to rejoin.

Green Party environment spokeswoman Eugenie Sage said collaborative processes were clearly failing to deliver a healthier environment, cleaner rivers or better protection for flora and fauna and landscapes such as the Mackenzie Basin.

"The Government is reluctant to regulate for the environment. It consistently puts promoting development, such as irrigation and intensive agriculture, ahead of the environment."

Greenpeace New Zealand executive director and former Green Party co-leader Russel Norman said Fish and Game had led the way in highlighting the "dirty dairying" debate.

"It's a big step for them to walk away from a process that the Government has promoted. The broader issue is there is significant frustration about progress to clean up waterways. They are watching them getting worse."

Pleasant Sunday by Paul Incani

Placido Domingo roughly translates as “Pleasant Sunday”

After a mix up of fishing partners not turning up, I ended up fishing the Sunday of Labour day on my own.

Thus I decided to fish a little stream that I haven't fished before. Having visited this stream the previous week after it received 40mm of rain overnight thus causing it to flood and bust it's bank. Flooding fields with chocolate brown water, leaving hills of green dotted white with stranded sheep and lambs. I was keen to see how it had recovered. Stopping off at the bridge I looked down to see a trout feeding just to the right of the current. After rigging up my four weight Sage next to the car I ventured down to cast a double bead headed nymph rig with a green nymph as dropper and hare n copper as lead.

Two cast's latter I hooked into the brown, on the green nymph.

A lovely spotted brown with beautiful red dots along it's body.



#

After walking up stream for the next half hour I spooked more trout than spotted the water was still carrying a bit of colour but being a new stream to me I don't know if this is normal or still recovering from last weeks floods.

I started to fish a run after changing over to an emerger and black bead head nymph as a dropper. After the third cast I hooked into a brown that breached the water three times during it's struggle for freedom. Once netted it weighed 4 lbs my biggest for the day.

This trout too, was dotted with brilliant red spots down the flank of its body.



#

Just a fraction further upstream I cast again into another ripple but I didn't think my fly was getting down deep enough so I changed over to a double nymph rig with an unweighted pheasant tail nymph as the dropper. That did the trick in hooking another little brown trout.



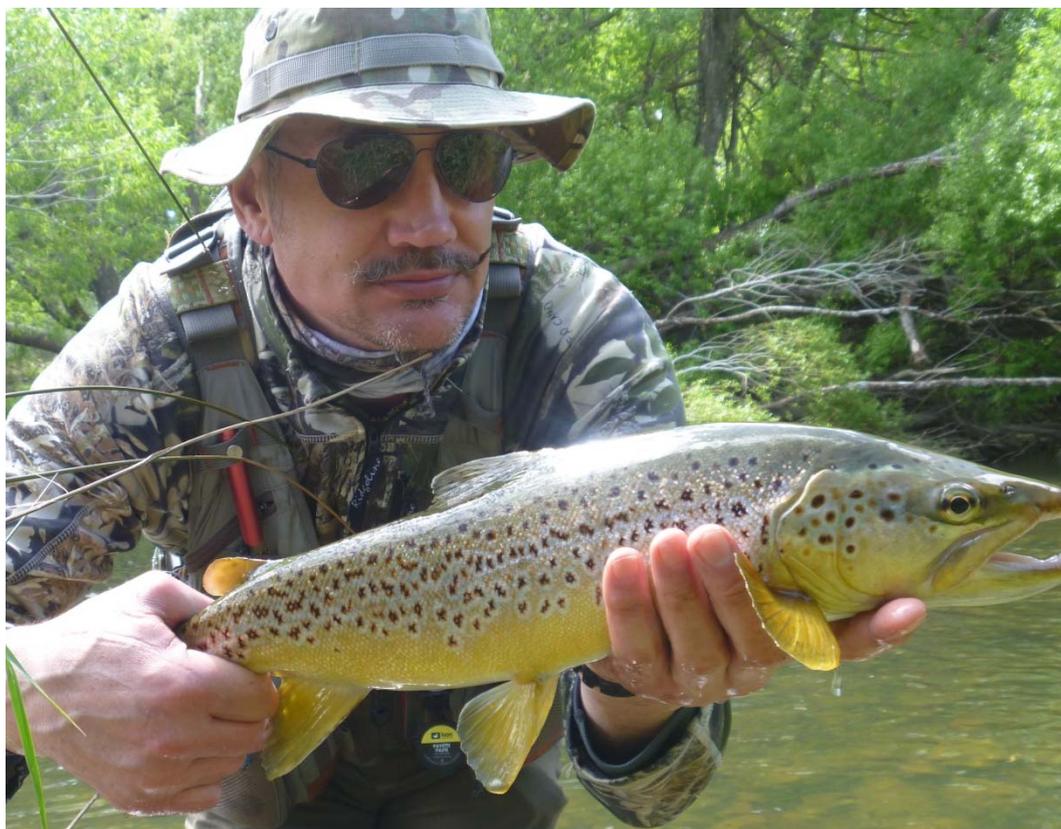
#

#

Further upstream was a long ripple with trout rising spasmodically along the right bank. After spooking the first 3 trout I came upon (I blame poor sun position) I was able to sneak up on the next one. This brown trout was taking emergers before they broke the surface and other nymphs as they scurried along the bottom. He didn't stay in one position but moved up and down his short beat looking for food. At one stage swimming past me down stream and then back up. I was able to crouch down into the long grass to hide from his view.

Once he repositioned I was able to cast my flies, emerger and bead head nymph dropper, to him which was ignored 3 times. I changed over to an unweighted pheasant tail nymph under the emerger. This was a first for me as I usually used a weighted nymph as a dropper below the emerger.

The nymph was taken on the first cast and the result is shown below. Another wonderfully golden coloured brown trout.



During the day there were “rises” but not your true rise. These were the usual rings formed in the water but not from a trout breaking the surface to take a fly but from a bulge as the trout took a nymph just below the surface. This explains why my un-weighted Pheasant Tail nymph was working better than the emerger.

The next two trout followed in similar succession, both were spotted feeding and both were caught with the un-weighted pheasant tail nymph. Another superbly golden coloured brown and a smaller silver colour, red spotted brown.

This one was under the shade of the willows lining the bank and was feeding in fast flowing shallow water and rose up in the water column to take the unweighted pheasant tail nymph.



The last one was feeding across a pool that I had fished on the way up. As I walked back down stream I saw him feeding on the other side, one long cast later and he took the unweighted pheasant tail nymph.



#

#

One major thing noticed was the gauntlet that mayfly's risk after breaking through the meniscus of the water to emerge. Once in flight they are easy prey for all the birds that sit stream side waiting for lunch. Sparrow's, Fantails and Tomtits alike all feast on these insects.

Tight lines#

From the President by Dave Harris

At the October meeting we had Jarred Martin the Compliance Manager from Environment Southland along to talk about some of the prosecutions ES have undertaken for environmental damage. The damage caused to small waterways by a couple of these people was clearly unacceptable and of course the water (and everything else) from small streams eventually finishes up in the bigger rivers where we all fish. The reporting of this type of pollution usually comes from the general public rather than by a visit from ES. This is where we all come in. If you find something that doesn't look right you need to report it to ES so they can at least have a look and find out what is going on.

I have been having discussions with Jarred over a problem (at least I think it is a problem) on the Wairaki River. There has been some river work carried out by Environment Southland to try and prevent erosion of a cliff alongside the river. They had a resource consent to carry out work but my view is that the work significantly exceeded what was allowable under that resource consent. I have not yet convinced Jarred but I have more information to pass on to him. Unfortunately one of the issues I saw with the work was that the excavation was greater than 1 metre below water level and this was not permitted under the consent but the river itself has remedied this itself by filling in the cut back up virtually to water level. I will continue talking to Jarred about this work to at least make those who actually mess with our rivers realise that we are looking at what they do.

Meanwhile the rivers have been in a bit better condition recently although the weather has still been a bit challenging at times. However between freshes the rivers look to have been dropping to quite low levels for this time of the year and this is a bit worrying. If you want to fish any small streams this season you probably need to do it as soon as possible as the low levels will force the fish to drop down.

Some of the rivers seem to have a good number of fish although the high country opening revealed very few fish in the Von River for the second year in a row. I have no idea why this is the case but hopefully next year will be significantly better. At least we have plenty of other rivers to fish.



Name This Stream Competition

No correct answers again last month. The correct answer was the Borland River

So a new picture this month from Russell Fredric. Answers by email only please to service@eis.co.nz Correct answers will be placed in a draw for a \$10 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)

24th Nov	[MM]	
1st Dec	(CM)	Fly Tying
8th Dec		Club Trip, Catlin's – Meet at Fish & Game 7:00am
2016		
12th Jan		On the River, Tuesday straight after work, Coal Pit Rd
17th Jan		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game – 7am
26th Jan	[MM]	
30/31st Jan		Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel.

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
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz
- Editor Johnny Mauchline, 10 Carlyle Street, Matura (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) 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



Disclaimer:

The opinions or views expressed in this newsletter, are those of the respective authors, and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Southland Fly Fishing Club. The Editor takes no responsibility for the factual content of this publication.