

"Ripples"

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

March 2016



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippets

Around the Club

The Tassie Devils are long gone from the lodge after reputedly some of them having had some of the best fishing ever. Still a few visitors to arrive from foreign fields to be escorted by our regular Aussie stalwart Ian Michelson

Fishing Report

Settled weather resulted in pretty good fishing over February. Apart from an occasionally stiff northwester wind was from the south west and river levels were good with conditions favourable for mayfly hatches and willow grubs.

Mayfly have been out in force with some spectacular hatches reported. Although never a dead cert trout have been cooperative and the usual flies have been very successful in particular cdc emergers.

Willow grabbers have been gorging on the tiny wee grubs that fall into the water under the willow trees. These fish become very focused on this activity and it is easier to get up close to them and present the fly even into the most difficult of lies which is where a lot of them tend to be. So highly technical fishing and a real challenge to accomplish it successfully.

Sea runners are being reported now entering and running up river. Always a chance of an exceptional fish if you can find them. Unfortunately the ones I have come across recently have not been interested in the slightest of even acknowledging the fly. Any fly!

Almost the end of summer now and as March progresses we should get some excellent hatches especially on the middle sections of the river.

Feb "On the River" BBQ

Only 7 members attended. Good food, river very low fish still uncooperative.



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

John Gierach

Fly Fishing Course, 30-31 Jan 2016

The 2016 course was full however on the day there was a no show and a second participant was unable to attend day two. Everyone turned up keen to learn.

Our thanks to Fish & Game for the use of their premises.

We had three fisherwomen this year.

Mike Weddell went through all the things you need to know about fly fishing in his usual relaxed but very informative manner.

After lunch the draw was held for the Vest was held. The lucky winner was Julie Cook.

Then a bag of our sponsors products supplied by **Manic Tackle & Invercargill Hunting & Fishing**, was handed out to each of the course participants.

We do thank our sponsors very much for their support, and hope that the course participants will show their appreciation to our sponsors in the future, buying their products.

Saturday afternoon casting practice was held on the fields at James Hargest College Senior Campus. As usual there was an assortment of rods on display from the participants.

A number of brand new Air Flo's still had the plastic around the handle. One telescopic rod shook more than Christchurch does. One rod had part of a furl missing and was held together with duct tape. I understand it may have been retired late on day two.

It was a little windy but not too bad. Thanks to the club members who turned up to assist with the session. After the casting session Chris, Dave, and Mike headed out to the river in search of an evening rise – it didn't arrive (again).

Sunday on the river proved very interesting, the weather was good, the river was good, the participants were casting very well, we had plenty of club members to assist, thank you to them. The only thing we didn't get right was the number of cooperative fish.

Mike started with the usual on the water casting instruction managed to have a take in front of a crowd of 20 anglers on the bank. He then took the opportunity to show one of the fishing techniques many of us have mastered – the mid stream release.

As the casting session continued there were a couple of hook ups and Julie Cook continued her good weekend by landing her first fish on the fly.

After a leisurely lunch, people were split up into small groups and went fishing with a club member. Two participants (using club rods) caught their first fish on the fly. One lady managed to break her rod – no I didn't teach her that she was with Dave. The fish were not overly cooperative and we called it a day at 4pm.

Fly Fishing Course, 30-31 Jan 2016 contd...



From the President

In early February I was fishing the Mararoa River above Boundary Hunt with Cole Shirvell. Anyone who has been there will know that it is tussock country with tussocks right to the edge of the banks above the river. Unfortunately the ground around these tussocks can be quite uneven and in places there are small deep stream gutters that you don't see. I managed to step in one of these narrow stream gutters and went down hard on my right leg. There was a lot of pain (plus a bit of cursing) and I stayed put for a while before extracting myself. My leg was very sore but there was no extra pain when I put weight on it so I was able to continue fishing. My shin was very tender if it touched anything but I could live with that, just making sure I was careful where I walked.

When I got back to Boundary Hut at the end of the day it was time to check out the damage. I expected to find a bit of skin missing but was surprised to find the skin intact and significant swelling on my shin. It was actually a pretty impressive lump. Clearly there was some damage but, as I said, not enough to stop me walking on it. A month later almost all the bruising has cleared up.

However think about how it could have been worse. I could easily have finished up with a broken leg from what happened. Clearly this was well out of any cell phone range (my phone was in the car at the bottom of the lake but that is still out of range) and we were about two to three hours walk from my boat. My saving grace would have been that I carry a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) so it would not have been too difficult to summons help. This is a good reminder of why I spent the money on my PLB. It is there if I need it and I came quite close this time. If you are going places like this you may want to get a PLB especially if you are venturing to these places on your own.



On a different subject we do need to do some work on the Lodge. It is in need of being re-clad and we will use colour steel to do this. Part of the pump shed has already been done but the rest needs the same treatment. This means we are going to have to have a working bee to do this work. Please keep an eye out for details of this working bee and come along and give us a hand. It will make the Lodge look a lot better and the colour steel will last for many years in the clean environment at Castlerock.

Dave

Fly Fishing Course—Prize Winner



Julie Cook is presented her Hunting & Fishing prize from Chris McDonald, congratulations Julie.



Name This Stream Competition

No correct answers last month.

So a new picture this month, please name the stream on the “front cover”.

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)

29th Mar	[MM]	
5th April	(CM)	
10th April		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game 7am
23rd-25th April		Lodge Trip (Almost End of Season)
26th April	[MM]	
30th Apr/1st May		Lodge Trip [Weekend at the 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
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz
- Editor Johnny Mauchline, 10 Carlyle Street, Mataka (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



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