

"Ripples"

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

July 2016



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippets

Willows Not Walls Please by NZFFA

Tasman District Council seem hell bent on ripping out and poisoning crack willow and replacing it with expensive rock walls. This destroys fish habitat in what few remaining fisheries are left in the region. Stop and think, there are alternatives...Please watch the video which explains the situation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mm9Ulug2wr4&feature=youtu.be>



SFFC meet with Southland F&G to discuss ES river management practices

2 members of the SFFC executive committee met with F&G recently to discuss the response from Environment Southland to a SFFC request for information regarding river management and willow removal in Southland streams and rivers. SFFC have a number of concerns to address with ES and are determining how to move forward to gain understanding and have input into river management practices and planning.

F&G are going to meet with ES to discuss the matter further.

Watch this space for more reports as they come to hand.

Cover Photo: Les Ladbrook

Konrad Richter and his son taking a lunch break on one of our past fishing trips to the Von.



Excellent fly and photograph

Solarez UV Resin Kit

Troutline provide a kit set composed of a Solarez 5gram tube of UV thin resin and a laser torch. In this way the price is more economical if the resin and UV Laser Torch is bought separately.



Solarez UV Thin Resin Kit contains:

A 5 gram metallic tube of Thin Solarez UV Resin
A UV Laser Torch that perfectly cures the resin
2 batteries for the laser torch

Check it out at troutline.ro

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

John Gierach

Farming Leaders Have Responsibility for Public Rivers Too

Farming organisations, self-interest irrigation lobbyists, plus the Minister of Primary Industries are being irresponsible towards the crisis of New Zealand's depleted and degraded rivers and streams says a national trout fishing advocacy. President of the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers David Haynes was reacting to a call by Irrigation NZ's CEO Andrew Curtis over the experimental Hinds/Hekeao Managed Aquifer Recharge project that would deplete the Rangitata River. He also referred to another call by Hawkes Bay Federated Farmers president Will Foley over the controversial Hawkes Bay Ruataniwha scheme for the Tukituki River in which Foley commented that since 196 unidentified farmers had signed up to the currently unapproved scheme, that it was financially viable and must immediately proceed.

"The Hawkes Bay Federated Farmers call ignores that the only people so far identified as contributing to the dam's costs are the public, i.e. taxpayers and ratepayers."

David Haynes said the contribution the public would make was tantamount to a giant subsidy for private profit while the public's river, already under severe environmental stress, would be sacrificed. Federated Farmers claim that the Tukituki catchment area would "enjoy improved environmental outcomes" was that of a "cock-eyed optimist" contradicting all known science about the impact of dams.

David Haynes also singled out the Minister of Primary Industries Nathan Guy who said it was time the public stopped blaming agriculture for the degraded state of rivers. "Why would the public illogically do that when it's well documented that intensive agriculture is a major cause of degradation of the public's waterways?"

He said it was time for government ministers to realise they were fundamentally public servants meant to be serving the general public interest of not only today's generation but future generations. "How will Messrs Curtis, Foley and Guy explain to their children and grandchildren that they were party to the degradation of rivers that now were unswimmable?"

All New Zealanders, town and country, from politicians to farmers needed to take collective responsibility to have a "land and water ethic" to restore waterways. Many farmers were responsible and practised a sense of stewardship but a significant number failed to do so. Horizons Regional Council, covering southern Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Rangitikei and other rural areas recently revealed that of 482 farms with Sustainable Land Use Plans, exactly half had done nothing to fulfil obligations or had made less than 20 percent of planned progress. The plans, designed to limit the effects of large-scale hill erosion and prevent silt run-off and deposition in rivers, were free to farmers, but cost council ratepayers between \$12,000 and \$18,000 each to conduct but were voluntary.

David Haynes said the abdication of environmental responsibility by Federated Farmers was graphically illustrated by national Federated Farmers president William Rolleston who claimed on National Radio "we do actually have very clean rivers in New Zealand – there is no doubt."

"Rolleston's bizarre claim flew in the face of concerns by the Parliamentary commissioner for the Environment and all the published studies by independent scientists. It's apparent the deep concerns held by the public over degraded rivers, fails to even rate as an issue for NZ's agribusiness spokesmen."

David Haynes said the science underpinning the truly degraded state of the public's waterways had been very clear for a long time, pin-pointing that agricultural intensification particularly monocultures of mega-sized corporate dairy farms, was usually the major cause.

A ground-breaking report just published by the respected Cawthron Institute and NIWA proved conclusively that the over-allocation of water extracted for intensive agriculture, was directly affecting the ecosystem of public rivers, including vital macro-invertebrate populations that were food sources for native fish and the public's trout and salmon stocks.

"Denials about the deplorable state of many rivers both in quantity of flow and quality, by agri-business representatives is frustrating since it's selfish, self-serving and short-sighted."

David Haynes said fish health was tantamount to the "canary in the coal mine. "Not only are many lowland rivers rated as unfit for swimming but once favoured swimming and fishing rivers, were dry riverbeds, mute testimony to the degradation and at times total destruction. Anglers know because they're out there, seeing diminished fish size and numbers, and essentially acting as environmental watchdogs for the public" he said.

David Haynes NZFFA

Hundreds of Trout Return To Refurbished Spawning Race



After the first full refurbishment work since 1968, the Aviemore spawning race is attracting hundreds of brown and rainbow trout and providing more habitat for them to breed in. The Aviemore spawning race is a 1000 metre long artificial stream channel, constructed in 1968 to provide spawning grounds for brown and rainbow trout in Lake Waitaki. Sockeye salmon also use the race irregularly.

It was built to compensate for the loss of natural spawning grounds that resulted from construction of the Aviemore Dam and uses water from Lake Aviemore which is discharged through the auxiliary turbine in the dam.

The Lake Waitaki trout fishery is reliant on the spawning race as the lakes inflowing tributary streams only offer small spawning areas and only in years with above average rainfall.

Fish & Game Central South Island Officer Jayde Couper oversees the maintenance of the spawning race in the interests of its sports fishing licence holders and drove the project.

Since 1968 the area of effective spawning gravels bed has reduced, requiring a full refurbishment of the race to reinstate the spawning area.

The race is owned by Meridian Energy Limited, who partnered with Fish & Game to ensure the future of the Lake Waitaki trout fishery through the ongoing operation of the spawning race.

Meridian contributed more than \$30,000 to the work, the refurbishment works were undertaken in April prior to the 2016 brown and rainbow trout spawning season which traditionally occurs from May to October.

Take Me To The River

On Tuesday this week, we went on a trip to Wairarapa to learn more about the Ruamāhanga River and the people who are working on cleaning it up. We asked Fish and Game to show us the river because they do a great deal of monitoring and know the river well. We saw the clean and sparkling upper river above Masterton and we also visited the Mangatarere tributary where a recent irrigation dam proposal was dropped. Even though it was winter, the waters looked inviting.

The Ruamahānga is a beautiful river, much loved by those who live near it. But it faces many pressures.

South of Masterton, the river is affected by sewage issues and land use intensification that have reduced water clarity and made the river unsafe for swimming, particularly at The Cliffs, a scenic spot near a vineyard straight out of a tourist brochure. Unfortunately, the water has a D rating. You risk getting a nasty bug if you put your head under.

The towns of the Wairarapa are all trying to clean up their wastewater systems with some big improvements, especially at Carterton. Nevertheless the river still receives overflow in heavy rain and proposals for irrigating paddocks with wastewater needs more scrutiny. Wastewater these days contains hormones and other chemicals of concern as well as pathogens. The disposal of human waste to water is culturally offensive to the tangata whenua whose traditional food supply and relationships with water are compromised.

However the wastewater impacts are a small percentage of the degradation downstream. The agricultural intensification in the mid to southern Wairarapa is clearly impacting on the rivers. Locals told us that it's not that dairying is new but that there are more cows per hectare. Let's remember that every cow produces 15 times the waste of a human and it's untreated when it leaches into waterways. Water races – man-made creeks that cut through or along paddocks – looked dirty, and we were also told the rivers in summer really suffer from dry weather combined with pathogens, sediment and nitrates.

The proposed Wairarapa Water Users Project will do nothing to help this, despite what the Government tells us. They say dams and water storage are environmentally friendly, and that without water storage, water just flows uselessly to the sea. They forget that rivers have a purpose as an ecosystem and habitat for the plants and animals that rely on them.

The Irrigation Acceleration Fund has given Wairarapa Water Users Project (WWUP) \$800,000 to push for a dam or two to increase irrigation. Despite the dairy price drop the plan is still dairying as the “anchor tenant”. It's like the Ruataniwha dam in the Hawke's Bay all over again – a polluting and environmentally destructive dam that ratepayers will be expected to pay for. The river will also pay dearly.

As if the river hasn't been subjected to already from pollution and faces an uncertain future if the WWUP goes ahead, we saw the river's shape has been markedly changed by bulldozing the braids out of it near Martinborough for alleged flood control, that also wipes out the river's ecology.

On Thursday 28 July, we are holding a public meeting in Carterton to listen to how locals feel about the destruction of their rivers, and about how the Green Party has the solutions to make New Zealand's rivers clean enough to swim in again. We are keen to listen to local people because this river and these communities deserve better than dams and dirty water.

Green Party



Bulldozer working in the Ruamāhanga River

June Competition Winning Fly - Black Blowfly



There were 4 flies entered in the May competition



The winning fly by popular vote was tied by Dave Harris

Presidents Report 2016 by Dave Harris

Another season of fishing is over. Hopefully you all managed to spend plenty of time on the river or lake and caught a good number of fish. We held our normal fly fishing course with our usual tutor Mike Weddell from Mosgiel again this year. Once again we received generous sponsorship support from Invercargill Hunting & Fishing and Manic Tackle, we thank them for their support and trust that people will support them in return. The course was again over subscribed. The weather was good both days this year. There were a few fish caught during the Sunday on the river. I hope those who took part enjoyed the course and have continued on with their fly fishing. Feedback on the course was positive as usual. Still on the teaching theme we held our usual casting day at Queens Park just prior to the season opening. We did not have as many members of the public as the previous year but this is probably due to the fact that the Southland Times did not have a fishing feature so we did not get to advertise the course in this. There was a good turnout of members however. We had fly tying demonstrations at the Boat Show, two at Hunting and Fishing and at an Otautau craft show. Thanks to those who helped out with these.

Chris McDonald continued his duties as Secretary Treasurer, doing a good job as usual. David Murphy continued as custodian for the Lodge and has ensured it is up to scratch. There were some issues with the new farm owner and we are now required to pay rent. The exterior of the Lodge is looking scruffy but we will sort this out in the near future. The annual invasion of cluster flies occurred again and this looks likely to continue to be a problem in the future. Further attempts to block their access have so far been unsuccessful. The Lodge was well used during the season with good patronage. Johnny Mauchline continued as editor for the Ripples this year with assistance from Les Ladbrook. Les Ladbrook continues to look after the club web site, keeping it up to date. This web site contains vital contact information, newsletters and the club calendar. We spent the later part of the year without a Librarian after Ken Browne resigned from this position. However Simon Budd has agreed to take over.

The Club competitions had improved interest this year with quite a few more fish entered than last year. However there were still only four people who put in cards every month. The number of big fish was well up and the size was also up. Largest being 10¼lb. The fly tying competition attracted about the normal number of entries but unlike the last couple of years was very close. It resulted in another first time winner. Only two members managed to enter a fly every month. The junior trophy will not be awarded this year due to the lack of juniors. Our planned one night photo competition at the June Monthly Meeting was postponed due to there being a speaker at the June meeting. It will be held in July, continuing with four categories. Congratulations to those who took out the trophies this year in the annual competitions.

Sponsorship of the fish and fly tying competition was from Invercargill Hunting and Fishing. EIS continued sponsoring the monthly "Guess the River photo".

Again several of the monthly day trips were cancelled due to weather or river conditions. Those who did go on the Club trips enjoyed themselves and caught fish in all sorts of conditions. For the first time in several years we had a shift worker/retiree mid-week trip and this was well supported with five members out for the day.

The weekend trips did not receive great support but it was about the same as previous years.

We had fly tying days in August and June. These attracted about the usual support but there was room for plenty more. Those who attended the fly tying managed to tie a good number of flies including most of those required for next year's fishing courses. The annual Club dinner that followed the June fly tying day was the usual fun night and those who attended enjoyed their dinner and exchange of gifts.

I would like to thank those who helped out with running the Club during the past year. Special thanks go to secretary/treasurer Chris McDonald for his ongoing work, Johnny Mauchline for keeping us all informed with his excellent newsletter, Les Ladbrook for looking after the website and David Murphy for looking after the Lodge. Thanks also to all the other committee members for their support during the year and to the members who helped out on the fishing course and fly casting day.

Last I would like to thank our sponsors –Corys Electrical, Invercargill Hunting & Fishing, Manic Tackle and EIS.

Competitions

Fly Tying

This month's fly is the green caddis nymph as detailed in last month's Ripples. Next month's fly is the Spotlight Fly. Packs will be available at the July meeting.

Photo Competition

There was a little bit of confusion about the annual photo competition. The photo competition will now be at this month's meeting. There are 4 categories and you can enter 3 photos in each. Photos are to be 7" x 5" and must be from this season. The categories are action, trophy, scenic and general. No guidelines, if you think it fits that categories that is where it goes.

Fly Tying

Entries in the fly tying competition were up a little on last year with a total of 27 flies entered over the five months. We had nine people who entered the competition but only two people managed a fly every month. As usual there were some fine flies produced by the members. This year's competition was very tight with the top four members being covered by just two points.

Annual Fish Competitions 2015 - 2016 by Dave Harris

Fish Competition

Fish numbers entered in the last season's fish competition were well up on last year's entry with 59 fish entered, 56 browns and just three rainbows. There were 20 fish 5lb or over this season caught by 7 members. These fish were 19 browns and 1 rainbow. Unfortunately some members have declined to tell where these fish came from, but those that we know of came from the Wairaki River (2), the Oreti River, the Pomahaka River, the Mararoa River and a Mataura tributary. As with the location there is not very much information on what they were caught on but those that were listed were caught on pheasant tail nymph (2), hare and copper nymph (2), a saucy 16, a royal wulff, a cicada and a red tag.

Only four members entered a fish every month and this was one up on last year. The winner's total this year was an impressive 56 ¾ lbs, well up on last year. Second and third were some way down. We have no waterway information on any of the winner's fish and only know that he caught fish on a pheasant tail nymph and a cicada.

The heaviest brown was up on last year at 10 ¼ lb. Heaviest rainbow was also slightly down on last year at 5 ¾ lb. Best condition factor the same as last year at 62.09 and was a rainbow.

The big fish were caught right through the season this year with October standing out.

Name This Stream Competition

No correct answers last month.

So again the same picture this month by Les Ladbrook. Answers by email only please to 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)

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 26th July | [AGM] Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper) |
| 2th August | (CM) Arranging the calendar for the next season |
| 7th August | Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am |
| 13/14th August | Club day out, fishing practice |
| 30th August | [MM] |

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, 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 Simon Budd, 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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