

# “Ripples”

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

March 2017



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



# Southland Fly Fishing Club

### RIUWAKA TROUT POPULATION BOOSTED

Trout flying bright green streamers were released into the Riuwaka River Yesterday. 150 brown trout which had been raised from fish caught in a neighbouring waterway were tagged, trucked and released in a day long operation by Nelson/Marlborough by Fish & Game staff.

*Right: Fish & Game Officer Jacob Lucas releases one of the tagged trout into the Riuwaka River.*



Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game Manager Rhys Barrier says having a local source of trout and salmon grown on contract for Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game region will hopefully be of real benefit to licenced anglers. "We carried out the release of adult brown trout into the Riuwaka River (formerly Riwaka) in order to try and boost the flagging population in this river, which was once a superb fishery.

Fish & Game staff will use this research project to investigate recruitment issues in the fishery. With the trout only able to spawn in the main steams of the Riuwaka River, and the river being subjected to flooding events recently, and other human activities such as unsympathetic earthworks and sedimentation issues, the trout population has suffered. The fish that were released were part of 1000 fish had been electrically fished from a neighbouring river so are effectively the same genetic stock. The trout were taken over to the Wairau Valley where they were raised in ideal conditions by Pieter Wilhelmus in his hatchery to improve their chances of survival.

Yesterday 150 trout that averaged about 1.1 kilograms in weight were selected and tagged then trucked the 160 kilometres back to the Riuwaka and released into three sites along the river. Fish & Game ask that anglers who catch the tagged trout release them if possible in the first year, but still let them know the tag number, date, time and location that the fish was caught. This will enable Fish & Game staff to track the movement of the fish, the project will run for the coming three years.



*Editors Note: Is this the way of the future for our fisheries? Planting tagged stocked trout of 1.1kg 'raised in ideal conditions' to counter the environmental degradation of our streams. What happened to the other 850 trout taken from a neighbouring river? What does recruitment issues mean? Has this strategy worked anywhere else in the world? Are F&G actually dealing with the root cause of the demise of this once 'superb fishery'?*

Excellent fly and photograph by Bojan Novakomik

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

John Gierach

## Fishing Report by Redtag



At last we have had stable weather and the river has come good as the rains have abated and it has been well below datum level. This has opened up some excellent water as the river level has dropped considerably. The water is crystal clear and sight fishing has been outstanding.

Mayfly hatches have been consistent and on most days a steady hatch is coming off most of the day with strong hatches mid morning and afternoon.

Trout have been feeding on rising nymphs and emergers and duns. It has often been a challenge deciphering exactly what stage of the hatch they are fixated on especially when multiple fish are taking different stages at the same time!



Unweighted nymphs and CDC emergers and duns have been the best option to cast to rising or sighted fish. With many fish on station in shin deep water it is important to get in the best position to cover them without spooking them off their lie. Stalking technique as well as presentation is the key to success.

Fish that are on the move are considerably harder to cover and you have to be agile and move with them as they move quickly upstream and from side to side. This is a magic time of the year on the river and to see a big jack move upstream sticking out its neb to take duns along the way is a sight to behold.

So get out there while the conditions are favourable. Forget fishing blind and put on a dry and fish dry only. Stalk and sight fish. This is why the river is in my opinion one of the best dry fly waters in the world. Do not miss the opportunity.

*Redtag*



## Lake Alexandrina Trip by Dave Harris



There were only three of us on the Lake Alexandrina Trip at the end of February, Julie Cook, Allan Carlene and myself. We travelled in Allan's ute as it has a bit more room than my Jeep or Julie's Yaris.

Unfortunately departure was delayed a bit while Allan sorted out some work problems but we finally hit the road about 9:00am on Friday. First stop was Stu's Fly Shop where a couple of purchases were made. Once up the road a bit there was a lot of traffic so progress was not as fast as expected and it was mid-afternoon by the time we arrived at the South Canterbury Anglers Hut at the south end of the lake.

After dinner Julie and I took the dinghy out to try our luck harling. We headed around close to the shore using sinking fly lines but had no luck at all in good conditions.

On Saturday we decided to fish the Cass River, which flows into Lake Tekapo just above Lake Alexandrina. Julie and I went upstream from the bridge and Allan went down. Due to the hot conditions Julie was wet wading (this was a first) and she walked a reasonable distance up the river, including a couple of crossings. There didn't seem to be a lot of fish in the river but I did manage to hook 4. Two were landed but these were very small, a better size fish dropped off and the final fish was unseen but, by the amount of line it pulled off before coming off, it must have been a reasonable size. I only actually spotted one fish and it wasn't keen on my flies. Allan saw no sign of fish below the bridge.

Sunday morning saw all three of us out in the boat with Allan on the oars. We had been watching others fishing and they all seemed to be out in the middle so that was where we headed. Julie was using Allan's rod and this had a fast sinking fly on. I was also using a fast sinking line on my setup. I was hooking up on weeds occasionally indicating my fly was near the bottom and then it happened, a hook up on a good rainbow. It was put on the menu for dinner. After lunch we headed into Tekapo to get some essentials to go with the trout. Once back at the hut I went for a walk but there was no fishing in the afternoon. After dinner we again headed out, this time I was rowing. Julie was using my setup in the bow of the boat and Allan had the same setup Julie had used in the morning. It wasn't long before Julie had a fish on but it didn't get to the net.



Worst news was that it still had my fly and I thought that was the only one of that exact pattern I had. However I found another the same and we set off again. After a while I suggested to Julie that she let a bit more line out and this payed off immediately with another good fish hooked. This one was unlucky and it finished up in the fridge. We continued fishing as it started to get dark. However Julie had a problem with her line and it was found to be well wrapped around one of the oars. Fortunately Allan had a torch as we would never have got it untangled in the dark without it (and the wind was pushing further up the lake all the time). Once the line was sorted we headed back to shore in total darkness, with the wind making rowing a bit difficult.

Monday morning and it was time to head home. We managed to dispose of our rubbish in Twizel (and the nice lady didn't even charge us) and then headed up to have a look at the Ahuriri River. Allan took us quite a way up the river where we stopped and talked to an English angler and his wife. We didn't do any fishing, this was just a look at the river for Julie and myself. From here it was homeward bound, although progress was very slow heading into Frankton.

I would like to thank the South Canterbury Anglers Club for the use of the hut. It is just a pity there were only three of us there. The rest of you missed a good trip.

Dave.



## From the President by Dave Harris

Finally we have had some great fishing weather and rivers in good condition. I have had some good days out in the past month and even managed to land a few fish. However I have found that if you are going to Northern Southland you do need to be there early as there have been a lot of anglers around, even on the Aparima.

As the fishing season is nearly over it is time to turn our attention to fly tying. The Club fly tying competition starts in May and that isn't far away. In fact the pattern for the May competition fly has to be in the April Ripples so we need to decide on the flies for the competition before then. Hopefully this can be discussed at our March meeting and be sorted out at the April executive meeting. If you have any ideas don't be afraid to put them forward. We need 4 different patterns, as the 5<sup>th</sup> fly will be the "Spotlight fly". Something a bit different would be good even if you don't know the exact materials etc we will be able to work it out. This happened a couple of years ago with the red damsel fly where we had a fly but no information on the materials or where to get them. The damsel recipe for the competition worked well (just ask Chris).

I will not be at the March meeting as I am off over the ditch to watch some motor racing in Australia (just as the weather has come right for fishing!). However I intend to try and find a fly shop in Melbourne as there are some materials that I use regularly I am having difficulty finding. You never know what I might find.

## Micro Thin Fly Lines

Our Micro Thin fly lines are 20-30% thinner than regular PVC lines. They use a solid monofilament core. Micro thin fly line coatings are faster / more energy efficient than regular PVC lines.

Micro thin fly lines:

Cause very little surface disturbance.

Do not create line flash.

Do not create spray on lift off or false casts.

Present flies multiple times to rising fish.

Catch spooky fish in flat calms and gin clear water.

Check out [sunrayflyfish.com](http://sunrayflyfish.com)



## Name This Stream Competition

No correct answer last month. So the competition goes on.

A clue is this stream is in eastern Southland.

Answers by email only please to [info@eis.co.nz](mailto:info@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)

|                         |   |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar    | [MM]  |  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> April   | (CM)  |  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> April   |  | <b>Club Day Trip</b> , meet at Fish & Game 7am |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> April  |  | Mid-week Trip                                  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> April  | [MM]  |  |
| 29/30 <sup>th</sup> Apr |  | Lodge Trip (End of Season)                     |

## Club Contacts

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*Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month*
- Librarian Simon Budd
- 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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