

# “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

### ENVIRONMENT LAWS UNDERMINED IN 'SNEAKY BACKDOOR ATTACK'

The government is being accused of a "sneaky backdoor attack" on one of the core principles of New Zealand's cornerstone environment laws.

Fish & Game says the attack is hidden in the fine detail of the government's proposed changes to the document governing how freshwater should be managed, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.

Fish & Game commissioned respected lawyers Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC and Elana Geddis to scrutinise the proposed amendments.

Fish & Game New Zealand Chief Executive Bryce Johnson says the result of their analysis is deeply worrying.

"What has been revealed is a sneaky backdoor attack on one of the core principles of the Resource Management Act which will effectively put economic growth ahead of the environment," Mr Johnson says.

Mr Johnson says the public should be worried about what the government is planning for the environment and the cherished rivers and streams where they swim, fish and gather food.

"When you have two such highly-respected legal experts as Sir Geoffrey and Elana Geddis warning of the environmental dangers hidden in the proposed amendments, then it's time to sit up and take notice," Mr Johnson says.

"With the conflicting responsibilities Regional Councils already have for environmental protection and regional development, you don't have to be a political scientist to see the environment will be the loser if the economy is elevated.

"This is deeply concerning as "economic wellbeing" and "productive economic opportunities" are limitless and lend themselves to political abuse," he says. Bryce Johnson says the public needs to be aware of what these changes will mean. "It is a crafty attempt by the government to firmly place the economy and big business ahead of the environment. It significantly undermines the degree of environmental protection which is currently provided by the existing freshwater policy guidelines. The changes will effectively undermine the environmental protection in the existing freshwater policy statement by requiring "economic well-being" and "productive economic opportunities" to be given the same status as the environment.

"The New Zealand public is growing increasingly angry about the state of their rivers, lakes and streams. They have protested, signed petitions and marched on Parliament, yet the government is brazenly trying to ignore them and pretend it has the best interests of the environment at heart.

"The simple fact is we cannot go on abusing the environment in the way we have. The government has to realise it is finite, not limitless," Mr Johnson says.



The government's proposed amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management have already attracted considerable controversy, with environmentalists saying the government is merely trying to shift the goalposts to allow dirtier water to be classed as "swimmable."

*Cover Photo: Dave Harris*



Excellent fly and photograph by Matin Westbeek

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

John Gierach

## Catch and Release prints



The Catch and Release Print Shop measure your catch and can create it to size send you a print and the fish survives.

They offer an alternative to taxidermy and traditional mounting of gamefish. Each print is created for you, to the exact length of your catch, and stamped with your name and other information about your catch. They have partnered with renowned scientific/biological illustrators Diane Peebles, Joseph Tomelleri and Chris Hutson to provide you with a complete catalogue of fish (over 1,500 species) both fresh and saltwater.

The company was founded on two principles, first, fisheries conservation by promoting Catch & Release, and second, fairly compensating their artist-partners for their life's work.

Check them out at [prints.fish](http://prints.fish)

## California Dreaming by Johnny Mauchline



On my way back from a trip to Scotland I stopped off for 3 days in California. I wanted to fish the Meadow Spring creeks in the western Sierra Nevada mountains. After a long drive from San Francisco up the Sacramento River Valley I eventually arrived to the spectacular vistas of the mountains. The weather was splendid with little wind and blue skies. I wanted to fish dry fly on the creeks but unfortunately with the mountains having a larger than average snowfall that winter past I was snookered by high snow melt flows. Although the streams were clear they were freezing cold with no hatches or activity and the flows were way above normal. So I spent my time sightseeing and exploring the National Parks and towns around the region. Some roads were still blocked by snow as the snow plows could not get through the passes. These streams are fed from big springs in the high mountains which flow through the alpine meadows and contain mainly introduced brown trout. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife are currently eradicating non-native fish after a state statute policy that enacts the eradication of all non-native fish from Californian waters. A 2 day non-residents licence is US\$23.50. A non-resident season licence is US\$126. So better luck next time. A month too early this time. That's fishing for you!

## May Fly Tying Competition

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Seven flies were entered in the May competition which all were of a good standard. The pattern was Ian Michelsons Orange Parachute Adams.

By popular vote both Les Ladbrook and Jason Leishman shared first prize. Their flies are in the photo below.



## July Competition Fly - Damselfly Nymph by Dave Harris

This damselfly nymph is tied (almost) to Mike Weddell's pattern. Mike uses a different hook but I think it is very similar and he uses different dubbing but it is still olive. I have used what I had available.

This fly should be used in lakes by casting out over weed beds and working in jerks back to the shore. Do use strong tippet as the takes can be savage.

Materials: Thread -Dark Brown Uni-thread 6/0 Hook -Black Magic B10 or Kamasan B830 #10 Tail -Olive Marabou Ribbing -Fine copper wire Abdomen -Olive Natural fur dubbing Thorax -Olive Natural fur dubbing Wing case - Olive Marabou



Step 1 Run thread to bend of hook and tie in tail  
Tear tail to length (it looks better than cutting)



Step 2 Tie in copper wire



Step 3 Dub abdomen



Step 4 Dub thorax ( a bit bigger diameter than abdomen)



Step 5 Wind copper wire forward over both abdomen and thorax



Step 6 Tie in wing case at front only. Tear wing case to length  
Build up head and whip finish.

## Trout Whispering by Johnny Mauchline

I was asked by a Facebook friend to explain how I Catch & Release trout by using Trout Whispering techniques and to share the information with others. I will do my best to explain. There is only one rule in Trout Whispering: LEAVE YOUR NET AT HOME. There is absolutely no need to net trout caught on a mono line or leader in a river. Nets are designed to capture fish and were traditionally used to ensure the fish ended up on the dinner table. Their use in C&R is detrimental to trout. They can deplete the slime layer on scales that help protect it from disease. Gloves and hands can do the same. How many trout do you see being lunged at and thrashing about in nets being held aloft? Leave them at home.

Trout Whispering techniques are simple and easy to undertake. First step is to use barbless hooks. This ensures the hook is easy to remove and does less damage if any than a barbed hook. I use forceps to remove my hooks. It can be done by hand however I believe that forceps are a safer alternative and you are less likely to hook yourself.



**First step:** Once you have the trout under control take the pressure off the rod until the fish settles. Use light pressure only. There is no need whatsoever to keel haul trout. This takes some time to master but practice and eventually you will get it right and the fish will swim in the current in a relaxed manner. Gently reel the fish in until you have only 300mm or so of fly line out from the tip of the rod. Position the rod until you are able to hold the leader gently across the palm of your hand. The photo below shows how to do this. Do not grip the line tightly. There is a 3lb trout on the line with 5X tippet as I took this photo.



Using gentle pressure bring the fish gently towards you whilst holding the rod under your arm with slack line. Keep the line tighter now in your hand but always be aware to let it slip through your hand if the fish applies pressure and wants to run or jump if you apply gentle pressure this should not happen. The fish will be relaxed and swim in the current alongside or below you. The photo shows the holding position of the hand to gently apply pressure.

Start to bring the fish closer in towards you by gripping the line gently and steering and encouraging the fish to come close. The fish should move in a relaxed manner and not be stressed whatsoever. The photo shows the grip to bring the fish close. If it runs let the leader run through your hand until it calms down and repeat.



If you wish to take a photo this is the time to do so. As the fish comes alongside you let it relax before attempting to reach your hand underwater and taking a photo. The photo shows the line relaxed in my hand and if you follow the line you may see the fish. Note the position of the rod and the slack line.



When the fish is close by this is the time to take a photo. Still holding the leader gently and without sudden movement reach underwater with your camera in your other hand and take a few shots. This takes practice to get it right! The following photo shows the result. An un-stressed and relaxed fish.



Then bring the fish in close immediately below your stance. Be gentle and it will come without thrashing. Take your time. Once in a position to release remove the hook. (note the forceps on my jacket).



I developed Trout Whispering because I was aware of my and others ineptitude in catching and releasing trout. I wanted to ensure their best chance of survival. The number of trout belly up in the river has increased over the years as C&R becomes the norm. In my opinion this is because anglers either have no regard for the fish or have not established any knowledge on how to release trout to limit mortality. The common practice of gripping fish with either gloved or unwet hands and taking them out of the water to gain a 'hero' shot is rife. It is promoted as normal practice by the fly fishing media and the guiding industry.

Tony Bishop at [bishfish.co.nz](http://bishfish.co.nz) has some great informative articles on how not to harm fish. If you are determined that you have to have a grip and grin (or grip and kill as he calls it) photo. Using a barbless hook and a non-touch no net approach gives the trout the best possible chance of recovery and survival.

## Final Fling by Dave Harris#

The Club trip to the Lodge for the high country closing weekend attracted only Chris and myself. As normal we travelled up Friday night. Saturday morning we weren't up particularly early and after having breakfast and making lunches we headed off to the Von River. The plan was to drop into the gorge and fish up (this is Chris's usual plan for the Von). However when we arrived there were two other anglers at the bridge at the top of the gorge. We stopped and spoke to them and they said they were going to walk down the gorge.



They also told us of big fish being caught in the gorge the previous weekend. We left them to the gorge and headed back up to the old homestead to fish the flats.

We saw a few fish but most of those we saw were paired up and not interested in eating. Spotting was difficult due to the poor light. After about 4km of river and with Chris having landed one fish, we decided to head back to the car and consider our options. With the others fishing the gorge and not many fish in the river we decided it might be worth a look at the mouth to see if there were fish waiting to enter the river. Unfortunately there was no-one home at the Mt Nicholas homestead and the only person we could find was a tourist operator and he wasn't going to give us permission to go down to the mouth. In fact we actually got told off for coming onto the farm without ringing the day before!

We headed back up the river and I dropped Chris off to drop down into the gorge and headed to the bridge to have a look at the bottom of the flats (the others had gone by this time). A couple more fish were spotted and when I arrived back at the car, Chris was waiting there for me, having spent a lot less time in the gorge than I spent on the flats. Neither of us had had any success. We headed back to Mossburn Hotel for dinner, then back to the Lodge.

Sunday morning it was off to Te Anau to fish the Upukerora. I had been to the Upukerora on the previous Thursday, fishing from Dale Road and hadn't seen a lot of fish, so we decided to go in off the Milford road to fish much lower down the river. Conditions were good but there had been a few changes to the river with a new channel along the bank on the true right not far above the gravel pit. We fished through to the top of the gorge, spotting a number of fish and nine of them finished up in the net. Biggest was a nice 5lb rainbow that Chris pulled out of a deep pool in the gorge.

From here it was back to the Lodge to turn off the water and drain everything for the winter and then away home. A good trip to finish the river season (well almost, I did manage another day on the Upukerora on May 31, with 5 fish landed after dropping a few at the start of the day).

## From the President by Dave Harris

Unfortunately the river fishing season is over. I managed a few days out in May and caught a few fish. I had a total of three trips to the Upukerora, one of my favourite rivers to fish in May. Unfortunately that did involve quite a few kilometres in the car but that is the way it is. I also managed a couple of days on the Mataura but there wasn't a lot of activity. On both rivers spotting conditions were not great although the Upukerora was a lot better in that respect than the Mataura. Even when the sun was out, it is not very high in the sky so glare is always a problem. What was really good was the last two fish I landed on the Upukerora came up and took the dry fly I was using as an indicator above my nymph. The first of these was a 4lb rainbow that came up out of deeper, fast flowing water and nailed the fly. The last fish was a brown that I had spotted in shallow edge water and I watched turn slowly and come over to take the fly. A great way to end the day on the Upukerora.

On June 10<sup>th</sup> we had the first of our two fly tying days for the winter. This attracted a total of 6 people although not all were there at the same time. Les was there but mainly to take photos, however he did help Julie out with her tying. The same night was our annual dinner and 11 of us enjoyed a meal and silly gift night at Ainos. It was good to have some members along who had not been before.

The June monthly meeting is members' video and film night and we need you to bring along your photos and videos from the past season and tell us all about them. They need to be on a memory stick so we can put them up on the screen. This meeting is also our annual photo competition so you need to bring along your photos for the competition. There are four categories; scenic, trophy, action and general.

You can enter 3 photos in each category and the photos need to be 7" x 5" prints.

It is time to start thinking about next year's Club calendar. We normally sort this out at the August Executive meeting on the first Tuesday of August. If you want something different to what we have been doing it would be good to know before we get to August so we can sort it out and include it in the calendar.

## Competitions

At the June monthly meeting we will be holding our annual photo competition and I will have some Hunting and Fishing vouchers for the winners. There are 4 categories, trophy, scenic, action and general. You can enter three photos in each category. Photos are to be from the 2016-2017 season and are to be 7" x 5". You need to be in to win.

In May we had 7 flies in the competitions which was really good. This month's fly (June) is the Fairlight Caddis as shown in the May Ripples.

The July fly is a damsel fly nymph tied to mike Weddell's pattern. Instructions are in this Ripples.

## Name This Stream Competition

No correct answer last month. There was some entries that were all incorrect. So the completion goes on.

A clue is this stream is in Eastern Southland and is a tributary of the Mataura.

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 \$30 Hunting & Fishing voucher sponsored by EIS.



## Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

27th June	[MM]	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
4th July	(CM)	Fly tying
25th July	[AGM]	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
1st August	(CM)	Arranging the calendar for the next season
6th August		Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am

## Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)
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- Editor Johnny Mauchline, 10 Carlyle Street, Matura (021 2877 323) [service@eis.co.nz](mailto:service@eis.co.nz)  
*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 members, contact Chris McDonald.

## Club Sponsors



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