

# “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

### RETHINK NEEDED ON WATERWAY FENCING REQUIREMENTS

Most of New Zealand's river pollution comes from streams that would be exempt from waterway fencing rules, new research shows. It calls into question the effectiveness of current efforts, which would become law under legislation proposed by the National Government. A paper [published by the American Journal of Environmental Quality](#) found that 77 per cent of contaminants in New Zealand's rivers came from smaller waterways exempt from proposed fencing rules. Both voluntary and regulatory fencing efforts by rural and community groups have sought to protect larger waterways, sometimes described as wider than a stride and deeper than a redband gumboot. In policy terms, it refers to streams more than 1m wide and 30cm deep. The paper, by Ag Research scientist Dr Richard McDowell as part of the Our Land and Water National Science Challenge, found that most pollution does not come from those waterways. It modelled the contaminant load for over half a million stream segments around the country, which were divided into those that would need to be fenced and those that would not. It determined 77 per cent of the pollution load nationwide came from streams that would not require fencing. The contribution of individual pollutants from smaller streams ranged from 73 per cent of total nitrogen to 84 per cent of dissolved reactive phosphorus.



It was particularly evident in agriculturally-productive regions such as Canterbury, Southland, Nelson and Hawkes Bay, which "exhibited large contaminant loads from exempt catchments", the research said. "These regions have significant downstream rivers that are used for recreation and tourism," it said. "Our data suggest that not requiring fencing may significantly delay or reduce the ability to mitigate water quality impairment unless other measures are taken." Because most of the waterways in the country were smaller, it was no surprise they were the major contributor of pollution, McDowell said. It showed fencing off waterways could not be relied on in isolation to improve water quality. "Because there are so many of those [small] streams, it's a bit of a no-brainer, but most of the contaminant load comes from those streams," he said. "The take-home message is not to put all your eggs in one basket and just rely on fencing to decrease your water quality impact." For farmers, it would mean looking at other ways to reduce water quality impacts. Fencing all streams in the country, including smaller ones, would cost \$1.4b, according to a regulatory impact statement by the Ministry for Primary Industries. It would be uneconomic to do so, but there were other measures to reduce the impact on water quality, McDowell said.

"Don't expect fencing to do everything. Fencing costs a lot, but we do have a large array of other management practices we can do to improve water quality and not impact on the bottom line." Fish & Game chief executive Bryce Johnson said it was an "extremely important piece of research" that showed an urgent need to rethink the national riparian fencing strategy. "We now have the science to show what we have long suspected – small waterways are crucially important to the environment and need to be properly protected from contamination," he said. "They flow into the bigger streams and rivers and [the] research shows that by the time they join up with bigger streams, much of the pollution has already occurred."

- *Stuff*

Cover Photo — Johnny Mauchline



Excellent fly and photograph by Kenji Nakamine

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

John Gierach

## Fishing Report By Redtag



So another season starts and life is good again. Unlike the usual scenario at the start of October the rivers and streams are in good order. Maybe a tad little high but nevertheless fishable. Praise be to the river gods for that. However as always we can forever complain and the winds from the NW NE and E have had a somewhat detrimental effect to the start of the season.



Nonetheless opening day on a wee favourite stream was an awesome experience. Very large trout holding in the deeper pools. 2 or more grouped together. Initially they were not interested but after the wind changed from the NE to the SW they came on and accepted a dry. I lost 2 very large hen fish one of which took me upstream for a run and then again downstream before burying itself in the weeds from which I manhandled it out of to only again chase it and get it out of an undercut bank! and then I thought it would be all over but it took me into a weed bank again and after exasperatedly almost getting it free it broke off.



Other than that there has been some steady hatches on the river with the fish somewhat keying in to the hatch at times. So it has been a bit of sighting fish and either casting a nymph or a dry to them. As always it all about being at the right place at the right time and presenting the right fly to a feeding fish. What could go wrong? I guess for me nothing much as I find whatever happens on the river with conditions or circumstances.. with patience and some local knowledge and experience often as not you can come up with a good result which could only be a fish or two for the day or none at all if no luck.



Top flies so far this season are the CDC emerger..the CDC emerging nymph and the Alaskan nymph in that order. As the weather stabilises (hopefully) in the next month or so the fish will key well in to the hatches and we should get them taking Duns off the top. As well as that we can look forward to the willow grubbers although I have to say locally I don't see much evidence of the galls on the trees. Tight lines.

## Smith Optics Polaroid Ignitor Lens Field Test by Johnny Mauchline

As I predominately only fish dry fly to sighted or rising trout it is imperative that I can see them clearly! To aid my old eyes polarised glasses are very important. I have a very good pair of Spotters with amber glass lens that are excellent on the water on sunny days.

It is when it is overcast or dark in the shadows under the trees that I have been looking for something extra to stop me squinting. Anything to highlight shape and form in the water helps to identify the fish. I came across the Smith Optics low light Ignitor glass lens while researching options. It has had good reviews from international anglers looking for a similar solution to enhance low light conditions on the water. They also say that they find after using them for a time that they used them in all conditions.



Luckily Hunting & Fishing Invercargill has Smith Optics available and Gerald the manager was good enough to let me field test a pair as the proof is in the pudding as they say. I set about testing my amber pair and the Ignitors on a favourite pool and run which is the lie of a big brown on a local stream.

The stream was running high but luckily clear enough to see to the bottom. In full sun there was very little difference if any between the standard amber and the Ignitor lens with both performing very well. So I now had to try them out in low light conditions. Unusually enough for Southland it took a few days before we had good overcast conditions. I went back to the stream and immediately spotted my piscatorial friend actively feeding and working the fan of the pool snouting around for caddis and nymphs.

Under inspection and close scrutiny of the water I did determine that the Ignitors certainly had the edge on the standard lens in these conditions. Just having that extra lift of light and penetration made all the difference. So for me having the advantage of being able to see fish effectively whilst covering both full sun and low light conditions makes a difference to my fishing experience and is just as if not more important than what rod or reel or line or fly I am using. The Smith Ignitors certainly deliver that advantage.

[Check them out at Hunting & Fishing.](#)

## Conservation Mounts by The Taxidermist Ltd



Have you ever caught a fish where you had no way to freeze it, do you regret eating that great fish you caught ten years ago, do you long to catch a trophy trout and hang it on the wall but are mindful that the trophy fish are the future of the fishery. Well now you can have your cake and eat it too!

Today conservation minded anglers take advantage of today's technology and preserve the fishery at the same time. The Taxidermist Ltd encourages anglers to practice catch and release of trophy fish. You can have all the enjoyment of landing the big one and the satisfaction of knowing by putting it back you perpetuate the species.

Take several good photos of the fish and record an estimate of its weight and length before release. From this information the taxidermist can provide you with a lasting memory to hang on the wall.

The finished mount is lightweight and inexpensive to ship. Usually they can be sent Parcel Post directly to your home where ever in the world that might be.

The Taxidermist is based in Queenstown and David Jacobs the owner comes from a four generation family of taxidermists.

You can check out their services at [www.taxidermy.co.nz](http://www.taxidermy.co.nz)

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## September Fly Tying Competition — PT No Thread Nymph



Six flies were entered in the September competition which were all very good. (One was lost in transit)  
The pattern was Jason Leishman's Pheasant Tail nymph which was a no thread tie using only copper wire.  
By popular vote the winner was Dave Harris ( Top Centre).

## Over Engineering?



## Annual Fishing Competitions#

The Club Fishing Competitions this year take the same form as in the past except we will only accept fish from Southland and Otago (this was decided at the AGM).

This is an honesty competition where hand in your cards at the monthly meetings (or any other time you can find me). You were given 7 cards when you paid your subscription and that is one card for each month of the season. You can put more in but you will need to buy more cards from the Secretary to make it through the season.

The cards handed in at each meeting go in a draw for a \$20 gift voucher from Hunting & Fishing.

If you have cards from previous months that you have not put in, they go in the draw when they are submitted. It doesn't matter how big the fish is you can still win the gift voucher. Last draw is at the April meeting but cards can still be submitted after this and are eligible for the competitions.

There are 4 sections to the annual competitions – heaviest brown, heaviest rainbow, total weight and condition factor. The first two are easy to figure out, total weight is the total for one fish per month of the season (hence the seven cards) and the condition factor is based on the length and weight of the fish.

Calculation is:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight}}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}} \times 100000$$

Weight is in pounds and length is in inches

If you use metric instead of imperial measures it looks like this:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight}}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}} \times 3612.8$$

Weight is in grams and length is in cm.

A very good fish gives a condition factor of 60 – 70. If this calculation gives numbers over this I get very suspicious of the data.

There is also a Junior Competition and this is based on taking part in Club activities. Points are awarded for attending meetings, coming out on Club trips putting in fish cards each month, entering the photo competition and entering flies in the fly tying competition.

There will be a one night photo competition at the end of the season with 4 classes – scenic, trophy, action and general. Photos need to be from this season so remember to take your camera and take plenty of photos.

## Presidents Report by Dave Harris#

First a warm welcome to those who joined the Club on our successful night at Hunting and Fishing on their fishing night and many thanks to Gerald and his staff for supporting our promotion. Hopefully we will see you all at our meetings and out on our trips as well as participating in our other activities, especially our competitions.

Our calendar is on the Club website, [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz) and the fish competitions are outlined elsewhere in this edition of Ripples. Our fly tying competition takes place during the off season and is over for this year. If you need further information on anything don't hesitate to give me or Chris a ring to find out what is happening.

Well it was great to get out on opening day in good weather and on a river in great condition, a tiny bit high but that is what you expect at the start of the season. Chris McDonald and I had a great day with a good number of fish landed (and at least as many dropped, but you get that). We did have another angler come up behind us and he wanted to fish ahead of us and only leave us a couple of kilometres of the river. We told him we needed 5 km but we found his footsteps after about 3km. However we both caught fish in pools he had clearly fished. For both of us it was our best opening day ever. What a great start to the season. See Chris's first fish of the season in the photo below.

I have had a couple of outings since and was brought back to earth when I didn't manage to land a fish on my second outing. The stream I fished was surprising low and had a lot of algae on the stones indicating it had been low for some time. Most of the fish were sitting deep in the pools but I did manage some takes and briefly hooked one. That's the way it goes. I was out again today (9<sup>th</sup> October) at Winton and it was amazing the number of people there, some fishing but many actually swimming in the river. There was quite a lot of water and it was not super clear but I was able to spot a few fish and managed to net a couple.

The rivers in general seem to be in pretty good shape so get out there and catch some fish.



## Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

24 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	[MM]	Chris McDonald on his 2016-2017 season
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov		High Country Opening (Wednesday)
4/5 <sup>th</sup> Nov		Club Trip [Weekend at the Lodge] - High Country Opening
7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	(CM)	Fly Tying
12 <sup>th</sup> Nov		<b>Club Day Trip</b> meet at Fish & Game – 7am
21 <sup>st</sup> Nov		Shift Workers / Retirees mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	[MM]	

## 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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- 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, 17 Eye St, West Invercargill, Invercargill 9810. [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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