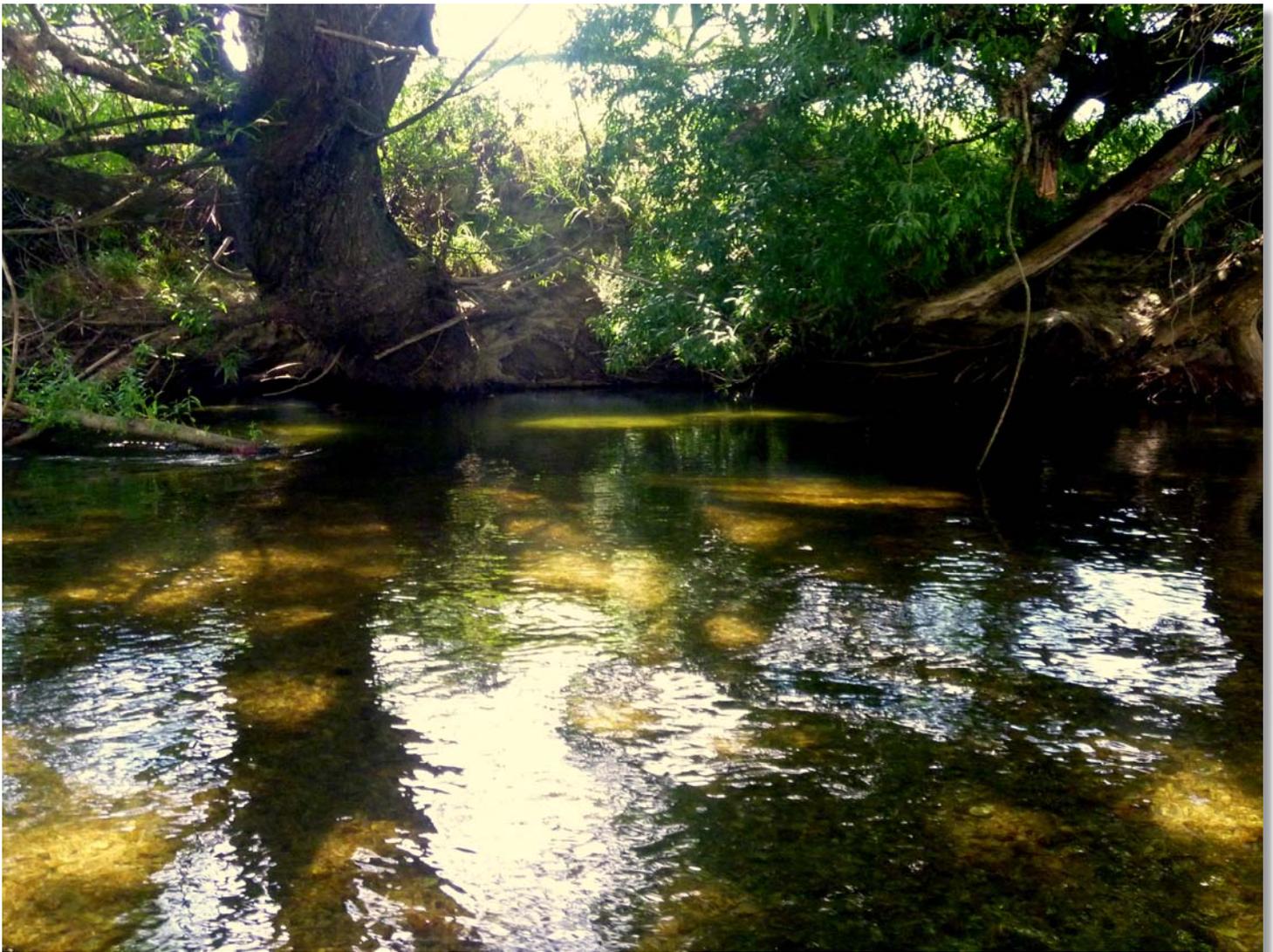


“Ripples”

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

February 2018



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippets

More than 70 percent of New Zealanders say commercial businesses should pay for the impact they have on the environment

And seven out of ten say the dairy industry should not be treated more leniently than other commercial operations.

The findings are revealed in a nationwide poll of a thousand people conducted for Fish & Game New Zealand by Colmar Brunton.

The survey asked people if commercial businesses including farms should pay to mitigate any negative environmental impact they have.

Nearly three quarters – 71 percent – agreed or strongly agreed. Only eight percent took an opposing view.

When the same people were asked if dairy farms should be held to the same level of accountability as other businesses, 70 percent said they should.

The results were even higher among those concerned about pollution of rivers and lakes – 79 percent of these people wanted commercial businesses to mitigate their negative environmental impact.

Fish & Game New Zealand's chief executive Martin Taylor says the poll results show farming has to stop trying to dodge responsibility for its impact on the environment.

"People are fed up with pollution, particular by intensive corporate dairying. It has robbed them of being able to swim in their favourite rivers."

Martin Taylor says strong, decisive action is needed urgently.

"How many of our waterways need to be toxic before we change what we are doing? Commercial dairy businesses must pay to mitigate their negative impact on the environment.

"Here's a question for Fonterra – does it believe dairy farmers should pay the full cost of remedying their pollution? The answer is simple - no one is exempt and dairying should stop trying to plead it is a special case," he says. Martin Taylor says the present situation leaves kiwis in a lose-lose situation.

"Corporate dairy farming is getting the largest corporate welfare pay out New Zealand has seen. Their pollution costs are being passed onto taxpayers who can't now swim in their dairy-degraded rivers," he says.

Martin Taylor says it's time for Fonterra to abandon its multi-million dollar TV ad campaigns and work to protect the environment.

"Fonterra and Dairy NZ have spent millions trying to convince kiwis that corporate dairying is OK. That sort of glossy PR is so last year and the results of both this opinion poll and the election show the tactic just isn't working.

"What is needed is for the corporate dairy industry to finally admit it has dirty operators in its ranks who are hurting the good farmers who do care. It's time to stop defending these polluters and get rid of them," Martin Taylor says.



Cover photo by Johnny Mauchline - Willow Grubber territory

Excellent flies and photography by Jirka Razek

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

John Gierach

Fishing Report By Redtag



Excellent if hot conditions at the start of the month brought plenty of willow grub activity on the local rivers and streams. Some days there were prolific numbers of fish lined up under the willow canopy on a local stretch. They are never easy to catch but I did have some halcyon days with plenty of fish caught and released. The fish were so keyed in to feeding on grubs that many would take the artificial in open water.

Mayfly hatches had not been as prolific with only trickle hatches coming off now and again. However after heavy rains leading to flooded waters things have changed and the mayfly should become more active especially in the mornings and evenings when the rivers subside and clear up.



I have two new experimental mayflies to try out.

One is a emerging nymph that I will use just under the surface film cast down and across to rising fish and another is a spinner. Spinner patterns can be fickle with them working on one occasion and not on another. I am hoping that this new version will be more consistent. However I have thought that many times before!.

They are more successful I find when there are not so many spinners on the water.

So focusing on the early stages of the fall often results in more takes especially in non-slack water. I cant wait to try The new flies out .



As the river started to clear on the edges last week there were many fish working under the willows. Some in such shallow water their dorsal fin and tail were out of the water. If you position yourself appropriately this allows for close quarter fishing and on occasion i was less than a rods length away from the fish.

Tight Lines

New book presented to the Club Library



Club member Johnny Mauchline (right) presented Club President Dave Harris with a copy of Andrew Fowler's excellent book on fly fishing in South Africa, *Stippled Beauties*. Andrew kindly gifted the book to the Club library. Andrew is Chairman of the Natal Fly Fishers Club.

Lake Alexandrina Trip by Dave Harris



There were just four of us going to Lake Alexandrina to stay in the South Canterbury Anglers Club hut at the lake outlet. This is a different hut to the one we stayed at last year and is halfway up the lake. As a hut it is much better equipped with electricity, TV shower that works etc but the view is nowhere near as spectacular.

Alan, Roger and Julie set off on Friday but they dropped Julie off at the Ohau canal to stay the night with her brothers (actually camp next to their motorhomes). I was busy on Friday night so set off early Saturday morning, picking up Julie (and the salmon she had caught) and made it to the hut by lunch time. There was no sign of the others so I found the secretary of the SCAC and borrowed a key to get in. We decided to have a look around as I was keen on fishing the outlet of Lake MacGregor and where it flows into Lake Tekapo. We soon discovered Lake Tekapo was very high and there was no flow out of Lake MacGregor. When we got back the others were at the hut having not managed to catch any fish on the lake. We enjoyed Julie's salmon for an entrée that night.

Sunday morning three of us set out in the boat (it is not big enough for four) with Alan doing the rowing and Julie staying behind. After quite a bit of rowing we had our first hook-up with a good rainbow taking a fly. He was entrée that night. No other fish were keen to join him.

The next trip out saw Dave on rowing duty and Alan staying behind but was unsuccessful although quite a bit of the lake was explored including an area that was supposed to have some hot spots. We didn't find them. On the Monday trip Roger managed to hook on and land a nice rainbow. Dave was once again on the oars and Julie stayed behind. Sunday night and Monday afternoon saw an attempt to catch something from the shore of Lake Macgregor. We didn't have much else we could do on Monday afternoon as it was far too windy to take the boat out. In fact we just made it back in in the morning before the wind came up very suddenly. We had a final attempt on the lake on Tuesday morning with Dave again on the oars but the wind made rowing difficult so we called it quits, cleaned up the hut and headed home.

A good weekend but we still haven't fully solved the fishing on the lake. Over two trips we have managed to land four fish but all four have been on the same line and set up, but with three different people using the rod. With four of us it would have been better to have had a second boat. The boat we were using comes with the hut so is very convenient.

Fly Fishing Course



Our annual Fly Fishing Course was held on the last weekend of January. As usual Mike Weddell came down from Mosgiel to take the course for us. Although registrations were slow we finally had a full course on the Monday before but one person had to withdraw due to a family illness. He is keen to come next year so is our first registration for next year's course.

The course content was pretty much as usual although I have noticed a few changes over the years. The casting training at James Hargest College was held in fine conditions with a bit of breeze. Most of the participants seemed to get on reasonably well and looked like they would be okay on the river.

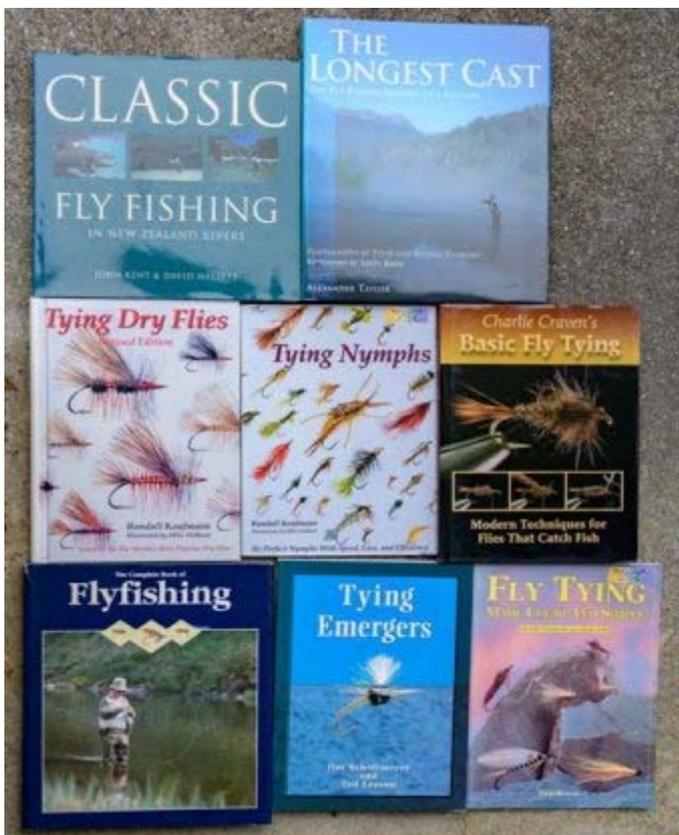
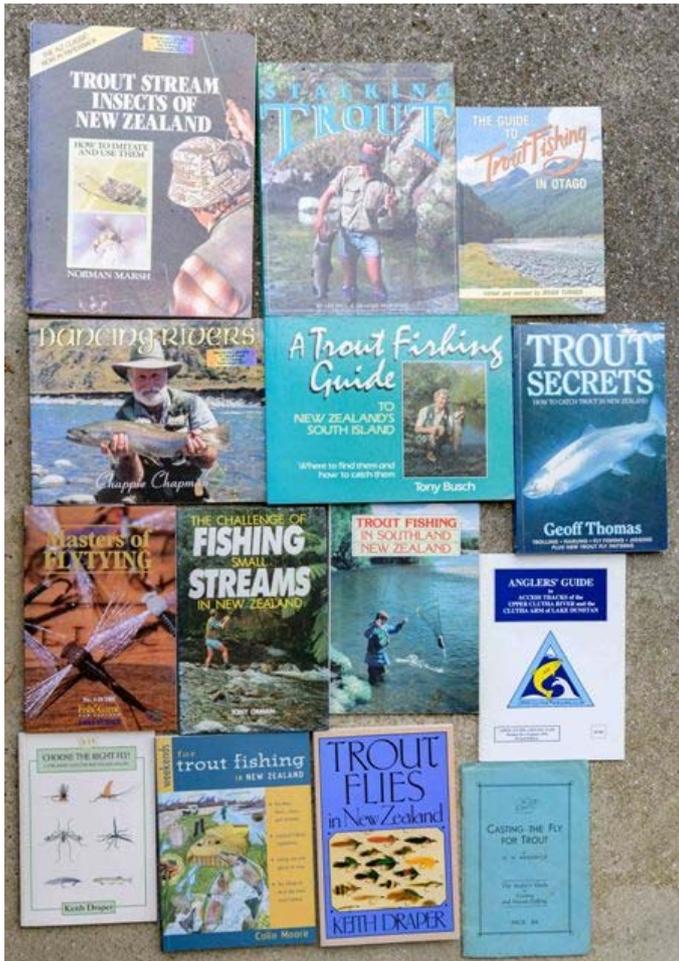


On the Sunday morning there was one less problem than usual during the casting practice as there was no likelihood of the back cast catching in the grass behind as the beach was very wide due to the very low river. A couple of fish were landed as usual during this time.

The afternoon was not very productive with very few fish caught. The water temperature was not favourable and the fish were either deep down or in the fast water. Overall another successful course and thanks to those who helped out with casting and on the river.

Also thanks to our sponsors Hunting and Fishing and Manic Tackle. The Simms vest donated by Manic Tackle was presented by Mike Weddell and won by Trevor Hourston (left)

For Sale - Collection of Fly Fishing Books



Excellent collection of 30 fly fishing books for \$300, pick up in Invercargill.

Contact Les on 0272838894 or email

Les.Ladbrook@sdhb.govt.nz

Presidents Report by Dave Harris

Well it has been a bit busy over the last few weeks. We have had events over the last three weekends as I write this. The last weekend in January we had our annual Fly Fishing course with 15 people attending the course. Unfortunately we had one late withdrawal with a family health problem. The following weekend was our away trip to Lake Alexandrina and four members made this trip and finally on the second Sunday in February we had our monthly day trip out.

The fishing conditions were getting pretty tough as the river levels dropped and the temperature rose. There were still fish to be found but they were not always in the places expected or feeding as they usually do. Then finally the rain came, lots of it with the Waikaia River hit the hardest. The rain was welcome but we could have done with a bit less in some places and a bit more in others. I suspect the lower Waiau River will still have a lot of algae on stones as the flow at the Mararoa control gates did not get very high. There is a minimum flow through here but Meridian Energy have to spill dirty water if the Mararoa gets dirty. Unfortunately the flows in the Mararoa were not very high so not enough water was spilled to clean up the river.

I had tried to keep my fishing to rivers with reasonable flows so I had only fished the Mataura and the lower Waiau. The fish in the Mataura were still out feeding but in the fast water. They were relatively easy to spot and some would respond to a nymph. The day on the Mararoa was a delayed mid-week trip. It was quite windy (down river) and very difficult to spot fish, not helped by the condition of the river.

I have been getting a bit of feedback on crowding on some rivers and so not so good behaviour. If you any problems out there let me know with all the details and I will pass it on to Fish and Game. They are aware there are some issues but need facts if they are going to work on the problem.

The rivers should be in much better condition now (although the Mataura and Waikaia are still carrying quite a bit of colour) so it is time to get out and catch some fish.

Club Trip to the Mataura - February by Dave Harris

After a long period with not much rain, then some heavy rain the rivers were at a better height than a couple of weeks ago but still carrying a bit of colour. We had five members on the trip – Chris, Simon, Dave, Daniel (first trip) and John (from Perth). After some discussion we decided to head for the Mataura in the Riversdale area (above the Waikaia as it had been hit hard by flooding the previous weekend and this would have affected the Mataura as well). We split into two groups with Dave and John heading away together and heading a bit downstream from the others. Unfortunately there was another angler where they intended to go so they went a bit further down.

The river was at a reasonable level, the stones were clean but there was some colour in the water making it impossible to see the bottom (or fish) in the deeper water. It was heavy overcast but no wind but it wasn't long before the rain came. The combination of coloured water, no sun and rain made it extremely difficult to catch fish. Later in the afternoon the weather improved and coming home probably wasn't the right thing to do but none of us had planned to stay late.

Overall at least 6 fish were landed and a few more were hooked and lost or missed on the take. However it was a good day out and good to have one of the course participants out with us.

Teviot River Fishing Contest

There is a fishing contest on the Teviot River on March 4. A chance to catch lots of little fish. This is part of research into fish size & population on the river.

Anyone interested please contact Dave Harris (03 215 6068) for details.

Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

20 st Feb		Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
27 th Feb	[MM]	--- This meeting is “On the river” --- BBQ Tea about 6pm
3-4 th Mar		Poolburn Trip*
6 th Mar	(CM)	Fly Tying
11 th Mar		Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game 7am
20 st Mar		Mid-week Trip
27 th Mar	[MM]	

Club Contacts

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- Website www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz
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- Editor Johnny Mauchline, (021 2877 323) johnnymauchline@gmail.com
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 (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 Chris McDonald.

Club Sponsors



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