

“Ripples”

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

January 2019



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



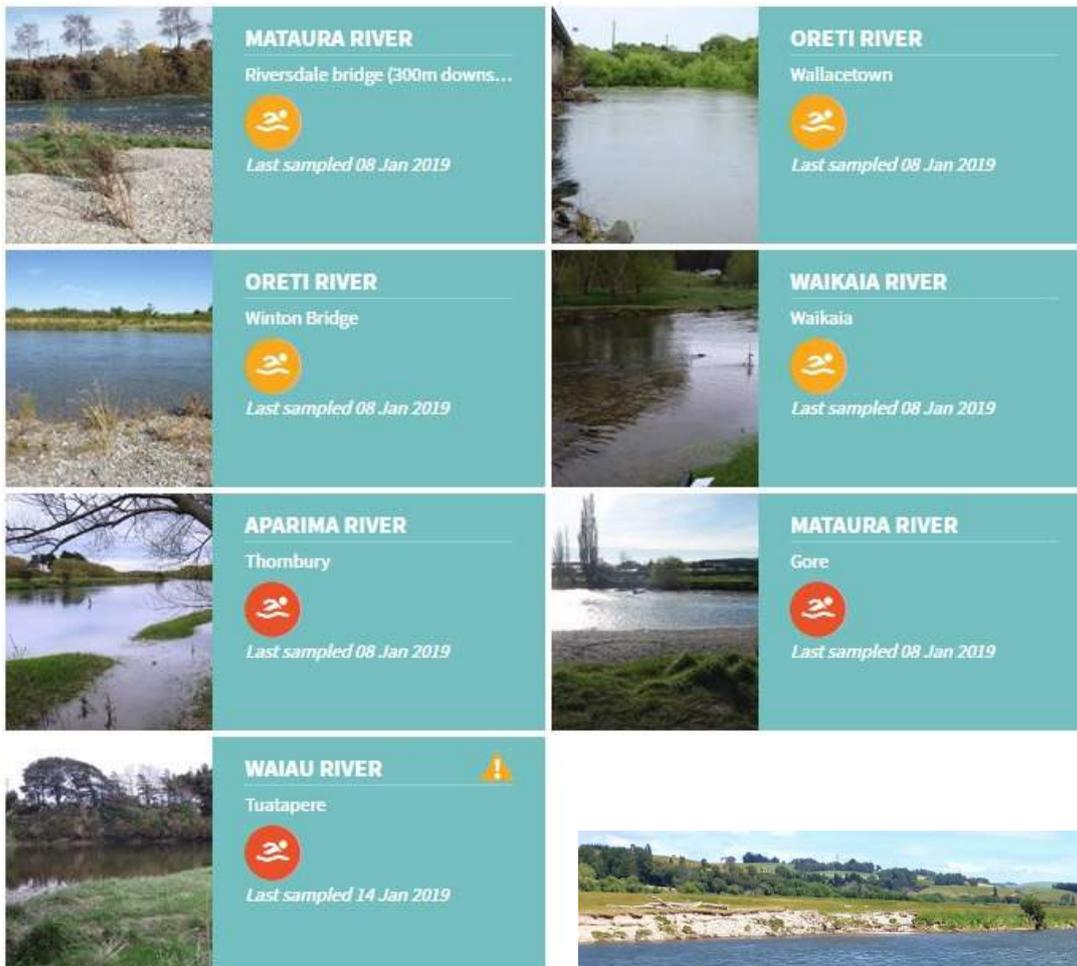
Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippets

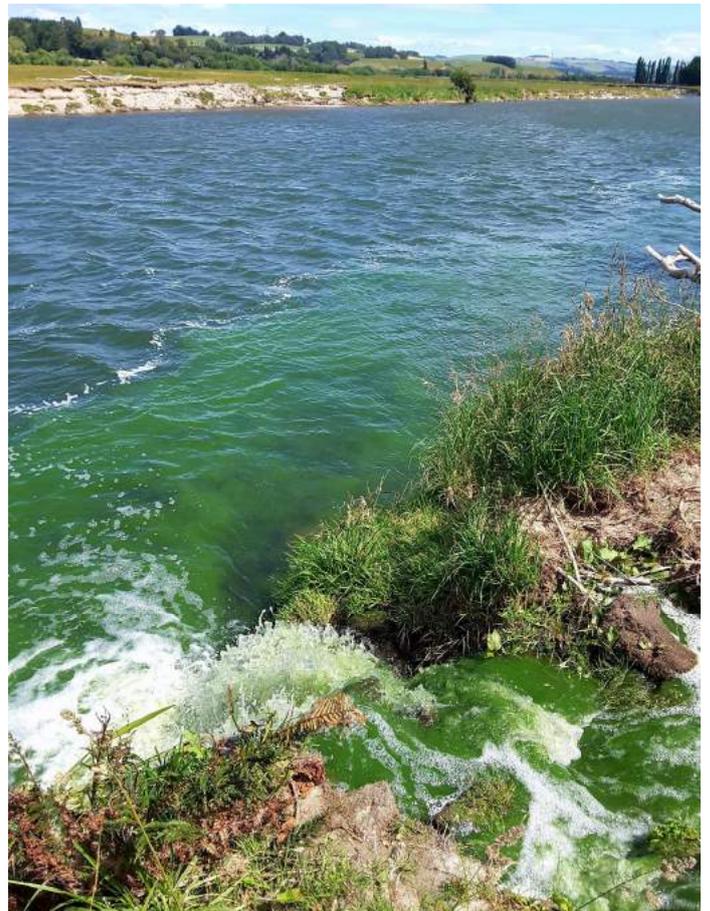
Is It Safe To Go In The Water?

You can find some information on the conditions of our rivers on the internet at www.lawa.org.nz. For Southland this covers the 4 main rivers as well as the Waikaia, with a total of 7 sites. As you can see below this makes pretty grim reading. The amber colour means caution is advised and the red means it is not safe for swimming. Green means it is all good but none of the test river sites in Southland are up to this standard.

Further to this I have been sent a photo of the outflow from the Gore sewerage treatment plant into the Mataura River. Note that this is downstream from the site where the lawa data comes from so has no influence on the



lawa results. I received this photo the night I returned from the Club night on the river at Coal Pit Road (which is downstream from Gore) and I had been wet wading in the river. I had my waders with me but as I had spent the afternoon on a delightful small stream I was already in my wet gear when I arrived at Coal Pit Road so stayed that way. I am not sure that was a good idea but I don't seem to have suffered any ill effects.



Fishing Reports by Redtag

December 2018

Tough going this month and no sign of improvement with yet more rain forecast. I had a limited opportunity between storms to fish a wee stream that was fishable unlike many others in the catchment. Arrived early morning to find the fish up and taking duns off the top during a steady hatch of mayfly. Some fish were also smashing damselflies and jumping right out of the water to grab them in mid-air. Fish taking size 16 barbless CDC emerging duns and size 12 barbless red CDC damselflies. Then the dastardly easterly kicked in around lunchtime and put them down. One of the only times this month I have been able to fish but well worth the effort to get out there and battle it out.



January 2019

Some stable conditions at last has brought the odd spell of fishable water back on the agenda. The main rivers and most streams are still fluctuating between high and slightly discoloured to medium level and semi clear. The lower temperatures over the last week or so has seen a reduction in willow grubs with very little action locally. This should change when we get the long hot dry summer the forecasters have been promising us! Willow grubs seem to like the hotter weather to hatch out so hopefully we get some again soon. On the other hand there has been significant hatches of mayfly around most of the day and in the evening. This is the first activity I have seen for many many weeks. The trout are still not fully keyed in to the hatch but as time goes by they will become more co-operative. Best flies are CDC duns and CDC emerging nymphs in natural colours. Observe the rise forms carefully and selected a fly to suit where the fish are taking the naturals just under, in or on top of the surface film. Tight Lines

January Club Trip by Dave

Four of us turned up for the January Club Trip on a cool morning with a very threatening weather forecast. We decided to head up to the Mataura at Balfour. The river was up a bit and had some colour but was still fishable. Julie and Paul headed down while I headed up with Daniel.

Unfortunately the weather forecast was right and we had a lot of rain although it did eventually ease.

There was the odd fish about with one or two rises and others under the willows but they didn't look to be taking willow grubs. Daniel managed to land a nice fish on a nymph and I had a couple of hook ups on nymphs both of which came off and missed a couple more on a parachute adams dry. The fish that were taking on the surface were reasonably easy to see as they stood out well from the blue of the water.

Meanwhile Julie and Paul had no luck and headed away at lunch time feeling it was too wet to continue.

Presidents Report by Dave

Well it has been tough fishing for the last couple of months. Unfortunately the weather has been uncooperative with a lot of wind and rain. The fine days always seemed to coincide with the rivers being up and discoloured. However I have been out quite a few times and caught a few fish.

After reading from Johnny and David Murray-Orr about the good fishing on the small streams I decided I should have a look at one. I am not a fan of the heavily modified rivers that were straightened in the '60's and '70's so found a small stream that was still in pretty much its original condition except for introduced weeds and trees. The first place I looked at there was just too much vegetation so I went to another place where it is much more open. I had a great afternoon on a fine sunny day with clear water and enough fish to keep me happy. Some were even keen enough to come to my net.

Other days I have been out looking for fish feeding on willow grubs. I have caught some but haven't found many to cast to. Of course I haven't found that magic fly that works all the time on these. I tried another new pattern on one on the Mataura and it was quickly taken. The next two fish wouldn't even look at it. One took a different pattern as soon as I put it in front of it. This was the 5th different pattern I had tried and it didn't look at any of the others.

Early in December I went out to Menzies College in Wyndham to help out with their Fly Fishing Course. Unfortunately river conditions were poor to say the least but there were a lot of keen boys.

We have our Fly Fishing Course coming up on January 26th & 27th and will need helpers for the casting on the Saturday afternoon (3pm at James Hargest) and on Sunday at the river (Wyndham Bridge at 9:00am). If you are able to help give Chris a ring on 027 423 7015.

Lake Alexandrina Trip February 5th—10th

I have had to change the dates for this trip due to the availability of the huts at Lake Alexandrina. We will be staying in the South Canterbury Anglers Club Outlet Hut. The South End Hut was not available. If you are keen to come on this trip let me know. You can come for all or part of the time.

The hut is at the outlet of the lake and has electricity. There is also a row boat available and I will have my two man kayak as well.

If you are planning to come contact Dave
027 201 6722 or 03 215 6068



Ripples Editor

Wanted - Ripples Editor

We require a new Ripples editor. If you are keen to edit Ripples or even help let me know. Assistance is available as required and in fact Les and myself have helped Johnny out with this over his period as editor. Even just writing a few articles would be helpful.

If you can help or want to know what is involved contact Dave. 027 201 6722 or dcharris@southnet.co.nz

Menzies College Fly Fishing by Tim Landreth

Fly Fishing has really taken off at Menzies College in Wyndham lately. The staff room is always abuzz before school with talk of fishing, now with 8 staff being keen fisherman, and 6 of these recently hooked on the addictive sport of Fly Fishing. Surrounded by the Mimihau, Mataura and the Wyndham rivers which are all within walking distance of the school, the students have excellent access to some great Fly Fishing opportunities. In mid-2017, Menzies appointed Kit Hustler as Head of Science. He came to us from Northcoate College in Auckland. A native of Zimbabwe, Kit holds a Doctorate in Animal Studies. Since starting at Menzies, he has been able to share his knowledge and love of fish, in particular with his trapping and tagging of Trout in the Mimihau, and also the exciting discovery of a very healthy population of native Galaxids or giant Kokopu found in the nearby Wyndham reserve which the students regularly trap and monitor, sharing all their data with Fish & Game.

The excitement in class, and around the school was immense, which culminated in our senior biology class entering a short film in the Southland Environmental Awards late last year, in which they won \$1000 for their Trout tagging and monitoring program.



Fast forward to the end of Term 4, 2018. With an excited bunch of around 20 juniors, it was decided that we run a 3 day Fly Fishing course with the help of local experts. Sport Southland were a magnificent help to us, along with Kiwisport who granted us \$2200 to enable us to purchase 10 fly rods to get us going. With the help of Brendon at Hunting & Fishing Invercargill, we had everything we needed, including a few top class tutors to show us the ropes. We were very fortunate to also have Chris Dore from Queenstown come down for a whole day to work with the team which was a fantastic head start for the guys before the Fly Fishing program started.

Dave Harris, along with Brendon from Hunting & Fishing Invercargill kindly gave up their time to teach the group. They gave very informative talks on what flies to use, where to find fish, different types of gear and the like. Then it was in to the main event - casting on the field.

Day two and three were entirely practical. As you'll remember, the conditions back in December were pretty terrible. The Mataura was in flood, and luckily for us, the Mimihau was fishable (sort of!). One trout was caught on a dry dropper rig, which wasn't too bad considering the conditions.

We have a very exciting first term planned. We know for sure many of the boys on the course will be signing up and coming out on our Wednesday afternoon fishing trips, along with other senior students who have indicated a real interest.

I look forward to updating you all with the latest catches and goings-on within the Menzies College Fly Fishing Team.

Tim Landreth
Menzies College Fly Fishing Coach

Fly Fishing Course - January 26th & 27th

Our annual Fly Fishing Course is being held on January 26th and 27th. At this stage we only have 12 people on the Saturday and 11 on the Sunday.

We require some helpers on the Saturday at James Hargest College for the casting on Saturday afternoon at 3:00pm.

We will also need one or two people on the river on Sunday. If you are available and wish to come out contact Chris on 027 423 7016. At this stage we plan to be at the Wyndham Bridge at 9:00am. However this depends on river conditions and may need to be changed if conditions are unsuitable. Helpers will not be required until about 12:00.

Gore "On the Fly" Festival - February 23rd

The Gore District Council is holding a festival beside the Mataura River on February 26th from 3pm to 6pm.

There are few details at this stage but the Southland Fly Fishing Club will be involved. It looks likely that we will be putting on a fly tying demonstration but it is also possible we may have further involvement.

Hopefully we will have more details by the January Club Night.

February Club Night - On the River & BBQ

The February Club Night will be our annual barbeque and fishing night on the river. This will be at Coal Pit Road, between Edendale and Wyndham.

If you are going to be there for the BBQ you need to let Chris know as he has to organise the right amount of food for the BBQ. BBQ will be at about 6:00pm.

Please ring Chris on 027 423 7016.

January Night on the River by Dave

Just three Club Members at Coal Pit Road on January 15th for our after work outing. Chris and I were joined by Tim, a new member who lives on Coal Pit Road. He was having a family BBQ by the river but found some time to fish as well.

The river was in pretty good condition for the location and I was surprised that the blue tinge we had seen upstream on Sunday was not apparent.

There was some fish activity as it got dark and three fish were landed.

However the rise looked a little unusual. I had seen one caddis coming ashore well before dark and when I was packing up there were a number of caddis flying around. I think the rise looked unusual because the fish were taking caddis, not mayflies. Of course we were using mayfly patterns so this reduced the number of takes we had. Of course fishing in the poor light also meant a few takes were missed.

Cover Photo by Tim Landreth

Harm Davers (14) of Menzies College Fly Fishing Team with a respectable Mataura Brown caught at Coal Pit Rd, his first ever fish on the fly. After arriving to the river around 9pm Harm noticed 2 decent fish rising nicely in a foam line around 10 meters away. After a few casts with a size 16 parachute adams, one eventually took Harm by surprise, taking the fly only a few meters in front of him. After a few minutes fighting, Harm had the fish in the net and was well pleased with himself to say the least. After a quick photo the trout was released for the next lucky angler to catch.

Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

26/27 th Jan	Course	Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel.
29 th Jan	MM	Monthly Meeting - Fish & Game 7:30pm
5-10 th Feb	Trip	Lake Alexandrina Trip - Dave Harris 027 201 6722
10 th Feb	Trip	Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game - 7am
12 th Feb	CM	Fly Tying
19 th Feb	Trip	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
26 th Feb	MM	--- This meeting is “On the river” --- BBQ Tea about 6pm
2-3 th Mar	Trip	Poolburn Trip
5 th Mar	CM	Fly Tying
10 th Mar	Trip	Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game - 7am

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
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz
- Editor Vacant - Send articles to Dave Harris dcharris@southnet.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 (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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