

“Ripples”

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

February 2019



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Fishing Reports by Redtag

This month's fishing has been the best of the season so far with stable conditions and no significant rain events muddying the waters.

The main rivers and most streams are getting low now opening up excellent fishing water.

The higher temperatures over the last week or so has seen good hatches of willow grubs with plenty of action locally.

However the fish have been especially difficult to catch as they have not been fully keyed in to the grubs as yet.

Perseverance, patience and presentation being the ultimate key to success.

Almost every day there has been trickle hatches of mayfly around most of the day and in the evening.

However the odd easterlies have been putting the fish off resulting in a few doldrum days on the river with not much happening.

Fish are rising well when conditions are good and taking duns off the top or selectively feeding on emergers in and just under the surface film.

Tight Lines



Presidents Report by Dave

I haven't managed to get out quite as much as I would have liked recently for various reasons but I have had a few trips out and was also on the Club trip to Lake Alexandrina. On this trip I managed to catch a few fish in the Tekapo River as well as one from the kayak on Lake Alexandrina.

Since I returned I have had one trip out to the Mataura where there were a few fish rising to both mayfly duns and willow grubs but not many and others feeding on nymphs. It was a good day to start with and the river was quite clear but about lunch time the river became discoloured and visibility dropped considerably. It looked like this was caused by fine silt as it was quite blue in colour. This looked to be short term as it was clearing a bit when I got back to the car.

On the 23rd February the Club will be putting on a fly tying demonstration at the "On the Fly" promotion the Gore District Council is organising by the river in Gore. At present there are three of us going up but if you are keen to help give me a call on 027 201 6722 or Chris on 027 423 7016. If there enough people tying flies I will be able to help out with the fly casting if needed.

Remember the February meeting is the BBQ at Coal Pit Road on February 26th. If you are going to be there you need to let Chris (027 423 7016) know so he can organize the right amount of food.

There is also the Poolburn Trip coming up. Julie (027 630 2949) is organizing this and will need to know numbers as soon as possible.

Finally, I will be away for most of March in Australia (no fishing planned) so Johnny will be preparing the Ripples. Please send your copy to johnnymauchline@gmail.com. He will need it by March 13th.

February Club Trip by Sarah

Three of us turned up for the February Club Trip (Chris, Noel and I) on a morning which held the promise of excellent fishing conditions as it had been very warm the previous day. We decided to head up to the Mataura/Waikaia near Riversdale.

Upon arrival at the Mataura bridge on the Riversdale-Waikaia Road, the Mataura was running clear, so we kitted up and headed off down to the Mataura/Waikaia confluence. Chris had enticed Noel & I with the promise of rising fish further down, but these appeared early as there were multiple fish rising in the very first pool below our parking spot. What a promising start to the day!

Weather conditions throughout the day were really good (fine and sunny) with some wind, but not at a level that made casting overly problematic.

There were fish willow-grubbing at various locations, as well as fish in pools and backwaters. Fish were also rising in one pool on our way back to the car, and we managed to get them interested in the dries we were offering (but none landed, alas!). Chris landed three nice fish, including at least one that was willow grubbing. I landed two - a nice one from a backwater on the Waikaia (using a lure!) just above the Mataura confluence and another on a weighted nymph. Noel unfortunately had no luck but he enjoyed the day nonetheless.

All in all, a very enjoyable day out for everyone.



Chris with a Mataura willow-grubber



Sarah with a Waikaia backwater fish

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

Lake Alexandrina Trip 5-10 Feb 2019 by Julie

Day 1

7am Dave picked up club members Julie and Roger and by 7.30 we were on the road with Dave's kayak on the roof heading for the lake. Arrived by 12.30 meeting up with Cole and new member Dick. A quick survey of the lake put us off taking out the row boat and kayak so we headed off to where the MacGregor flows into Tekapo.

Day 2.

Weather was grey and windy and too rough to go on the lake. We headed off to explore local rivers guided by Cole who has vast experience of the area. First off was the Grays River but it was too cold and windy to stay there. Looking in the river we saw the largest eel any of us had ever seen. It would have been close to 4 feet and a mighty head. From here we headed down to the Tekapo River and drove some distance upstream on very rough roads. We spread out along the river and a number of small rainbows were landed along with a couple of browns. Dave was a bit upset that the only decent sized fish he hooked had bolted into willow branches and broken off. Our route home took us across fords on both the Tekapo and Twizel Rivers to come out at Ohau C power station.

Day 3. The winds finally settled and Roger, Dick and Cole headed out in the row boat, followed by Julie & Dave in the kayak. Julie caught a nice 3 1/2 lb rainbow and Roger caught a 5lb rainbow. Dick hooked up another large rainbow but it took one look at the net and took off leaving the empty net behind.

We were all pleased with our catch until we met a neighbouring family (a young couple with 2 children) heading up the bank with 4 lovely rainbows and they had put one back. On quizzing them they said it was this special yellow rod they had.

That afternoon we went to the Tekapo canal and had a fun afternoon fishing before heading up to look at the Paterson Ponds and heading back to camp

Day 4. Fine weather and low winds and Dave caught a nice Rainbow from his kayak, the guys in the row boat were not so impressed at the trout being thrown into them to deal to as Dave didn't have a knife with him and there is not much room in the kayak.

Alan arrived up to join us after dinner.

Day 5. Roger, Julie & Alan headed out early on the row boat. Dave went out with Dick on the kayak before breakfast. A beautiful warm morning but no fish were caught. Once again our neighbours Clint and April (and children) were arriving back with 5 trout...

Julie managed to convince Clint and April to lend her their famed yellow rod and Cole took her out in the row boat. They returned with 1 good rainbow.

Day 6. Saw us out on the row boat fishing at 6am highly motivated by the special yellow rod borrowed off our camping family neighbours-more fish were caught by both Julie and Roger while Cole was on the oars again. Then it was a good breakfast cooked by Dick followed by cleaning up the hut and the long drive home.

Cole cooked bacon and eggs, tomatoes and toast for breakfast and other meals were shared, the food flowed in abundance.

Much debate was held on uni knots versus the clinch and improved clinch knots ending in lessons on knot tying. We also had a lesson on filleting trout by Roger and Cole dissected a trout giving technical information on the fish's organs and brain.

There was also some discussion on what the fish had been eating and why they were mid-water when the lake was 60 - 80 feet deep. Dave had the advantage of a depth sounder on the kayak and there was something showing in the 25 - 50 foot range. Extra knowledge may make for a more successful trip next time.



Julie with a Lake Alexandrina rainbow

Lake Alexandrina—some more thoughts by Dave

I took my kayak on the trip and this has a fish finder on it. With this I could see how deep the lake was where people were catching fish. Near the outlet the Lake is mainly in the 60 - 80 foot range but rainbows are being caught in the middle of the lake using sinking fly lines to get the lure/spinner down. These are not going to get down anywhere near the bottom so the fish are being caught mid-water. On my fish finder I had something showing in the 25 - 50 foot range. Just as a band of little dots although if you turned the fish indication it showed this as a lot of little fish. The fish that Julie and Roger caught with the borrowed rod had been feeding on small fish, both koaro (that is one of the whitebait species) and bullies. I have managed to find more information on these small fish and it appears they are feeding on plankton in the lake and during the day the plankton stay lower in the water column. They are higher in the water column overnight and this helps explain the locals only going out first thing in the morning and in the evening. You are not allowed to use lead or wire lines or to add extra weight to get your lure down and the way most people are getting down is with a sinking fly line, but this limits how far you can get down. With a normal sinking fly line I harl in other lakes in about 10 feet of water but at Alexandrina I was using a fast sinking line. I don't think this would be getting down below 15 feet, even at very low speeds.

I have found an ultra fast sink line and have ordered a couple of these and next time I go to Alexandrina I will try these but I also wonder about how jigging would go. Might have to look at that as well as I do have a suitable rod & reel.

After we returned home I managed to find a very interesting paper by John Hayes about Lake Alexandrina. <http://docs.niwa.co.nz/library/public/fer63.pdf> This is quite old but gives an insight into what is going on in the lake and the streams flowing into and out of the lake. There is little spawning area and the rainbow trout spawn later than the browns but in the same place and this destroys the brown's redds resulting in little spawning success for the browns. This is why there are not many browns in the lake but plenty of rainbows. It was from this paper that I was able to identify the small fish the trout were eating as koaro but I don't know which of the two species of bullies had been taken by the trout. The paper also had a map showing the depth of the lake and it is deepest around the outlet area. At the north end of the lake it is quite shallow but this is quite a row or paddle from the outlet village. It is a shallower than the middle near the south end and it would be interesting to see if there are the same plankton/small fish that showed up on my fish finder down there.

Teviot Angling Competition - March 3rd

This will be held on the Teviot River 8:30am to 4:00pm. This is held to gather information on the trout condition in the Teviot River. Meet where Bridge Huts Road crosses the river. Bridge Huts Road runs off the Lake Onslow Road. Julie has all the information on this.

Gore "On the Fly" Festival - February 23rd

The Gore District Council is holding a festival beside the Mataura River on February 23rd from 3pm to 6pm. There are few details at this stage but the Southland Fly Fishing Club will be involved. We will be putting on a fly tying demonstration but it is also possible we may be involved in casting demonstrations as well. Everything set up by 2:30pm but all cars need to be off the site by 2:00pm and . If you are keen to come along contact Chris on 027 423 7016.

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.

Cover Photo by Johnny

Fish on. Hooked to a good brown using a dry fly

Twizel Trip – November 2018 by Sarah

In mid-November, I managed to get away to the Mackenzie Country for three days fishing with our Canterbury Flyfishing Club colleagues. Our weekend was based out of Twizel, fishing rivers, streams and lakes in/around Twizel and as far afield as the mid-Waitaki Valley. Conditions were anticipated to be tough as the rivers up that way were in similar condition to those here at home, with high flows and sediment loads. Windy conditions were also forecast (nor-westers).

Day 1 (Friday) saw me out on the lower Twizel, just above its confluence with the Tekapo River. The road in was a bit rougher than expected and the fishing conditions were almost the same. The Twizel was carrying a lot of water, making crossing it singlehanded a dicey prospect. Of more concern to us was the amount of vegetation growing on the surrounding banks and flats – broom, alders, briar and some matagouri made for a morning of scrub-bashing with very little actual fishing achieved (but a lot of scratches!). So at lunchtime, my fishing companion and I decided to cut our losses and head for the SH8 bridge access to the Twizel instead. We walked about 30 minutes downstream and then fished back up to the bridge, with no luck for either of us – cloudy conditions and high flows making for very challenging fishing.

Day 2 (Saturday) dawned with much better weather, so three of us headed further afield to the delta/flats where the Otematata River flows into Lake Aviemore. The weather gods smiled on us all day, with blue skies and a nice breeze up the valley to cool things down a touch. Fishing conditions on the flats/delta were excellent with lake levels a little higher than usual (due to high inflows), so some great sight-fishing was had to fish cruising the edges of the flats. We picked up two lovely fish, with me managing to bag a very nice 4 lb brown.

General reports from elsewhere on Friday and Saturday showed that everyone on the trip had encountered challenging fishing conditions everywhere. However, the weekend was a great opportunity to renew old fishing acquaintances and visit new fishing spots.



Chilling out at lunchtime on the Otematata Delta (note the visible dropoff edge)

Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

26 th Feb	MM	This meeting is "On the river" --- BBQ Tea about 6pm Chris 027 423 7016
2-3 rd Mar	Trip	Poolburn Trip. Julie 027 630 2949
3 rd Mar		Teviot Angling Competition
5 th Mar	CM	Fly Tying
10 th Mar	Trip	Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game - 7am
19 th Mar	Trip	Mid-week Trip - Julie 027 630 2949
26 th Mar	MM	
2 nd April	CM	Fly Tying
14 th April	Trip	Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game 8am
23 rd April	Trip	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722

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.ccmd@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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