

“Ripples”

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

April 2019



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Fishing Report by Redtag



Good fishing was to be had over the last month. Although willow grubs have been less evident mayfly hatches have been pretty constant with the odd full on mayfly hatch and pods of rising trout especially in the evenings providing excellent dry fly fishing.

NE winds kept the mayfly and subsequently the trout down some days but the opportunity has been there to find the odd trickle hatch and rising trout. Picking the right water to check out is imperative and taking the time to scout options brings rewards. Autumn is now upon us and the fishing will improve as the hatches become more prolific. Already the mayfly are bigger as the colder weather slows down their nymphal development and they increase in size before reaching maturity. So fly selection is important but in general CDC duns and emergers in size 16 and 14 do the business.

Even in inclement weather the mayfly will hatch if the wind suits (a light SW being the best). The trout will be hungry to build up sustenance for the coming winter and spawning. A great time to be on the river. Tight lines.

Presidents Report by Dave

After being away in Australia for most of March I was pretty keen to get back out on the river. One thing that made me particularly keen was that I had not actually managed to land a fish on my two March outings before I went away so did not have a fish for March to enter in the Club competitions. To add to the challenge the day after I arrived home there was a lot of rain and all the rivers rose to well above fishable levels.

I finally decided to venture out on the 29th as the Aparima had dropped and looked like it might be clear enough for fishing. I didn't head out until after lunch on a fine warm day. The river was up and still quite dark in colour but looked to be well worth fishing. While I was getting set up another angler pulled up to ask a few questions. She was a visiting American angler but was very much a fly-fishing beginner so after some discussion we decided to fish together for the day. I had a good start to the day, spotting a nice brown that was keen to rise to a dry fly and I was on board for the month with a 4lb brown to enter into the Club competition. Shortly after, Kelsey managed to land a brown and as it was her first brown on the fly, I had to take a couple of photos, unfortunately with her phone so I don't have a copy. At that point she decided to head off as she had work to do, but we agreed to meet at the same place the following day to fish together again. I continued fishing and landed another 3 fish making it not too bad a day. The next day the river looked a lot better but fish were harder to find. I landed a couple but Kelsey broke the only one she hooked off while trying to sort out her landing net.

I also had an outing with three members of the Kingborough Anglers Association (Tasmania). On the first day we fished the Mataura near Riversdale. Like it seems to have had most of the season, the river was carrying a bit of colour and this made spotting a little difficult. We split into two groups and I headed down with Tony to fish back up. On the way down he had a fall while crossing the river but didn't get too wet, so we had to be more careful crossing from here on. We spotted a few fish but they weren't at all keen on what we offered them although I finally did manage to land one. When we got back to the car the others hadn't landed anything but one of them had also taken a fall in the river. They were not used to fishing rivers flowing anywhere near as fast as this and this was what caused the issues when crossing the river. The following day we headed across to the Aparima. The weather was not at all good with steady rain all day and we didn't see any sign of fish.

I also managed a trip to Lodge for three days, joined by my Canadian friend Cole. We had two good days fishing, the first on the Oreti and the second on the Mataura. Both rivers had a fair bit of water but we managed fish both days. On the Oreti, Cole was struggling to get down to fish and on a couple of occasions I managed to catch fish he had been fishing to for some time. This resulted in some discussion on nymphs and he then landed two nice fish, the second being a nice 6lber. The third day at the lodge was a complete washout. We went for a drive and looked at the Mataura further up but it was much too wet to get out of the car. Much to our surprise there were cyclists at the Five Rivers café who had been out in the weather and were heading on to Athol.



Cole Shirvell with a 6lb brown caught on the Oreti River using a tungsten bead-head hare & copper nymph

April Club Trip by Dave

Club Trip 14th April

Just three of us out for the April Club Trip. The forecast wasn't too bad with no rain, little wind and no sun in the forecast. River conditions didn't look too good with all the main rivers up but all were dropping. Fortunately, the Aparima was at a level I had fished it a couple of weeks earlier and Chris and I had fished the previous day so this was our pick. We had hoped for it to be a bit lower and a bit clearer but it had not dropped as much overnight as we had hoped.

When we got to the river Chris headed up to the tail of the next pool with the intention of crossing and dropping down while Julie and I fished the pool right beside the car. Chris found a nice pool before he crossed over and landed a nice brown. It was my turn to hook a couple in the first pool but neither came to the net. Chris's trip down didn't provide any more action but I managed to hook three more upstream of where we started, with two of them coming to the net.

After meeting up for lunch not far above the car, we all headed up to where I had landed my two fish and here Julie landed a small brown. Chris got another in the next pool up while Julie landed a second after crossing the river. That was it for the day and we decided to head back to town mid-afternoon. Considering the conditions, a pretty good day.

Book Review - Cicadas of New Zealand

Cicadas of New Zealand by Olly Hills

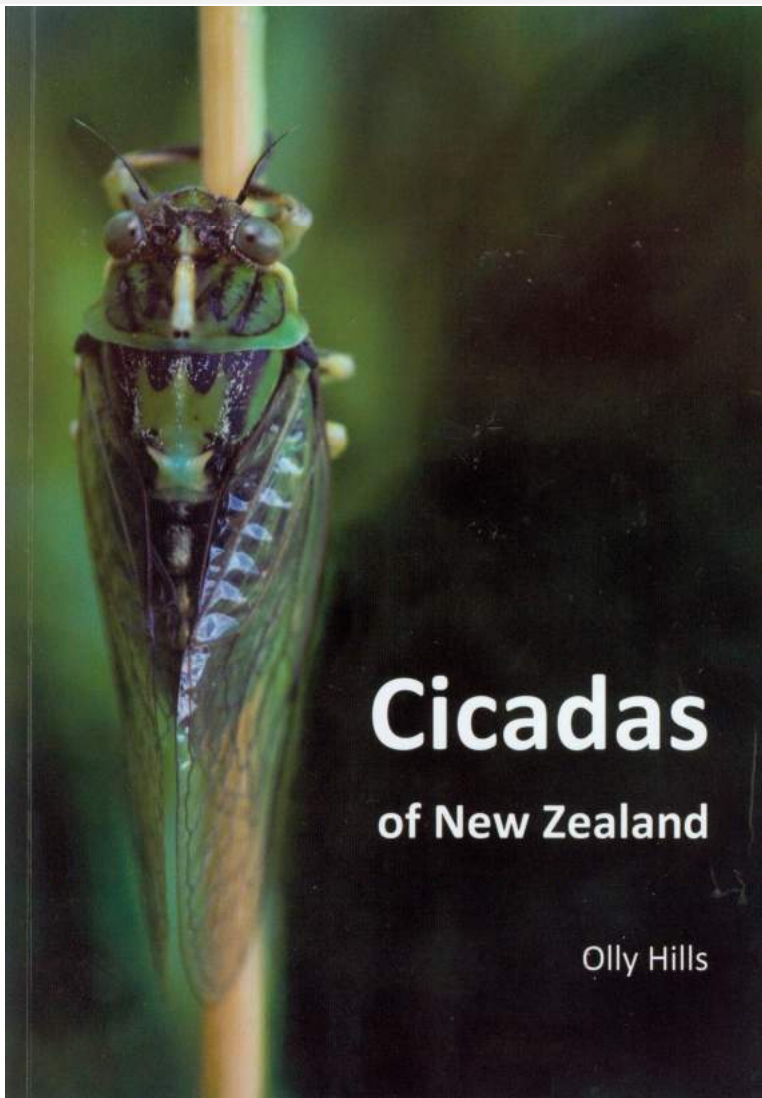
I have not been a great chaser of trout taking cicadas in the past but this year I stumbled upon some at Mavora. We were discussing what the trout were taking and I waded out and grabbed an insect off the surface. It was a small yellowish cicada. My knowledge of cicadas was not great but this was nothing like the cicadas I remember as a child in Hastings, much smaller and totally different colour. The colour surprised me.

With this in mind, when I discovered there was a book that had just been published called "Cicadas of New Zealand" I decided to get a copy.

The book covers 42 different species of cicada with enough information to be able to identify them including where they are, how big they are and there are photos to show what they look like. It also tells you what they sound like (although this is no good to me as I can't hear them). This information allowed me to identify the little cicada at Mavora as a female tussock cicada.

The most amazing thing about the book is that the author, Olly Hills, is only 11 years old and wrote the book because he couldn't find a book on New Zealand cicadas. He has clearly had a lot of support from many local experts and his mother, to produce a good reference book. If you want to know about New Zealand cicadas this is the book for you.

The book is published by Hills Publishing and is available on Trademe. *Dave*



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

Competitions by Dave

Fish Competition

April is the last month of our fish competitions. There have been a disappointing number of cards put in at the last two meetings. If you have any fish cards for any time this season you can put them in at (or to me before) the next meeting. These will go in the draw for the Hunting & Fishing gift voucher at the April meeting. I will still accept cards up to the May meeting but these will not have a chance to go in the draw for the H&F voucher.

Fly Tying Competition

The fly tying competition starts at the May meeting. We have decided to try and keep the flies relatively simple while making them useful for fishing locally. We are starting with a hares ear nymph for May and this will be followed by a pheasant tail nymph in June, a woolly buggler in July, the Spotlight fly in August and the September fly is still to be sorted out. As has been the practice recently the pattern instructions will be included in Ripples the month before the fly is due and will be demonstrated at the previous monthly meeting. With the early information you have time to get any materials you don't have already.

Lodge Trips by Dave

We have two Lodge Trips coming up. For those that haven't been there, the Lodge is situated at Castlerock, giving close access to the upper & middle Mataura, the upper & middle Oreti and the Aparima.

These are on the last weekend of April and the last weekend of May. They are our traditional end of season trips, the April trip for most of the rivers and the May trip for the high-country rivers. We normally head up to the Lodge on Friday night to allow for an early start on the Saturday. These days we tend to go to the Mossburn Hotel for dinner on the Saturday night and then away early again on the Sunday. Before heading home from the May trip, we have to shut down the lodge for the winter, making sure power and water are off and everything is drained so that nothing freezes and breaks over the winter.

If you are keen on going on either (or both) of these Lodge Trips contact Dave at 027 201 6722 or email dcharris@southnet.co.nz

May Monthly Meeting by Dave

Unfortunately Nick Reygaert from Gin-Clear is unable to make it to our April meeting but he will be speaking to us at our May meeting. Nick is the man behind the Fly Fishing Film Festivals and also is involved in hosted Fly Fishing trips to some interesting overseas fisheries.

Gifts

A fly fisherman, Whit Hamilton from Nashville TN USA left this chilli bin and mustad knife for the club. Thanks Whit for these, they will go to the lodge.



Hares Ear Nymph by Dave

The Hares Ear Nymph is the fly you need to tie for the Fly Fishing Competition in May. Either bring your fly to the meeting or get it to me beforehand so I can take it to the meeting.

Materials

Hook	Black Magic A12
Thread	Unithread 6/0 dark brown
Weight	.010 lead wire
Tail	Brown cock hackles
Dubbing	Hare fur dubbing
Ribbing	Fine gold wire
Wing Case	Pheasant tail



1. Run thread to bend of hook and wind on lead wire.

2. Bind thread over lead wire and tie in tail. Tail length a bit longer than the gape of the hook.



3. Tie in gold wire so its lies away from you. This will prevent it upsetting the tail when you wind it on.

4. Dub abdomen, wind gold wire forwards and tie off.



5 Tie in wing case using 5 or 6 fibres of pheasant tail.

6. Dub thorax.



7. Pull wing case over, tie off and trim. Build up a head and whip finish.

Cover Photo by Dave

Chris McDonald with a fine brown trout caught in a slightly discoloured Aparima River.

Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

27/28 th Apr	Trip	Lodge Trip (End of Season) – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
30 th April	MM	
7 th May	CM	Fly Tying
12 th May	Trip	Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game 10am, to the lower Mataura
21 nd May	Trip	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
25/26 th May	Trip	Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge
28 th May	MM	Guest Speaker - Nick Reygaert, Gin-Clear Media
4 th June	CM	Fly Tying
8 th June		Fly Tying for club members by club members - Meal at night, (\$5 funny gift)
25 th June	MM	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition

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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