

# “Ripples”

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

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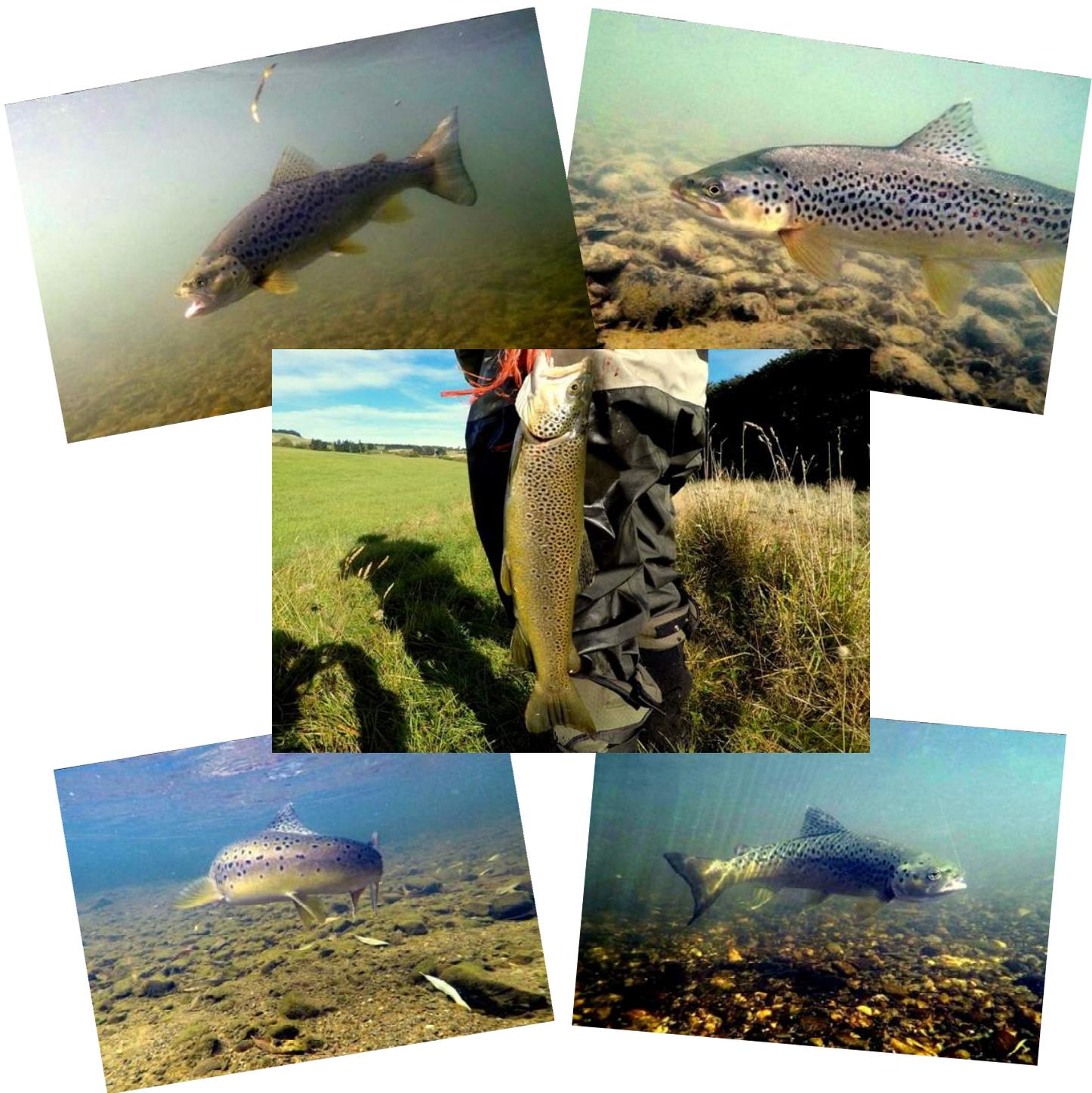


[www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)



*Southland Fly  
Fishing Club*

## Fishing Report by Redtag



Well the season has ended in the upper catchments and an odd season it was. The rivers and streams never really ever got to a real good fishable level as every time they came good we got more rain. Coupled with almost constant easterly winds it was challenging to say the least. It was also the first time in eleven years I didn't get to do my xmas trip to northern Otago as conditions were not the best. However fish were still there to be caught and persistence in dealing with the conditions brought some reward. Willow grubbing was average and mayfly hatches were fair to middling overall.

So till the end of the month the lower river is still open and although conditions are again difficult there have been some remarkable hatches of mayfly. The flies are bigger at this time of the year and the trout, when they are on, are hungry to fill up for the coming winter. Pods of trout rising to the hatch on the pools are not unusual and it is definitely worth the effort to seek out a hatch.

Tight lines.

## Presidents Report by Dave

As I sit here writing this the wind is blowing at gale force but at least the rain has stopped at the moment. Definitely not fly fishing weather. The few rivers still open are up as well so I have been looking at what fly tying supplies I need to allow me to tie next season's flies. I have already ordered some more #14 & #16 nymph hooks and have tungsten beads on order. The nymph hooks are coming through Hunting & Fishing but are on order as I want 250 hooks of each size. My tying is off to a good start as I have already tied 40 hare & copper nymphs, with and without bead heads. Next on the list will be some royal wulff dries and some green stonefly nymphs. I will have to tie extra stonefly nymphs as my friend Cole likes them but finds them a bit of a challenge to tie, so has asked me to tie him some.

The last month has been pretty tough but I have had a few days out and caught a few fish. In fact, on one stream that I have fished twice I have had two really good days in quite difficult spotting conditions although I did drop a few more fish than I liked. I also had an afternoon on the Mataura after reading suggestions that there was likely to be an afternoon rise. There wasn't and the day reminded me why I fish further up country. The river had a bit of colour but there was also something smelly about the place and it was generally not a pleasant place to be.

I am hopeful that the weather and rivers will improve to allow a couple more trips out this month including, of course, the Lodge trip on the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. I have heard that some of the lake tributaries are fishing well and I would also like to get to the lower Waiau before it closes to chase some rainbows.

The Club has its first winter fly tying day on June 8<sup>th</sup> at Fish & Game, starting at 9:00am. All are welcome, from beginners to experts. Teaching is available for any beginners that want to learn how to tie. Come along any time during the day as we will be there until at least 4:00pm. Following on the same day we have our Club Dinner at the Cabbage Tree. If you are coming to this book in with Chris and bring along a fun gift for the gift exchange. We have another tying day in August if you are unable to attend this one.

## April Lodge Trip by Dave

With Anzac Day being on a Thursday, Simon and I decided to head to the Lodge on Wednesday night and fish for 4 days. Julie indicated that she would be there Thursday night after fishing Thursday afternoon and then head on to Wanaka for the Fishing for Recovery weekend.

Our first problem for the weekend was that I had forgotten the ham for the lunch rolls. We had vegetarian rolls on Thursday and Julie picked up the ham from my place on the way up. Thursday looked like a good day and we decided to fish the Oreti right at the Lodge. Conditions were not too bad although it was windy but there was one thing missing – fish. We saw very few and only one came to the net for the day. Back to the lodge and no sign of Julie, but she was not far away.

Friday, we headed to smaller stream and found a good number of fish. The cloudy conditions made spotting difficult but in places you could see them. Other places all you saw was the bow wave as they spooked away. We managed to land 10 for the day between us so headed home happy. We were a bit surprised to find two pairs of anglers near the car. Turns out they were two guides from Hurley's in Lumsden with their overseas clients.

After rain late Friday it was looking to be difficult to find clear water on Saturday but the Waikaia looked like it would be good and Simon is an expert on the Waikaia, so our chances looked good. We went in reasonably well up the river but struggled to find fish. Conditions were not that good with some showers but we fished on. Not long after lunch we started to notice more leaves and other debris in the river and it was starting to colour up. By then we only had one fish between us but it was time to move further down the river. However, finding somewhere to fish lower down was difficult as there were a number of other anglers out, including at least one guide. We did have a short fish and another fish joined the tally. Back to the Lodge and then on to the Mossburn Hotel for dinner. Disappointment at the mixed grill not being on the menu was short lived when Tom told us they could do one for us. As a result it was two well fed anglers that headed back to the Lodge.

Sunday looked even more difficult with virtually every river now well above normal with the exception of the Waimea. It was cloudy again and all day only one fish was spotted. The fish were there but they were away before we could see them. We pulled the pin early, headed back to the Lodge to pack up and head home. Not a bad weekend but it was really only Friday that saved it, although I was pretty pleased with a 5lb brown on the Waikaia.

## New Zealand Trip by Ian Shaw

“We’re not in Kansas anymore!”

As we came in over the Alps and into Queenstown, I borrowed the phrase from the Wizard of Oz as I looked out the window and saw the Alps complete with a river with seemingly endless white water and commented to a fellow member from the Tasmanian Kingborough Anglers Association. I was about to embark on a vertical learning curve as I tried to use 40 plus years of experience in fishing various Australian lakes and creeks and fish the Southland streams for 18 days.

We based ourselves at Lumsden, primarily because the map showed it was central to all the ‘name’ rivers, it was literally the cross roads. We were fortunate to stay at an Airbnb called “Lumsden Cottage” which proved to everything we could have hoped for from an Airbnb. It had comfortable beds, great cooking facilities, roomy lounge complete with more than enough fishing DVD’s to gain inspiration, any amount of hot water and roomy enough for 4 blokes. The cottage was the ideal home away from home.

We did learn some valuable lessons. When I come back to Southland, I will have a seemingly bottomless supply of size 16 and 18 Hare’s Ear nymphs with black or gold tungsten beads, I will be wet-wading (yes Dave, I will have waterproof pants with me!) with studs on my wading boots, I will have practiced casting with 2 weighted nymphs and an indicator or nymph and dry and be better capable of walking the required 10 – 15 km’s per day.

We fished a number of streams at various locations particularly in the second week when heavy rain blew out the Mataura, Oreti and some other river that our esteemed President Dave assures me that it has no fish in it. A lesson we learnt was to explore, don’t be fixated on only fishing the ‘name’ rivers. We even fished a lake, if only to take us back to our comfort zone.

Mavora Lakes were a highlight. The sight of 2 – 3 kg browns and ‘bows moving through the backwaters where the river enters South Mavora was worth the airfare alone. As I was leaving the area, I had my license checked by Josh, the Te Anau based Fish and Game Field Officer. Josh was an ideal ambassador for F & G spending time explaining various aspects of fishing in the area. Hmmm, that whole area is wadeable and the polaroiding along the Beech forest shore opposite is very good with more and larger fish.

We were all hugely impressed by the various sources of information on-line, NZ does this so well. The WAMS maps showing the various F & G Angler Access points is an invaluable asset to all anglers as is the stream flow data on the ‘envirodata’ website. As newbies to the area we did comment how it would be nice for the F & G to develop an app that coupled all this information with Google Earth to make it easier to navigate to an Angler Access point or help those new to an area find rivers not ‘blown out’. The Southland Fish & Game produced book, “Trout Fishing in Southland, New Zealand” was also indispensable.

As I accelerated down the Queenstown runway 18 days later, I was calculating how soon I can return. Let’s see, this season is all but over so Spring ..... hmmm, no I’m in Iceland and Ireland, November is out, we have an international team staying with us for the World Fly Fishing Championship .....

I’ll be back in mid-February with my partner for three weeks but am still calculating (conniving) how I can also come back in mid-December immediately after the World Fly Fishing Championship.

Hmm, better get another Hare’s mask and tungsten beads.



## Lodge Trip - May 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

We have our final Lodge Trip for the season on May 25th & 26th. If you are coming please let Dave (027 201 6722) know on so he can sort out the food.

Hopefully the weather will improve and the rivers drop a bit before then. Plan is to go up Friday night fish Saturday on the Von, Upukerora or Whitestone, have Saturday dinner at the Mossburn Pub, then fish again Sunday before closing the Lodge for the winter.

# Casting For Recovery by Julie

## To Fish Is To Hope

Casting for recovery (CFR) provides retreats at no cost to participants, which allows people who have been profoundly affected by breast cancer to gather in a beautiful, natural setting and to learn to fly fish.

It offers participants an opportunity to experience the peace and solitude and the chance to be in the moment that fly-fishing provides. The retreat provides a range of other services to promote well-being.

I had the privilege of being a volunteer at the recent 2½ day retreat at the end of April, based at Otago's beautiful Lime Tree Lodge. I understand this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> CFR retreat in the South, overseen and organised by Lisa Brits from Otago.

What a fantastic weekend it was for participants as well as the helpers. There was very positive feedback from all involved. We commenced Friday after afternoon tea and settling in, by going to the Swift Fly Fishing factory. Carl and his team were wonderful and showed us through the factory and the different stages of rod building. It was truly amazing, the science, technology, creativity and passion that goes into creating their fabulous Epic handmade rods. Carl also kindly donated a rod built according to the participant's specifications and this will be raffled to raise funds for CFR retreats. The choice colour was overwhelmingly orange and a 9 ft, 6# engraved wording still to be decided but some great and memorable suggestions were made. One of the participant's husband (who shall remain nameless) got well and truly busted for telling his wife he paid \$300 for his new Epic rod.

After our visit to Swift it was back to the lodge to fit waders and boots. What hilarious fun that was. Finally, sizes all sorted all participants were impressed with their lightweight breathable waders and the comfort of the boots they were loaned for the weekend from CFR's stock.

Saturday dawned wet and cold but didn't dampen anyone's spirits. All participants were out on the grounds practising casting in the morning under a great selection of casting instructors. The results were great.

In the afternoon we tried some basic fly tying, group at first and then one on one for those interested. By that stage we were competing against wonderful massages and yoga that was made available to the participants.

One mistake I made, being a left-hander, was not to practice my whip finishing with my right hand before the retreat. Hmm lesson learnt. I very quickly called on helpful others to handle the tying off for the right-handed women.

The Food. After a last-minute hiccup, we could have been left without a chef but Irene (the most awesome chef) kindly came out of retirement to provide us with dinner Friday and Saturday nights. Friday, mouth watering Lamb shanks, and Saturday night salmon steak parcels on shaved fennel root and spring onions, with miso butter on top, what an awesome feast.

Another great treat was the trout Steve from Dunedin Fish and Game smoked. It was a beauty. The smoked trout was the best-smoked trout any of us had ever tried. Most of us spent the evening guessing what herbs had gone into it. Steve's lips remained sealed until a little wine and encouragement from some of the participants eventually got the secret recipe. Rest assured this will be served at the next fishing camp. However, the recipe will remain secret.

Sunday morning saw a lot of activity getting ready to hit the lake by 9.30am. All participants had their very own volunteer fly-fishing guide and one Pinkie between two. (Pinkie is what the volunteer helpers are called) Duties included holding raincoats, water bottles, and energy bars etcetera. No, pinkies didn't get to fish but some had the pleasure of sighting fish for the participants. Glendhu Bay was somewhat sheltered and the heavy rain never came until we were ready to depart from the lake around 12. One participant caught an awesome 4½ lb brown and the look on the face in the photo told it all. What a first catch! She was ecstatic. Others hooked and lost a few and there was lots of fun and activity on the beach that you had to be there to appreciate.

It was a truly amazing weekend and I thought the programme offered great opportunity for the participants to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life and experience healing connections with each other and with nature through the sport of fly fishing. Hopefully and it seems highly probable that many of these ladies will continue with the sport of Fly Fishing.

If you know any women who have had a diagnosis of Breast Cancer, and may be interested in having a go at the sport we all love, please refer them to me or to the Casting for Recovery website for information and application.

Warm wishes and tight lines



## Pheasant Tail Nymph by Dave

The pheasant tail nymph is the fly you need to tie for the Fly Fishing Competition in June. 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 A14  |
| Thread    | Unithread 6/0 dark brown                                     |
| Weight    | .010 lead wire   |
| Tail      | Pheasant tail fibres   |
| Dubbing   | Dark brown rabbit dubbing (or other fine dark brown dubbing) |
| Ribbing   | Fine copper wire   |
| Wing Case | Pheasant tail  |



Run thread to bend of the hook



Wind on a few turns of lead.



Cover lead with thread.



Tie in copper wire



Tie in 5 or 6 strands of pheasant tail.



Wind pheasant tail forward to form abdomen and tie off at the top of the hook.



Wind copper wire forward and tie off in front of pheasant tail.



Dub abdomen.



Pull pheasant tail over thorax to form wing case, build up a small head and whip finish.

## May Monthly Meeting

Nick Reygaert from Gin-Clear 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.

## Fly Tying Day & Club Dinner - June 8th

Don't forget our fly tying day and Club Dinner, both on June 8th.

Fly tying is at Fish & Game Office from 9:00am.

Dinner is at the Cabbage Tree at 7:00pm. Contact Chris McDonald (03 217 3733 or 027 423016) to book in and each person is to bring along a \$5 gift.

## Cover Photo by Simon

Dave Harris playing a good Waikaia brown on the April Lodge Trip.

## Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

|                         |            |   |
|-------------------------|------------|---|
| 25/26 <sup>th</sup> May | Trip       | Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge Dave 027 201 6722                       |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> May    | MM         | Guest Speaker - Nick Reygaert, Gin-Clear Media                                      |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> June    | CM         | Fly Tying   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> June    |            | Fly Tying for club members by club members - <b>Meal at night, (\$5 funny gift)</b> |
|                         |            | <b>Book in for meal with Chris</b> (027 423 016)                                    |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> June   | MM         | Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition                                  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> July    | CM         | Fly tying   |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> July   | <b>AGM</b> | Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)                                  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> August  |            | Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> August  | CM         | Arranging the calendar for the next season  |

## Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)
- President Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (03 215 6068) [dcharris@southnet.co.nz](mailto:dcharris@southnet.co.nz)
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) [mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz](mailto:mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz)
- Editor Vacant - Send articles to Dave Harris [dcharris@southnet.co.nz](mailto: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](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 Chris McDonald.

## Club Sponsors



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