

“Ripples”

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

October 2020



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

Well it is time to be happy as the fishing season is here again. Unfortunately, the weather has been a bit wet and windy and the rivers have been up and down, but mostly up. This has made for difficult fishing but I have managed to get out a few times.

There were a few things on before the season started. Manic Tackle had a night for those who were interested in taking up fly fishing. Chris and I went along to promote the Club and our January Fly Fishing Course. We had some interest and signed up one new member on the night.

A few days later we had our casting day at Queens Park. The forecast was bad with a strong wind forecast as well as rain. However, when I arrived Chris was putting up the sign and the first members of the public were already there in spite of the conditions. Considering the weather we had a good turnout, including the new member who had joined at the Manic Tackle night.

As usual my opening day trip was with Simon Budd but we headed north east rather than north west as the water looked to be in better condition that way. Simon is an expert on the Waikaia region and that is where we headed. Unfortunately, no amount of expertise could make the conditions better. We started on a small stream that was carrying quite a bit of colour. We had walked as far as we wanted to go up the stream when we both spotted a fish on the



Conditions were a bit different on Opening Day

other side of the stream. I dropped down and crossed over but couldn't see the fish where we had seen it. Simon had also lost sight of it. It had only moved up a couple of metres and I was soon casting to it. Eventually I hooked up but after a strong run it came off. We headed back to the car and went to another small stream (that wasn't quite so small with a strong flow). We quickly had some more takes with Simon landing one of his but we both dropped one. We walked up some distance without success before turning back to the car. The last stream we fished we walked down to the main river and then fished back up to the bridge. We saw a few fish but nothing came to the net.

My next outing was the Lodge trip and once again the weather was against us and again no fish.

A few days later I headed to my usual opening day stream with new member Simon Patton. The river was reasonably clear but still quite high. We spotted a few fish and I managed a couple of browns. Interestingly we didn't see any rainbows so maybe they were still further up.

I was on the October Club Trip with Chris Cowie and we both managed to catch fish. See report elsewhere in the Ripples.

I also had a couple of trips on my own to other small streams. When I arrived at the first, there was a car parked by the bridge. I thought about it for a while and decided the other party would most likely have gone

President's Report (cont)

down to the main river as this is the usual way to go here. After a few hundred metres I spotted the other angler coming back downstream. He told me he had two fish and was heading away and had not been much further upstream so I set off up a bit before starting to look for fish. Conditions were great with a light upstream breeze and clear blue sky but I wasn't seeing any fish. I finally spotted one briefly and had a few casts to where I had seen it but without any action. I managed to spook a couple and then spotted one in shallow water. This would have been easy to cast to except for the electric fence crossing the stream just downstream of the fish. I tried to get a cast under the wires but failed to get it anywhere near the fish (but fortunately I didn't hook the fence). After a while the fish decided something was up and headed for deeper water. Finally, I spotted one in what looked like a good position. I tried a few flies but it wasn't going to take anything and during one of my fly changes it disappeared. A bit further up another fish to cast to. It wasn't moving at all but finally had a look at my fly and then took on the next cast. I had to lean on it a bit as there was a lot of debris across the river just downstream but it finally came to the net. A little further up and I spotted a fish in fast water. One cast, on and landed. Further up another fish next to a lot of debris on the other side of the stream. Once again, I hooked up first cast but it was a strong fish and keeping it out of the debris on the other side was going to be difficult. It broke off as I leaned on it too hard. Next fish I spotted was rising at the tail of a pool. The fast water was going to make a drift free cast tricky and I had to sneak up level with the fish to have any chance. First cast and it came up and took my parachute adams. Hooked up but not for long as the hook came out. From here I spotted two more fish but the first didn't take and second came out of a shadow, rose to something on the surface, saw me and headed away. Still my best day of the season so far and the best weather with sunshine and little wind. That was it for the day as I had reached the top of the section I intended to fish, so climbed out of the stream, packed up my gear and started the long walk back to the car.

The second small stream was totally different. For a start it was drizzling when I arrived and the stream had a little colour. I suspect it always does as I have never seen it completely clear. The chances of spotting fish were very slim but I have had success here before blind fishing. So it was again, first run, first fish took the nymph and came to the net. A bit further up I hooked another, this time on the blowfly dry, but it came off. The another on the nymph that also came off just as I was getting it to the net. From here I managed to spot a couple of fish. I started to cast to the first but it moved off before I put the line on the water. The second was in very slow-moving water and I was high on a bank. I just watched it swim away as any attempt to cast would have spooked it anyway. At the next run I had a really aggressive take on the nymph and a nice 5lber came to the net. The final take was also on the blowfly and this time I got it to the net. So, three fish landed for the day which is actually the best I have managed on this stream. As I packed up and headed back to the car the sun came out. Final act for the day was to call in at the closest house as I had found a calf on a ledge below a bank on the other side of the river. I suspect it had fallen in just upstream where the stream had washed out the fence.

Our next club outing will be the mid-week trip on Wednesday, October 28th. Give me a call if you are keen. This will be followed up by the November Lodge Trip on the 7th & 8th of November. Because the lodge trip is on the second Sunday of the month, monthly club trip will be a week later on November 15th.



Strange things you find on the river.
Hopefully the farmer came to its rescue.

Cover Photo by Dave

Lovely spring day on a small stream. May there be more days like this.

Lodge Trip October 2020 by Chris McD

Six members including two first timers spent Friday night at the lodge. On Saturday Julie headed home via the Aparima. Dave, Simon and Jim headed to Eyre Creek and the two Chris's headed to the upper Mataura. The forecast was not great and the main objective other than to catch fish was to avoid the wind.

Chris C & I headed to a particular spot that Chris C and never been to. Unfortunately, the wind was very strong straight downstream so we headed back down stream. On the way we drove passed what looked like some deep holding waters and despite the wind we decided to have a look there first. We parked the car, got set up, crossed the river and headed upstream



Upper Mataura River

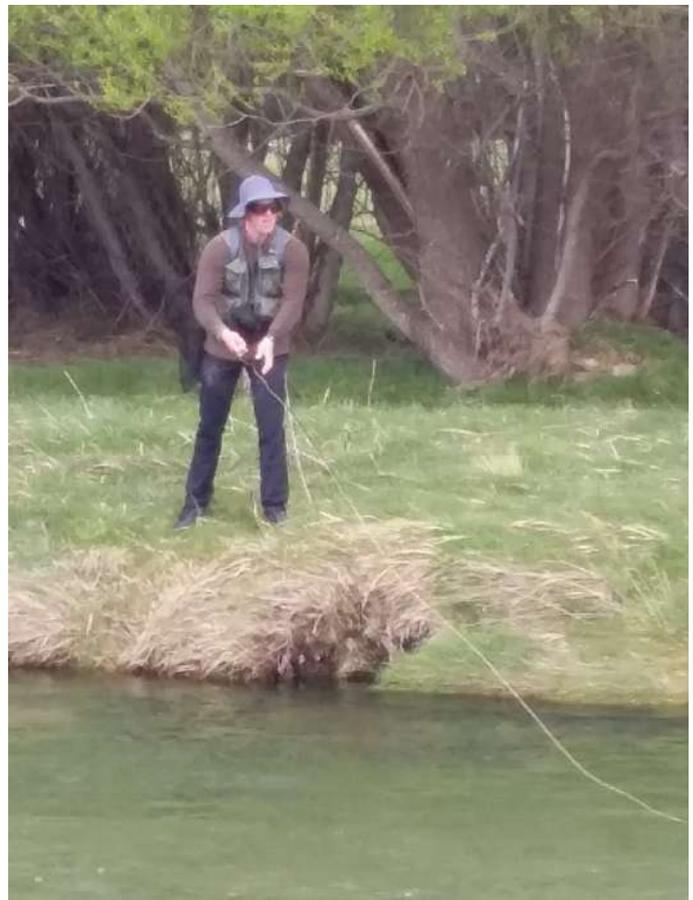
The holding water started with a river crossing that had a couple of nice channels. The first was empty but the second had a couple of fish in it. Unfortunately, they did not cooperate and eventually moved off. Chris C had not tied a fly on so while he did, I moved up to the next pool. By the time Chris C caught up I had said good bye to another couple of uncooperative fish. Chris C fished the next piece of great water. The only thing that came out of it was a tangle.

While he sorted that out, I finally found a cooperative fish. My opening fish for the season was 3.25lb and took a green stone fly. A bit further up a tree had fallen into the river and an absolute ripper was sitting under it. Second cast and it was gone. We proceed upstream seeing a few more uncooperative fish and turned back once we were back into the wind.

On the walk back we had a look at a couple of the pools that had held fish and Chris C had a number of casts at another uncooperative fish. We headed downstream from the car and fished back up. Chris C had a go at another fish in a back water but that was it. The wind was getting up so we headed back to the car and went downstream to a couple of accesses that had been productive in the past. Not this time. Both had been subjected to willow clearance and no longer offered protection from the wind. Missed one on the dry and then headed back to the lodge.

Dave and co had found lots of dirty water and wind and after covering most of Southland had retired to the lodge early. At least Simon had got to tie his first fly.

It rained everywhere else in Southland over-night and everything was high and dirty the next day. After a tiki tour of Eastern Southland in search of clear water that was unsuccessful it was back to the lodge to clean up and then home.



Chris C concentrating on his fly

October Club Trip by Dave

The forecast for the October Club Trip was not great and the rivers still looked to be a bit high.

The only other angler to show up at Fish & Game for the 7:00am departure was Chris C. We waited a few minutes but there was no-one else so we headed out to the Aparima.

There was quite a lot of water but we tried our luck. River crossings were quite difficult and we soon got to the stage where we couldn't cross the river safely. We decided it was time to move on so back to the car to head further up the river.

Next spot looked a lot better with less water and also the river was clearer. I was soon onto a small fish and it was on the bank pretty quickly. Chris then had a hook up but his line broke where his indicator was attached. We had a change of plan with regard to his indicator and used his NZ Indicator Tool to put on the new indicator. He was soon into another fish and a nice 3 ¾lb came to the net.

Things looked a bit brighter after lunch with the occasional appearance of the sun but the wind was starting to get up. At least when the sun was out, we were able to spot fish even if it was difficult to cast to them. We spotted a fish in a nice looking pool but every time the sun disappeared so did the fish. Chris had a few casts to it but it was moving upstream and he was struggling to see it. It finally disappeared.

I spotted what I thought was a small fish and it took my nymph. After a bit of a battle a 5lb brown came to the net. By this time the wind was making things really difficult so we decided it was time to head home, both happy with our day's fishing in tough conditions.

Regulation Changes for Southland by Dave

There have been some changes to the regulations in Southland for this season. In an attempt to make it easier the regulations have been simplified and you are allowed to fish with all legal methods and take two fish over the entire region except for the Upper Oreti River and tributaries. The Upper Oreti River is above Rocky Point. Rocky Point is where the road rounds a bluff just out of Mossburn towards Te Anau. For the Upper Oreti you are only allowed to use artificial baits and the bag limit is one fish. Note that once you have killed you bag limit you have to stop fishing. The other significant change is the introduction of a ballot for fishing the Worsley and Clinton Rivers that flow into Lake Te Anau. Go to [Worsley/Clinton Ballot](#) for details about this. Ballots are now open.

There has also been a change of season for Lakes Gunn, Fergus & Hankinson and these are now open all year. There have been no other changes to the season, so the rivers flowing into the main lakes and the top of the Whitestone don't open until November 1. If in doubt, check out the regulation booklet.

October Meeting

At the October Meeting Dave & Chris McD will bring along their fishing vests and go through all the contents with you. You will probably be surprised at what they carry on the river. They will also be able to tell you why they have all these things.

Fish'n Fridays by Julie

In an effort to get out fishing more regularly this season I have started a Fish'n Fridays Group. We leave from Fish and Game 9.30am Friday morning. Those going can choose as to where and for how long we fish.

No (long) walks involved. Anyone is welcome to join our group.

If unsuitable to fish we explore a few of the local F & G Access points.

It's been a mixed bag so far but those that have gone have reported enjoying the morning/day.

If you wish to contact me I'm available on 027 630 2949 for anything Fishy.

Competitions by Dave

Fly Tying Competition.

The September Meeting was the last round of the Fly Tying Competition. The fly was a coch-y-bondhu and there were only five entries. Julie had spent a lot of time trying to perfect her fly but then forgot about the meeting and didn't get to put in an entry. For the first time this year we had a clear winner with Dave getting half of the votes.

Fish Competition

The fish competition has now started and you should put in a card for your biggest fish each month. There is a draw for a Hunting & Fishing gift voucher at each meeting so you need to be in to win. Full details were in last month's Ripples.



Winning coch-y-bondhu

Season Start 2020-2021



Chris McD's Lodge Trip Upper Matura Brown



Simon casting through the willows on a Waikaia Tributary



Dave with a nice brown on the October Club Trip



Small stream brown that rose to a black blowfly.

Coming Events (MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

27 th Oct	MM	Dave & Chris will tell you what they take with them on the river
28 th Oct		Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
1 st Nov		High Country Opening (Sunday)
3 rd Nov	CM	Fly Tying
7/8 th Nov		Lodge Trip - High Country Opening Contact Dave 027 201 6722 if coming
15 th Nov		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
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- Editor 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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