

“Ripples”

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

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www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

Well it's been an interesting couple of months since the last Ripples. I have had a couple of trips away but have also had one that was cancelled.

I went to Te Anau at the beginning of December for my annual trip up there. As usual I was joined by Cole. We started out on the first afternoon on the top of the Whitestone but it was up a bit and had a bit of colour. We only spotted two fish and they were in the same pool. We hooked one each but Cole didn't land his one. The second day was the highlight of the trip as we headed to Mavora to fish the Mararoa above the North lake. The weather was good and there were a few fish in the river, especially in the first section above the lake. I had four takes here before Cole had even managed to set up but only hooked two and they both came off. Cole was having trouble with old tippet that kept breaking which was why it took him so long to set up. I gave him some new tippet and he was set for the day. We spotted a number of fish and both landed some in the best weather we were to have all trip.

From here on it was a battle with the weather. We went across to the Waikaia to find clear water one day but the wind was so strong Cole was worried it might blow a willow over on him. The sun was hiding on the river but shining on the hills nearby and this made spotting difficult. At least I had one fish come to the net (well it would have if I had remembered my net so I had to beach it instead). We also fished the Mararoa lower down on a couple of occasions, the Whitestone near the main road, the Upukerora twice and made a trip across to the Tomogalak. Not a lot of fish but we caught fish most days. Cole had an issue on the Mararoa when he slipped over on the edge and dropped his rod in the water. When he got up there was no sign of the rod as it had washed downstream. Fortunately his nymph hooked on the bottom and the line played out as the rod went downstream and I spotted the line in the water quite easily.

We had stopped in to look at the Oreti at So Big one day only to find the access closed by roading contractors. This has since been sorted out but you need to park where indicated as they are still working there.

Julie invited Cole and I to join her on a trip to fish the Pomohaka just after New Year but the river flooded the day before so that was off.

I also put in for a ballot on the Worsley and was lucky enough to get a two-day slot with Cole joining me. I was a bit nervous about the weather as it is quite a long trip up the lake to the Worsley and it can get quite rough. As the time approached the weather forecast looked pretty good for relatively smooth crossing the day before and the day after our two days on the river allowing us to stay three nights at the hut. It did look like it would be a bit breezy for the two days of fishing and maybe we would get a bit wet on the way home.

The forecast turned out to be pretty good although the breeze was a bit stronger than expected for the last bit of the trip up and the trip home was in bright sunshine. The two days on the river were indeed a bit breezy (down river) and along with the amount of dark algae on the stones made spotting quite tricky. Lots of what looked like fish initially were just stones.

We actually started by fishing in the lake on the day of arrival. We had taken separate gear, footwear, clothing etc so that nothing we were going to use on the river made any contact with the lake to ensure we were following the clean gear requirements. There were a number of fish cruising around on the flats but they weren't very interested in what I was offering them. Just before we stopped Cole came out of the little backwater he had been up, reporting to have seen two fish but no joy trying to catch them. I told him about the fish cruising and we went out to have a look. I immediately had one take my dry fly but had to beach it as I was keeping my net clean for use in the river. I did measure it as I had enough cleaning gear to easily clean a tape measure. Once back at the hut I carefully put the flies I had been using out and sprayed them down as well as spraying the tape. As far as I know those flies are still where I put them! There is supposed to be a track down the true left bank of the river and I have used this in the past. However for a good part of the distance back to the hut this trip the track was non-existent. We came down where the track should have been the first day but on the second dropped back into the river bed for part of the trip home and fished some pools as we came down with

President's Report (cont)

some of rainbows landed. Of course, being in Fiordland there were a few sandflies. They were pretty bad at the hut in the morning and evening but didn't cause much problem on the river, probably due to the warm and windy conditions. The other excitement of the trip was a small earthquake the shook the hut just before we got up on our second morning.

Cole with a nice Worsley rainbow. This is the fish that he is fighting in the cover photo.



I have had a couple of other outings as well as some Club trips, going out with Cole and also Chris Cowie. Hopefully a report on the Club trips will appear elsewhere in this Ripples, providing I get my computer up and running again and can get access to the report I had already written. (I am preparing this Ripples on my old computer after a power supply failure on my new computer.)

The day I headed away to the Worsley was supposed to be the Club night on the river at Coal Pit Road but this was cancelled due to the river still being well above normal.

We have a couple of things coming up where we will need assistance from Club members. We have our Fly Fishing Course on January 30 & 31. We will need people to help out with casting on the Saturday afternoon and also on the river on the Sunday. Let Chris know if you are available for this. We have also been invited to the On the Fly Festival in Gore on February 20th from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. We went to this 2 years ago with Chris and I manning the stand for most of the time and Julie joining us later. This year neither Chris or I are available and Julie will be looking after the stand. She will need assistance with demonstrating fly tying. If anyone is available please let me know.

I have also managed a couple of day trips and landed a couple of nice fish.



Worsley & Clinton River Ballots by Dave

This season Fish & Game have made the Worsley and Clinton Rivers in Fiordland controlled fisheries. This means that you have to put your name in a ballot to get a period on these rivers. The Clinton has been split into two beats but the Worsley is a single beat. See [Clinton-and-Worsley-backcountry-fisheries](#) for details. Neither river is easy to get to as access to both is generally by boat. Accommodation on the Worsley is at the DOC Worsley Hut but on the Clinton you need to camp and your camp has to be away from the Milford Track which runs up the Clinton.

At least two groups from the Southland Fly Fishing Club have applied for and received Worsley ballots so far this season. The first group was Amy, Chris, Julie and Gerda . They drew a weekend ballot so had three days to fish the river, although they travelled over by water taxi on the first of those days and left late on the third. I had Cole join me and we went over in my boat the day before our 2 day ballot and returned the day after, meaning we spent three nights in the hut. I cruise at about 50 k/hr in my boat if conditions are good and it takes about 40 minutes to get from Te Anau Downs to the Worsley Hut.



January Club Trip by Dave

Just two of us, Chris C and myself, on the January Club Trip. We headed off to a Western Southland stream. The river condition was pretty good although there was a good flow of water. Conditions made spotting difficult so it was blind fishing all day. However a few good fish were landed. Still a good day out.

Dave with a good brown caught on the January Club Trip..



Cover Photo by Dave

Cole with a good fish on while fishing the Worsley River.

Fiordland Fishing by Chris

It quickly became apparent this was a trip not just about the fishing - more like a working holiday where nothing was given up without a fight. My hands became red pokka dotted rainbow trout coloured from the sand-flies and between my sunhat and sunglasses a sunburnt line of blistered confusion; but it was worth it.

Fish were engaged but not often landed; good fish pull you down the river sort of fish, rainbows jumping one and a half meters out of the water sort of fish. The wind had us covered most of the trip howling every which way but at peak times the going was good. Dawn rises like nothing I had ever seen before, and Julie enticed, hooked and landed some beautiful specimens.

But as I mentioned it was a trip not just about the fishing; the idyllic location and the changeable weather meant it would always be that way. Two deer were found up river in an early morning trance, and a busy brave weasel swam below us across the river, while three pairs of blue ducks whistled up and down the valley. A friendly weka was tamed by Gerda, and Amy discovered a long wide pool of umpteen trout and a foot fall into the edge of it sent a gentle ripple across the whole pool while the overhanging trees made fishing impossible but the grin still remained. Wet fishing gear dried in front of the fire at night while we chatted ate chocolate, practiced fishing knots, shared photos and scrabbled. Bliss.

A very, very, very enjoyable trip.



Chris with two nice Fiordland fish



December Club Trips by Dave

The weather forecast for the December Sunday trip suggested wind and rain but better weather in Northern Southland. Chris Cowie was the only other starter so we headed up to a smaller Northern Southland stream. The weather turned out be better than forecast and we had a great day spotting about 20 fish and managing to hook 9 between us. Only six of these came to the net but it was definitely a good day. All fish landed were taken on nymphs.

December midweek trip saw four of us set to go but the weather forecast was very similar to the Sunday trip, so again we headed for Northern Southland. We had an early start as Julie had to get back to town for an appointment and she met us at the river. I had selected a place where there was plenty of fishing for those who didn't want to walk far and for those who were keen on a longer walk. Julie and Roger fished the main river close to the cars while Chris C and I headed up a tributary that neither of us had fished before.

Roger had a good day on the main river landing a reasonable number of fish on a nymph. I got off to a good start with a nice fish landed on a dry on my second cast in the first pool we fished. From here on it was pretty tough as the fish we spotted were in swirly and/or deep water. They were also pretty spooky and some were gone before we even had a chance to cast to them. Two more were hooked on nymphs but only one of them came to the net. Chris did have a take on his dry but missed it on the strike.

Fly fishing Course—January 30, 31

We have our annual Fly Fishing Course on January 30 & 31. This year we are fully subscribed. We will need some members to help out on Saturday afternoon with the casting training (normally at James Hargest College about 3:00pm) and on Sunday on the river. We are on the river (normally at Wyndham) from 9:00am with more casting practice and then break into groups to go fishing after an early lunch. As we have 16 course members we will require a few people to take a group out for the afternoon.

If you can help on either or both of these days please let Chris know (027 423 7016).

On the Fly Festival—Gore—February 20

We have been asked to help out at the Gore District Council "On the Fly" festival on February 20. The festival runs from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. Neither Chris or I are available on that day so we are looking for others to help out with a fly tying demonstration. Julie will be there and she will need a couple of others to help out and to talk about the Club. If you are available contact Dave on 027 201 6722.

At this stage the venue is not known but it will be next to the Mataura River



Our stand at the 2019 On the Fly Festival

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

27 th Jan		Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
30/31 st Jan		Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel.
2 nd Feb	CM	Fly Tying
4-8 th Feb		Lake Alexandrina Trip
14 th Feb		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game - 7am
20 th Feb		Gore On the Fly Festival
23 rd Feb	MM	This meeting is “On the river” --- BBQ Tea about 6pm
24 th Feb		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.ccnd@kinect.co.nz
- 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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