

“Ripples”

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

May 2021



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



*Southland Fly
Fishing Club*

President's Report by Dave

Well, it's been a pretty busy month for me but very little fishing. I was on the April Lodge trip and have only managed one trip out since – a day on the Upukerora River. It was a bit above normal and with the low level of the sun I had a lot of difficulty spotting fish and found many of the pools had changed significantly and were not as good as they had been in the past. When I got to my favourite part of the section I was fishing, I managed to spot some fish but they were sitting on the bottom and ignored everything I offered them. A bit further up I came across another angler who had come in at the access above where I entered the river and he said he had had success below where I met him. That explains the reluctance of the fish I spotted. Finally on the way home I did manage to hook and land a brown.

I have spent a lot of time focusing on and discussing the Ministerial Review of Fish & Game. That is covered elsewhere in this Ripples.

We still have time for a couple more trips before the high-country rivers and the Mataura from Gore down close but the weather is going to need to be a bit more co-operative. There is a Lodge Trip on the last weekend of the month and if you are planning on coming on that let me know (027 201 6722). Traditionally this trip includes a day on the Von River, with it being good some years and not so good others. This all depends on when the browns decide to come up from the lake to spawn.

We also have a Fly Tying Day coming up on June 12th at the Fish & Game Office in Eye Street. We will be there from 9:00am. If you are interested in fly tying come along and give it a go. The Club has three sets of tying equipment so you can come along and use this if you don't have your own gear. There will be experienced fly tyers there to show you how it's done. You don't need to come for the whole day, you can come along any time for as long as you like.

Also on June 12th we have our annual dinner. This will be held at the Cabbage Tree Restaurant starting at 6:30pm. Let Chris know if you are coming (027 423 7016).

Competitions by Dave

Fish Competition.

There is still time to get your cards in for the annual fishing competitions. I will accept these up until the fly tying day on June 12th.

There has only been one rainbow entered this year and it isn't very big, so if you have caught a reasonable rainbow this season put a card in. You may be in with a chance of winning that trophy.

Fly Tying Competition.

This month sees the first fly for this off season, the blue bottle blowfly. If you can't make the meeting get your fly to me before the meeting and you will be in with a chance.

The flies for the rest of the competition are:

June	Kilwell No.1
July	Royal Wulff
August	Pheasant tail nymph
September	Muddler minnow

Instructions for these flies will be in the previous month's Ripples and they will be demonstrated at the previous monthly meeting except for the August fly. This will be demonstrated at the August Executive meeting as the July meeting is the AGM and there will be too much going on for the demonstration.

Fish & Game Ministerial Review by Dave

The Conservation Minister's review panel's report on Fish & Game has been released. Apparently this review was asked for by the then Chairman of the F&G NZ Council and was to look at governance of the total organisation. It suggests a number of extreme changes to the organisation and the Minister has asked that all be implemented. There are 36 recommendations. Some will have little effect or are in fact all ready what F&G is doing. Below are the most significant changes recommended.

1. The Chair of the NZFGC be a Ministerial appointee
2. Reduce the size of the NZ F&G Council from 12 to 8.
3. The NZ F&G Council to comprise 4 appointed and 4 elected members
4. Elected NZ F&G councillors to be elected by Fish and Game licence holders (rather than appointed by F&G Councils as is currently the case).
5. Retain the regional structure but reduce the number of regions (and thereby FGCs) to 6 by the following amalgamations:
 - i Southland and Otago
 - ii Central South Island and North Canterbury
 - iii West Coast and Nelson/Marlborough
 - iv Wellington and Taranaki
 - v Eastern and Hawke's Bay
 - vi Auckland Waikato and Northland
6. Each FGC should itself comprise 8 members, comprising:
 - 4 members elected by licence holders
 - 3 members appointed by the Minister
 - 1 iwi nominee/appointeeThe Chair of the FGC to be elected by councillors.
7. Terms of office on the NZFGC or an FGC for both appointed and elected officeholders should be fixed for 3 years with a limit on serving no more than two consecutive terms.
8. A councillor could not be a member of both the NZFGC and an FGC at the same time. If elected to both, that person would have to choose one of them.
9. Members of both the NZFGC and an FGC to be elected by licence holders casting two votes: one for the NZFGC and one for the FGC

This is a very significant proposal for F&G and virtually amounts to a Government takeover of the organisation with a very significant reduction in angler and hunter input. It has not met with favour within the NZ F&G Council.

An implementation team has been setup to follow these recommendations in full. They are touring the country making presentations to the F&G councils but as I write this they have not been to Southland.

The full report is available here

https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2021-04/FINAL%20Report%20-%20Review%20of%20Fish%20and%20Game%20New%20Zealand%202020_0.pdf

Annual Dinner - 12th June 6pm

The Club Annual Dinner will be held at the Cabbage Tree Restaurant, starting at 6:30 pm.

If you are coming please let Chris know (027 423 7016) so he can confirm the booking with restaurant.

You need to each bring a gift (as silly as you like) worth about \$5 so we can share these around. However we have banned chocolate so don't bring it.

See you there.



April Lodge Trip by Dave

There were four of us on the April Lodge Trip - Gerda, Julie, Jim and myself. Although travelling separately in two cars we all arrived at the same time. The flies had clearly arrived well before us and we had quite a cleanup job before we moved all our gear in.

On Saturday we decided to have a look at the Eglinton River. As we neared where Jim and I were going to go, the tributary streams looked quite dirty. As a result, we drove a little further up the road to where we could see the river and it was also dirty. No use trying to fish that so we headed back down and looked at other rivers in the Te Anau area. They too were too dirty for fishing, so we decided to head to Queens Reach on the Upper Waiiau. It was at a reasonable level and was clear. Some very small fish were landed, mainly rainbows although Julie's fish was a brown. Nothing of any size was hooked. With rain threatening we headed back to the Lodge.

Once back at the Lodge it was time to clean up the flies again and then I tied some #18 pheasant tail nymphs to show the others what I had been using on the Mataura. As we were heading for the Mataura the next day I had a supply of these for the others anyway, but they wanted to see how I tied them.



Julie's Queens Reach brown.

As usual on Saturday night we headed across to the Mossburn Pub for dinner.

Sunday morning and we headed to the Mataura. Gerda came with me and we headed to Cattle Flat. Jim and Julie went further down. The river wasn't too bad but the fish were hard to see and not a lot were rising in the afternoon. They certainly weren't co-operative and I don't think anyone landed anything.

Sunday evening we were out of water in the Lodge. A quick trip to the farmer explained the reason and clearly we weren't going to get hooked up immediately. He was building a new pump shed and had cut a pipe he couldn't identify. He capped the pipe and was waiting to see what trough ran out of water. He promised to do something temporary and would fix it permanently once the new shed was commissioned. We could still get some water from the tap on the tank and the zip was full so we managed to cope.

We stayed overnight planning to fish Monday but the weather was too bad and we simply cleaned up and headed home.

For Sale

Retired fishing guide (and ex-President of the Club) Len Prentice has a lot of used gear for sale.

This includes:

Simms Wading Boots sizes 6 – 10

New Reddington chest waders

2 pair thigh breathable waders

4 wet weather jackets

2 landing nets

Sage TCX #6 rod (used 5 times)

#6 line new in box.

Ross evolution reels with line

5 dozen blowflies and other flies

If you are interested in any of this give Len a call on 027 248 8845

June Competition Fly by Dave

The Kilwell No. 1.

This fly is being tied in commemoration of the late John Day. When John first came to New Zealand he settled in Rotorua where he was a member of the Rotorua Anglers Association. John's favourite fly was the Kilwell No.1. The members of the Rotorua Anglers Association used this fly on Lake Rerewhakaaitu where the galaxids were quite small and their version of the fly evolved to have only one feather on each side rather than two in normal killer style.



John's old friend Phil Trautmann has given me the pattern and supplied the materials required so we can tie this fly as part of our fly tying competition. Typical of all killer pattern flies getting the right feather is the secret to tying a good looking fly. I have all the materials so come and see me at the May meeting, the June Executive Meeting or the Fly Tying Day on June 12th. I will tie this fly at the May meeting so you can see how it is tied. It is not difficult and for those with poor eyesight is actually bigger than we normally tie.

Materials:

Hook	Kamasan B175 #8
Thread	Black Unithread 6/0
Tail	Black calf tail or similar (I used cow's hair as I have plenty)
Body	Red wool
Wing	Partridge feather with single white stripe.



1. Mount the hook in the vice and run the thread to the bend in the hook.



2. Stack some black hair and tie in as tail.



3. Tie in red wool at the tail.



4. Wind the red wool forward almost to the eye of the hook.



5. Strip two partridge feathers and tie one in on each side of the hook, concave side in.



6. Form head, whip finish and varnish head.

Thanks to Phil for providing the pattern, materials and a sample fly.

Fly Tying Day - June 12th

We are holding a fly tying day on June 12th at Fish & Game, 19 Eye Street, Invercargill starting at 9:00am and going until 4:00pm. You don't need to come all day, just pop in when you have time and leave when you are ready.

If you have not tied flies before but would like to have a go, this is a good opportunity to learn from scratch. You don't even need to have your own gear and materials as the Club has three sets of gear and quite a few materials. There will be members on hand who can run you through fly tying from the start.

If you have tied a few but would like to learn a bit more there will be some experienced tyers here who should be able to help you out.

If you are an experienced fly tyer come along and you may be able to show some of us a few tricks and may be learn something yourself.

Why tie flies when you can buy them?

This is a good question. I started out tying flies when I tried to buy some hare and copper nymphs in Invercargill and none of the shops had any (and there were more places selling flies then). So the first advantage in tying flies yourself is that you can get the flies you want.

The second advantage is you can tie flies that you see online or in magazines, newsletters etc so can have flies that the local suppliers don't stock. This may be different patterns or sizes. You can also take this a step further and tie your own patterns.

The third advantage is that you are in control of the quality of the flies. If they fall to bits it is your fault and you can then figure out how to make them last longer.

In the case of nymphs, you can also control the weight of the nymph and this is a significant advantage if you are fishing fast water and want to get your fly down.

Finally, it is cheaper to tie your own flies although you may need to make a significant investment in tools and materials. An individual fly costs \$3.50 at Hunting & Fishing. For this price you can buy 10 hooks. Some other components are expensive. Good hackles for dry flies are expensive (and you need good hackles). Tungsten beads to use on your nymphs can also be quite expensive but you can get 100 for just over \$20 if you buy them online.

There is also the satisfaction of catching a fish on a fly that you tied yourself and that gets even better if it is your own pattern.

The biggest problem with tying your own flies is getting materials. Neither of the shops in Invercargill stock much in the way of fly tying materials (not enough demand and everyone wants something different). There are a few hooks and one or two bits and pieces available. However, in this age of internet shopping getting supplies is not too difficult. Most of mine come from www.flyshop.co.nz. He has a good range of stock and his service is excellent. There are a number of other suppliers online and checking trademe is also worthwhile.

Come along on June 12th and have a go at tying flies.

Cover Photo by Dave

The Eglinton River on a nice spring day. Just to make you think about next season.

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

25 th May	MM	
26 th May		Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
29/30 th May		Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge - contact Dave Harris 027 201 6722
1 st June	CM	Fly Tying
12 th June		Fly Tying for Club members by Club members - Meal at night, (\$5 funny gift)
29 th June	MM	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
6 th July	CM	Fly tying
27 th July	AGM	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
3 rd August	CM	Arranging the calendar for the next season
8 th August		Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am

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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