

“Ripples”

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

September 2021



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

Well, there has not been any fishing activity for me over the last month. Unfortunately, I have been a bit off colour so didn't venture out, even when the Government said we could. The one plus is that I did manage to get a few flies tied and have a couple of patterns I have not used before to try. Hopefully they will catch fish but I will have to go away from my favourites to try them. I have many flies in my fly box as well as many I have taken out to make room for more that I have never actually tied on to the end of my line. Of course they don't catch fish if they are not on the end of your line.

Due to the lock down our very busy September became a very quiet September, with the only things that were held being the International Women's Fly Fishing Day and the Lodge Working Bee. Now that we are back at level 2 we can get going again and we will definitely be holding our Casting Day & Boot Sale on September 26th and nothing is going to get in the way of opening day on October 1st.

Hopefully you all have all your gear ready for the new season, flies sorted out in a nice tidy fly box, new or at least cleaned fly line, new leader and tippet tied on and new season licence purchased so you will be ready to go on October 1st. I have my opening day trip planned and will be out with Simon again. Hopefully the weather and river conditions will be better than last year and we will get to go to the river we plan to go to and will see and catch some nice fish.

We have a Lodge weekend planned for the first weekend of October. The plan is to head up Friday night and fish Saturday and Sunday. Generally, someone sorts out the food for breakfasts and lunches and we have dinner Saturday night at the Mossburn Hotel. These are great weekends and we usually manage to catch some fish, although sometimes the weather can make that a little difficult. If you are keen on coming let me know (027 201 6722).



Opening day 2020. Hopefully we will all find better conditions than this on opening day 2021.

Cover Photo by Simon

Dave with a nice rainbow from opening day 2019. Hopefully more of the same on opening day this season.

Club Competitions by Julie

Annual Fishing Competitions

The Club Fishing Competitions this year take the same form as in the past. This is an honesty competition where members hand in their cards at the monthly meetings (or any other time you can find me). You were given 7 cards when you paid your subscription and that is one card for each month of the season (October to April). You can put more in but you will need to buy more cards from the Secretary to make it through the season.

There are 4 sections – heaviest brown, heaviest rainbow, total weight and condition factor. The first two are easy to figure out, total weight is the total for one fish per month (hence the seven cards) and the condition factor is based on the length and weight of the fish.

Calculation is:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight} \times 100000}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}}$$

Weight is in pounds and length is in inches

If you use metric instead of imperial measures it looks like this:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight} \times 3612.8}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}}$$

Weight is in grams and length is in cm.

A very good fish gives a condition factor of 60 – 70. If this calculation gives numbers over this, I get very suspicious of the data.

There is also a Junior Competition and this is based on taking part in Club activities. Points are awarded for attending meetings, coming out on Club trips, putting in fish cards each month, entering the photo competition and entering flies in the fly tying competition.

There will be a one night photo competition at the end of the season with 4 classes – scenic, trophy, action and general. So remember to take your camera and take plenty of photos.

Fly Tying Competition

There are two flies for the competition at the September meeting as we didn't have an August meeting. The two flies are Chris's pheasant tail nymph (July Ripples) and Jim's pitsford pea mini lure (August Ripples).

Fish & Game Elections by Dave

The triennial Fish & Game Council elections are being held this year.

If you are enrolled as a Fish & Game voter you should have received your voting papers by now. If you did not enrol as a voter when you purchased your licence for the 2020-21 season it is now too late to enrol.

There will be an election in Southland as there are 13 nominations for the Southland Fish & Game Council and for the next term there will be 9 members on the Council (down from 12 previously). Generally voter turnout for these elections is very poor but it would be nice to see the numbers up.

So, if you have voting papers, please vote. You don't have to vote for nine candidates, you can vote for less, but please vote for some. You can do this using the paper forms provided or you can vote on-line, following the instructions included with the voting papers and using the password and pin provided. Voting closes on October 8th, but don't delay, especially if you are voting using the form rather than on-line as it may take a few days for the post to get to Christchurch.

"Julie, are you available for Coffee?" by Shirley Fraser

Little did we know that such an innocent question would send us on an unforgettable three week adventure; involving fun, fishing, friends, family and food..delicious food!

It was while drinking our coffee we heard the news of the sudden L4 lockdown. I was two weeks into my road trip, when suddenly I became a homeless, stranded Northerner! Scary!!!! I am forever grateful that fate put me in the right spot at the right time! Julie extended the famous Southern hospitality (which I was lucky to witness again and again during my stay), and suddenly Julie had an unexpected boarder!

I have been told I am not allowed to rave about Southland in case I cause a huge influx of northerners, but you Guys have everything!

In the morning I was catching brown trout, in the afternoon gathering kaimoana! I experienced whitebaiting, spin fishing and saltwater flyfishing all in the same day...where else can you do this? I ate the world's best fish chowder, made from freshly caught crayfish; I tasted kina, karengo and mussels off the rocks. I had flounder and whitebait served for dinner that the Chef had personally netted that morning.

Though the fishing and food gathering was amazing it is the people I met...(all wearing masks of course) who will last in my memory. Especially the Southern women, they have such resilience and strength with their own delightfully strong characters and hearts of gold. I think they are the Treasure of Southland and I have left part of my heart behind here.

A special thank you to Southland Fly Fishing Club for looking after me..if any of you end up in Taupo I would love to take you fishing.

Tight lines
Shirley Fraser. X

Note: Shirley is the President of the Taupo Fishing Club Inc.



Julie, Shirley & Gerda tying flies at Julie's the day before Shirley headed home.

Shirley with an Oreti brown.

A Clayton's Cure - Fencing Rivers

An abridged version from the late Bill Benfield's book "Water Quality and Ownership" published by Tross Publishing, 2017

Around 17 or 18 years ago Fish and Game NZ started raising concerns about dairy run-off into rivers. That concern was proper.

But Fish and Game failed to look at other things that were happening.

When the heat came on, Fonterra, the biggest player in dairying, moved quickly to deflect attention by proposing the Dairy and Clean Streams Accord of 2003. It's a text book example of a Clayton's solution - how to maintain and expand intensive agriculture and its serious degradation of rivers while avoiding the real problems.

It involves fencing off river (and lake) margins and banning all animals from waterways.

As an added public "sweetener" for the "green" lobby, the fenced off river margins were to be "planted with natives."

Not only has it been successfully sold to central and local government but also to Fish and Game and the Green Party.

In the end, the Fish and Game campaign, by settling for fencing rivers, did nothing to stop the huge expansion of dairying in Canterbury.

The only thing achieved was the exclusion of the public and recreational fishers who are Fish and Game license holders, plus of course, a few animals.

By focussing on dairying, it has deflected attention from the other major polluters, a classic case being the 2009 report on the Manawatu by the Cawthron Institute which rated the river as the dirtiest in the Western world and pointed the finger firmly to dairying.

In fact, the Manawatu River had to put up with partially treated sewerage and untreated storm water from towns ranging from Eketahuna village (450 people) to Palmerston North city (88,000), scattered through the huge catchment. The river and its tributaries carry industrial burden from breweries, pharmaceutical works, milk processing plants and freezing works and there is also forestry and council bulldozer operations in the river bed contributing to silting.

The price is being paid for dirty dairying. The rivers are being fenced off!

While fencing off rivers and banning all stock sounds good in principle, the reality is quite different. The river/streams are no longer subject to browse and the riparian strip quickly becomes overgrown with blackberry, broom, convulvulus, gorse and even poisonous tutu. Not only does the river become inaccessible—but riparian planting does nothing to stop most pollution entering the waterway.

The fact is riparian planting does nothing to stop nitrates from entering the waterways.

River margins can be managed better. It just requires a more focused system of river management.

There is certainly a case that where there is no intensive dairying, river banks should be left as in near as natural unfenced condition as possible. Thereafter the issue is stock. Stock like sheep, goats and horses at the density of traditional farming, are not the problem.

Cattle can be a different issue. Where cattle densities are high and stock receive supplementary feed from offsite, they should be kept far from the river - it could be 50 metres or more. In such situations the ideal would be to significantly de-stock the land.

If fixed stock are grazed, i.e. sheep and cattle, then the "selecta-fence" can be the answer - two top wires to stop cattle and no bottom wires so as to let sheep through.

As an example of corporate posturing by big dairying to take the heat off, the fencing of rivers programme has been a stunning success. The only trouble is that it has done nothing for the rivers. It has allowed their continued degradation, often unseen and for most purposes, particularly recreation, rivers become no longer accessible.

And to repeat as Mike Joy's "Polluted Inheritance" makes it quite clear, riparian planting does nothing go stop nitrates from entering waterways.

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International Women's Fly Fishing Day by Julie

On September 11th women from all over the world celebrated virtually women in the sport of Fly Fishing. 97 posts were made with 910 followers.

In Colorado a group of women were teaching women with breast cancer to fly fish. Lots were on the water's edge keep'em them wet, and prize fish photos were posted. In other parts of the world pictures of women introducing other women to the enjoyable art of Fly Fishing. I personally enjoyed the demonstration of Bamboo rod making by a woman in the USA, it was very interesting and showed how far our gear has come today.

Some women elected to do fly tying indoors due to the state of the weather, rivers, or Covid restrictions. Here in Southland we did the later.

It was a great day watching all the above posts go up as daylight dawned across the globe. Not to mention enjoying Gerda's lovely cream sponge. Thank you, Gerda.

Also thank you to Fish and Game for providing a room for us and thank you to Dave, Jim and Chris from the Southland Fly Fishing Club who contributed so much to this day.

The turnout here was small but understandable in the midst of Covid lockdown. Never-the-less those attending enjoyed the day and went home with lots of flies for next season.

Casting Day & Boot Sale - September 26th by Dave

As usual, on the last Sunday of September, we will be holding our Casting Day at Queens Park Cricket Ground. We will be there from 1:00pm and will stay until 4:00pm or later if there are still people there.

We have Mike Weddell coming down to help out with casting tuition, so if you want to get a few kinks out of your casting this is a good opportunity.

We are also taking the opportunity to have a car boot sale at the same time, so if you have any fishing gear that is surplus to your requirements bring it along and you may find a new home for it.

Fish N Friday by Julie

Fish N Friday's has been set up to encourage people to get out and explore the local Fish and Game fishing accesses.

To have friendship and fun.

Age and ability is no barrier to enjoying the sport of angling.

We learn from each other and acquire new skills.

For those who don't mind getting their hair messy or nails dirty and enjoy laughs along the way.

Meet at Fish and Game 9.30am Fridays.

For more information go to Facebook page of the same name.

or phone Julie Cook on 027 630 2949

Jim with a Fish N Fridays brown caught on a recent Friday trip.



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

All events subject to Covid-19 alert levels

26 th Sept		Casting Day & Boot Sale Queen's Park 1:00pm
28 th Sept	MM	Monthly Meeting - Fish & Game Speaker
1 st Oct		Opening day
2/3 th Oct	Fishing	Lodge Trip [Weekend at the Lodge] - Dave Harris 027 201 6722
5 th Oct	CM	Fishing Stories & Fly Tying
10 th Oct	Fishing	Club Day Trip meet at Fish & Game – 7am
26 th Oct	MM	
27 th Oct	Fishing	Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
1 st Nov		High Country Opening (Monday)
2 nd Nov	CM	Fly Tying
6/7 th Nov	Fishing	Club Trip [Weekend at the Lodge] - High Country Opening

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 Chris Cowie
- Lodge Custodian Dave Murphy, 35 Brown Road, Invercargill dmurphy@southnet.co.nz (03 230 4698)

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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