

“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

Isn't great to be out on the river catching trout again.

I have had a pretty busy start to the season getting out on the first three days and then three more times over the following week. I have visited six rivers or streams in that time (mind you I fished three on opening day), caught a few fish and walked a long way.

Prior to opening we had our usual casting day with a few Club members present but no public turning up. We also had a boot sale at Julie's request but this was not a great success. The weather forecast for these events was very poor but we had enough dry weather to have a successful casting day.

We are now full ahead for the season. We have a meeting on October 26th and there is a midweek trip on the following day. If you are keen on coming on the mid-week trip, give me a call on 027 201 6722. I promise I won't make you walk as far as I have been walking so far this season. On the first weekend of November we have another Lodge trip. This is high country opening trip so we will probably be heading to one or more of the rivers that open on November 1st (and that means rainbows). We will sort out who is coming on this Lodge trip at the October meeting.

Finally, the results of the Fish & Game Council elections are out and I have been returned to the Southland Council. Thank you to all who voted for me.

Casting Day & Boot Sale by Dave

We had our usual casting day on the last Sunday in September and this year added a boot sale. Unfortunately, the weather forecast was very poor but we are sheltered from the wind at Queens Park and the rain held off while we had our casting day. It was good to have Mike Weddell down to help out those who needed some help with their casting.

The boot sale wasn't a great success as there weren't many people who turned up looking for gear.



Cover Photo by Dave

Chris hooked up on a nice brown on the October Lodge trip.

Club Competitions by Julie

Fly Tying

We had the last of the Fly Tying competition at our September meeting. There were two flies to vote for as we didn't have a meeting in August. The fly for August was Chris's pheasant tail nymph and the fly for September was Jim's pitsford pea mini lure. Dave scored the most votes for the pheasant tail nymph and Jim and Chris were equal best with the pitsford pea mini lure.

The Hunting and Fishing Voucher draw.

We also had two draws for the voucher and these went to Murray Buchanan for August and Gerda Johnstone for September

Fish Competition.

The first month of the fish competition is at the October meeting. You need to fill in a card (that Chris gave you when you paid your subs) and give it to me at or before the meeting.



Dave's winning pheasant tail



Jim and Chris's winning pitsford pea mini lures

For Sale

Kilwell Inovation 9 ft. 7 weight Rod

Reels with floating & wet lines

Simms Gortex Waders med size

Simms wading boots x2

Several fly boxes including includes heaps of flies

Kilwell fishing vest

Landing net

Salmon rods & reels

Surf rod & reels

Ticers etc

Plus many sundries including fishing related books

Any reasonable offer accepted

Roger 03 215 6658 or 027 221 7527

Memories of 11 Years on the Mataura E-book

David Murray-Orr has retired from guiding and has decided to stop posting his lower Mataura fishing blog on the net after 11 years. He has prepared an e-book, "Memories of 11 Years on the Mataura", from his weekly blog and full details are available on his website www.mataura.co.nz and clicking on David's Blog. Cost of the e-book is \$25.00

Opening Day by Dave

I picked up Simon early on opening day and we headed to Western Southland to our favourite opening day river. It didn't look like there was anyone else there and with it still not being fully light we didn't rush to get ready. We did check the river out and it looked pretty good. Once it was light enough, we got set up and headed to the river. We fished a couple of pools then spotted a ute parked where there used to be a track across the river. We were annoyed about this as we always park where the vehicle can be seen so others know we are there.

We decided to head down to the Waiau, knowing it was running high with a high level of spill at the Manapouri Control Structure. Even as we were nearing the river we spotted a couple of other anglers following us down indicating there were lots of people about. There was clear water at the edge from the incoming stream and we were soon into small rainbows. There was no show of spotting them but it was great fun and they fought pretty well considering their size. From here we fished up the lower reaches of the tributary. While heading up Simon went to talk to another three anglers that were also heading down to the Waiau. Not much action but eventually I spotted a fish feeding well. It was very close to a shadow and looked like it was going to head into the shadow where it wouldn't be visible. It didn't and it keenly took my nymph. That was number four for me. There was another just a bit further up but it didn't like what Simon offered it. We decided to head back towards town and while Simon walked back to get the car I waited for another angler who had been fishing where we were going to start (not the one that was there before us) so I could check his licence. He reported not a lot of pools in the river and had not touched a fish.

We stopped on the way home at an access on the Aparima. There was another angler there and he was spinning without a lot of success. Another turned up who had been there earlier in the day and was looking for his glasses. We headed some distance up the river and managed another fish each so it was a worthwhile stop. That was our lot for opening day but we still had the Lodge trip the following two days.

Club Day—October 10th by Dave

There was no-one else at Fish & Game when I arrived for the first Club Day of the season. With a pretty good forecast I expected others. Daniel arrived shortly after me so clearly I wasn't going to be on my own.

With strong winds forecast in some places and expecting the Mataura to be carrying a bit of colour (it was when I checked it out at Riversdale on the way home three days before), I opted to head for the Aparima. When we got there, we found the river to be in good condition but it was a bit overcast so spotting fish wasn't going to be easy.

Once setup we headed up the river. I had been told it had changed considerably from last season and found this to be correct, but at least it seemed to be an improvement on last season. I was into a small brown quite quickly and it came to the net. A bit further up I hooked an even smaller brown. Whilst being small it gave an excellent aerial display. Nothing for a while and then Daniel was into a better fish. I netted it for him so we were both on the board.

A bit further up we had to go around some willows as there was a run that was too deep to wade and no other way up. It actually looked like a pretty good piece of water but it was not possible to fish most of it. When we got back to the edge of the river, I spotted a fish moving up but still just downstream of us. We were on a highish bank so I expected it to see us and take off. However, it kept coming, so I dropped a fly in front of it and it took the nymph. Daniel netted it for me. At the top of the same run I spotted another fish and Daniel cast to it but it wasn't interested in taking anything.

We continued up to the next access where we could see another angler before turning back. Immediately we started spotting fish where we couldn't see them before but they were not interested in anything we offered them. We fished a couple more pieces of water on the way down before packing up and walking back down a track to the car.

All in all, not too bad a day for the first Club trip of the season.

October Lodge Trip by Dave

Initially it looked like there would be seven of us at the Lodge for the first weekend of October but in the end only three of us made it up to Castlerock.

We decided to travel in one car so I picked up Simon and Chris on Friday night and we headed up the road. Once we had arrived the first thing to check was the status of the water system. We had been assured it had been connected but had not been turned on at the tank. As soon as it was turned on you could hear the water flowing into the tank so we were right for the weekend.

We were up early on Saturday morning and after a bit of discussion we decided to head up the Mataura. Chris had a place in mind but when we got there, we found other anglers already there. Second spot we found more and finally finished up at the Fairlight Station bridge. We were a bit surprised at the amount of colour in the water as it had been clear further up and we didn't know of any stream coming between where we had checked it and Fairlight.

I headed down to check out a couple of pools below the bridge while the others set off upstream. I found nothing in the pools I expected to find fish in, so headed up to join the others. We struggled to find fish although there were one or two under the willows in places you couldn't cast to. Chris finally hooked and landed his first fish of the season but he had not spotted it.

A bit further up we found the source of the colour in the water. A gravel extraction pond was connected to the river and the water in it was very discoloured. This was flowing out into the main channel and caused the colour in the water. The extraction pond should have been some distance from the main stream of the river to prevent exactly what was happening. I spoke to Fish & Game about this and they followed it up with Environment Southland. Turns out they were already on to it and the extraction had been stopped. We continued up the river without success and finally spotted two anglers ahead of us on the river. One of them landed a fish as we were just below them and already packed up ready to walk back to the car.

We headed back down the river a bit and tried another access. Simon went down while Chris and I headed up. There were a couple of fish right by where we started but these were having nothing to do with our flies. Few other fish were spotted and none landed.

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Chris with a nice brown caught on the October Lodge Trip

October Lodge Trip (cont)

As usual we headed to the Mossburn pub for dinner. There were a number of other anglers there including Selwyn Shanks who used to own Centrefire McCarthys in Dunedin as well as being a fishing guide and was a Club sponsor for a time. As usual the dinner was good although we didn't ask for our usual mixed grill as there were temporary staff in the kitchen with Tom and his wife being away.

On Sunday we decided to head to the Oreti. Simon opted to head in at the Lodge while Chris and I went a bit further upstream. Once again there was another angler but he arrived after us at the access and decided to head downstream. Spotting conditions were difficult due to the light conditions and there was a green tinge in the water. However, we did spot a few and my first came to the net having been hooked on a green brassie, something I don't usually use but I did tie some during the last lockdown. By the time we turned back Chris had landed two fish and I had managed three, so not too bad a day. When we got back to the Lodge, Simon was already there. He reported not seeing many fish but had landed four so our total for the day wasn't a complete disaster.

Time to clean up the Lodge and head home. Another good weekend although it was surprising the number of other anglers out on the river but of course it was the first weekend of the season.



Dave with an opening day brown



Daniel fishing the Aparima on the October Club Trip

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

All events subject to Covid-19 alert levels

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
14 th Nov	Fishing	Club Day Trip meet at Fish & Game – 7am
24 th Nov	Fishing	Mid-week trip - Dave Harris 027 201 6722
30 th Nov	MM	
7 th Dec	CM	Fly Tying
12 th Dec	Fishing	Club Trip, Catlins – Meet at Fish & Game 7:00am
15 th Dec	Fishing	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 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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