

“Ripples”

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

November 2021



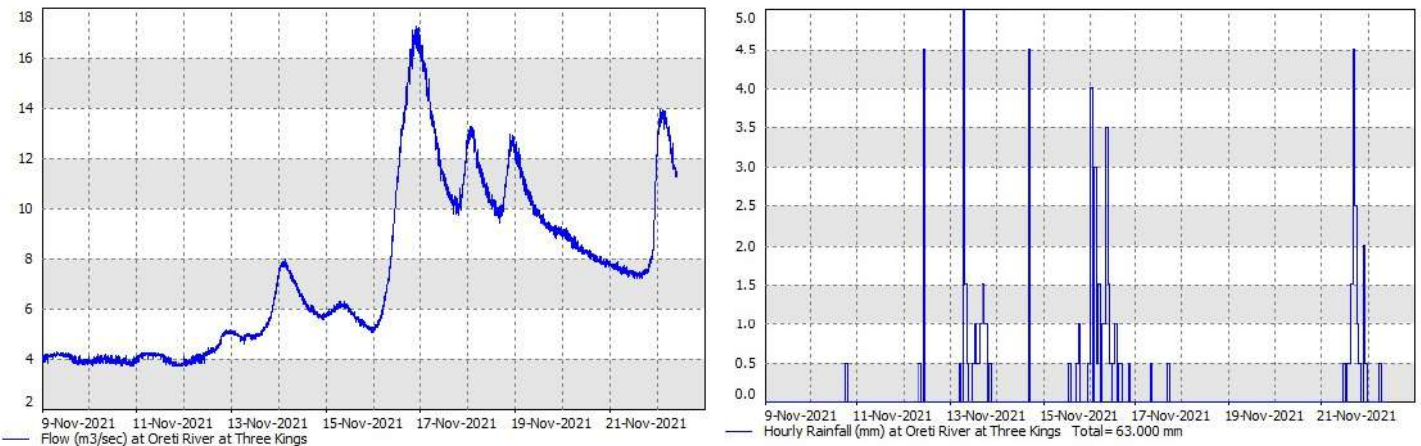
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Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

As I sit here at my computer writing this the weather outside isn't what you would like to see if you were planning to go fishing (heavy overcast with light showers) and this is about as good as it has been for a couple of weeks. Below are a couple of screen shots from the Environment Southland web site showing flow and rainfall at Three Kings on the Oreti over the last couple of weeks. The Upper Oreti is a place where you want to have clear water and sunshine as it is a fishery where you really need to be able to spot the fish well before you get near them or you won't get near them as they will spot you and be gone before you have a chance to cast to them.



The mid-week trip for October saw Julie and I head up to the middle Mataura . We were not planning to walk far (and didn't). The river had more colour than expected and spotting fish was very difficult. I only saw one fish all day and it was already on its way.

As a result of the weather conditions (and I don't have anything to show the wind) I have only had one short outing in the past couple of weeks when I had an hour or so on a local stream I had been meaning to fish for a long time. Unfortunately, it wasn't as clear as I expected (but may be that was as good as it gets) and there were a lot of ducks with ducklings on the steam, As soon as they saw me the mother duck would swim up the stream flapping her wings as she went. I am sure no trout would stick around with this commotion going on. I only got to cast to one small fish and it was under a willow and I never did get my fly in front of it.

Prior to that I had managed a few days out. I had a day on the Upper Oreti but didn't catch any of the big browns it is famous for but at least it was fine, calm and warm and the river was in good condition. I also had a couple of trips to the Lodge. Chris was keen to get out on November 1st for the high country opening. I went up the day before and fished a Mataura tributary in pretty wet and windy conditions. The stream was in good condition but it took me a long time to spot any fish and I pulled the pin quite early, having landed a nice



Nice day on the Upper Oreti

President's Report (cont)

brown. I met up with Chris at the Lodge and we headed to Mossburn for dinner. We were up early the next morning to try and get to the river we were going to fish before everybody else.

During the following week I managed a trip up to the Te Anau basin and had a good day on the river up there with good weather. The stream I fished was not my first or even second choice. Seems there were a lot of people out and about but I wasn't particularly early having driven up in the morning. A long walk downstream then fished back to the car. I spotted a good number of fish and finished up with three browns and four rainbows in the net. They were taken on both dry fly and nymph. I also foul hooked a couple of fish and broke another off so it was a pretty busy day.

The following weekend was the Club Lodge Trip. Simon was keen but could only manage the first day (and we had a good day) so I was on my own on the second day.

The November Club Trip was no a goer with both river and weather conditions being totally unsuitable for fly fishing.

There are only a few more club events prior to Christmas (yes it's that time again). The November mid-week trip may have happened by the time you read this but the December mid-week trip is scheduled for December 15th. There is also a Club Trip scheduled for December 12th. Unfortunately, I will miss both of these as I will be away in Te Anau with Cole for our annual trip up there.

There are also a few events to look out for in the New Year. We have a Club Trip on January 9th (meet at Fish & Game at 7:00am) and an evening on the river on January 11th. Go to Coal Pit Road straight after work and we will see you there.

As this is my final President's report for the year, I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hopefully you will be able to get some fishing in over the holiday break without having to dodge too many other anglers.

Fly Fishing Course 2022

Just a reminder that we have our annual Fly Fishing Course on January 29th & 30th 2022. If you know anyone that is keen to learn to fly fish please let them know about this. Full details are on the Club website www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz. We will also require helpers for the afternoon casting session on the Saturday and on the river on Sunday. If you can help let Chris (027 423 7016) know.

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

High Country Opening Day by Dave

Chris and I met up at the lodge late afternoon on October 31st. I had had an afternoon on a Mataura tributary but Chris had come straight from town. While waiting for Chris I decided to check on what was on TV to fill in the time. No joy, some problem with the satellite dish, so I tried the DVD to watch something. No joy there either as I couldn't get that working either. Looks like I have some things to fix.

Once Chris arrived, we were off to Mossburn for dinner. It was good as usual but we both passed on the mixed grill and went for steak instead. Back to the lodge and before going to bed we made our lunches to allow for an early departure the next morning.

Up at 5:00am and away at 5:35am wasn't too bad. No problems on the way to the river although Chris did ask what an alarm was that came up on the Jeep. We have had a couple of punctures in the past going to this river but it was not a tyre pressure alarm. Just the usual stop/start fault. When we arrived at the top of the river there was already a ute there in its usual place so we continued on down. Another vehicle at the bottom of the hill and finally another at the bridge at the top of the gorge. So much for being early! We settled for going in at the old homestead, a spot that has been kind to me in the past but not for a couple of years.

River and weather conditions were good, just couldn't find any fish. Chris finally spotted one but he was too close to get a decent cast and it was gone. He spotted a couple more and soon had one of them in the net. I had a cast at the other and it came up and took my dry so we were both on the board. We spotted a few fish, generally paired up but they were pretty hard to see and we spooked a few. I had one have a go at the dry but it missed the fly, then another that I managed to foul hook. After lunch I spotted two fish well ahead of us and soon had the first hooked up on my dry. Before I could land it Chris had the second hooked up.

We continued up the river and walked a long way without seeing anything else before deciding it was time to start the long walk back to the car. As I usually do, I packed up my rod and net so I didn't have to carry them in my hand but Chris decided he hadn't finished for the day so set off down the road while I was still packing. After we had walked a couple of kilometres, a ute driver stopped to talk to Chris. When I caught up, I was offered a ride back to the car, which I accepted. Meanwhile Chris headed back onto the river to fish through the area where we had seen fish on the way up.

When I got back to where Chris was, he came off the river, having seen nothing more.

On the way out we found the usual group of anglers having a yarn at the top of the river so we stopped to see how they had got on. It hadn't been a very successful day for them either, seeing a lot less fish than they used to a few years ago. We were soon on our way back to the Lodge and on home. Not a great day on a river that used to have big numbers of fish (Simon and I landed 26 in a day a few years ago) and no big fish either. I am not sure where they have gone. Are they are coming up the river earlier and have headed back down to the lake by the beginning of November or are they still to come up at the beginning of November?

Maybe it will be better next year.

Lake Alexandrina Trip by Dave

We have a trip to Lake Alexandrina scheduled for February 4th to 9th. At this stage I am still waiting for confirmation of accommodation at the SCAC Outlet Hut.

This is lake fishing from a boat. The SCAC have a dinghy and I have my two man kayak.

If you are keen to go let me know (027 201 6722) and I will let you know when I have confirmation.

Cover Photo by Dave

Simon with his third big brown caught on the November Lodge Trip.

November Lodge Trip by Dave

There was not a lot of interest in the November Lodge Trip. Simon was the only other member keen to go and he could only make it for the Saturday, having other commitments on the Sunday.

I was all packed up (or so I thought) and ready to go just after tea on Friday night. I was just about to Dipton and going through my packing in my mind and I couldn't remember putting my vest in the car. A quick stop revealed it wasn't there so it was a long drive back home to get it. When I finally arrived at the Lodge Simon was already there but had actually only just arrived. He had got the code for the key box off Chris so had the power and water on but that was about all he had had time to do.

As Chris and I had done the previous week, we made our lunches the night before to allow an early start to improve the chances of being first to the section of river we wanted to fish. We were both keen on the same place so that decision was easy. Up and away pretty early, although not as early as the previous Monday, we had a good trip through to Te Anau and were pleased to see an empty car park when we got to the river. The river looked to be in very good condition and the weather was good as well. We were ready for a good day.

The disadvantage with early arrivals at the river is that it is too early for sight fishing when you leave the car. We blind fished a few pools, found some good pools had disappeared but for a while spotted nothing. Simon finally spotted a brown sitting in a likely position. It moved to deeper water but he was soon hooked up and had his first fish of the trip in the net, a very nice brown. I spotted another fish at the very top of the pool and was soon into a good rainbow. We continued up the river spotting a few fish. For some reason I could only catch rainbows and for a while Simon could only catch browns – big browns. Eventually Simon managed to hook up on a rainbow.

Eventually it was time to turn back as we had walked far too far. Arriving back at the car Simon muttered something about 17.6 kilometres for the day (my GPS agreed with this) and my legs were telling me we had walked far too far. We had landed ten fish between us, three big browns (up to 6lbs) and seven rainbows with the biggest being 4½lbs. We were happy we had had a good day on a nice clear river in good conditions but I definitely needed that first beer at the Mossburn Pub where we stopped for dinner. After dinner Simon dropped me off at the Lodge and headed for Waikaia.

I wasn't up very early the next morning but headed away to a small Oreti tributary. The wind was forecast to come up later in the day but after the big day the day before I wasn't planning on a long day on the river. When I arrived, the stream was in good condition and there was no sign of the forecast downstream breeze. However, there wasn't a lot of water in the stream with the pools by the bridge looking pretty skinny.

Almost immediately I spotted a fish rising at the top of a pool. A couple of casts and it stopped rising and that was the last I saw of it. The next fish I spotted was under a tree and I couldn't get a cast near it. That was it for quite a while then I spooked a couple of fish I hadn't spotted. I finally spotted a couple in a long very slow-moving pool. As is often the case with very still water the first was soon on its way but the second took a liking to my nymph. It wasn't at all keen on coming to the net, almost getting me down to my backing. Finally, I had a nice 4¼lb brown in the net. I spotted a couple more but didn't manage to attract them to my fly. By this time the downstream breeze had arrived so I headed out to the road and walked back to the car.

All in all a good Lodge Trip in spite of the lack of numbers.

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

November Lodge Trip (cont)



Simon stalking, hooking, playing and landing a big brown on the November Lodge Trip

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

All events subject to Covid-19 alert levels

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
9 th Jan	Fishing	Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game – 7am
11 th Jan	Fishing	On the River, Tuesday straight after work, Coal Pit Rd
25 th Jan	MM	
26 th Jan	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
29/30 th Jan		Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel.
1 st Feb	CM	Fly Tying
4-9 th Feb	Fishing	Lake Alexandrina Trip*

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 (927 201 6722) dcharris@southnet.co.nz
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz
- Vice-President Julie Cook, 11 Ruru Ave, Otatara (027 630 2949) juliecook@actrix.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) 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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