

“Ripples”

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

January 2022



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



*Southland Fly
Fishing Club*

President's Report by Dave

Well over the last couple of months I have managed plenty of fishing with a lot of good days and a few difficult ones. The weather finally seems to have come right (or maybe too hot) and the rivers are in good condition. Some of the rivers I have fished have changed a bit from last season, some for the better and some for the worse. There are deep spots that make wading difficult where it used to be easy and easy spots where it used to be difficult, but that is the nature of our rivers. I have caught fish that were keen to take a fly and struggled with fish that just didn't appear to be interested in anything. I haven't met many other anglers although I met one on the middle Oreti recently. I was looking for fish rising to willow grubs and spotted some likely looking willows downstream from where I had entered the river. I headed down and sure enough there were fish rising to willow grubs. However, there was also another angler fishing to them. I checked his licence, had a chat and then headed away upstream. I only found one spot where there were fish taking willow grubs and they were in very still water and disappeared pretty quickly.

Since the last Ripples there have only been a couple of Club outings with those in December being cancelled due to bad weather. We had the day trip on the 9th (and no-one else showed) and the night on the river the following Tuesday when there were only three of us there. The next Club event is the meeting on January 25th. This will be a chance for everyone to tell us about their fishing over the past two months. There will be a mid-week trip the following day and then the Fly Fishing Course on the 29th & 30th January. There is our annual trip to Lake Alexandrina from the 4th to the 9th of February and our next day trip on the 12th of February.

Our February meeting is normally a barbeque at Coal Pit Road. Unfortunately, Chris will not be available to cook the barbeque this year so we are looking for a volunteer to do the cooking. We will discuss that at our January meeting.

Meanwhile keep getting out there and catching those fish.



President Dave with a nice Upper Oreti brown while out with Julie

After Work - January 11th by Chris

Tuesday 11 January. Dave and Gerda were already at Coal Pit Road when I got there after tea. Beautiful weather and great river conditions. Fish were rising occasionally but nothing consistently. After a rod mishap I changed rods and crossed the river for the first time this season. There were only a few fish showing at the top of the willows and around the top corner.

A small hatch started and several fish started rising but as usual they were across the far side and out of my casting range. Returned to the ledge as it was getting darker. Landed a 1.75 lb trout on my favorite emerger (#16 pheasant tail behind an adams). Chased a couple more with no luck then crossed back over. Rising fish were few and far between. Dave had hooked one and released it just short of the net. Gerda had had no luck and headed home. Dave shortly did the same.

I hung around till dark and the fish started to rise more around 10pm as it got darker. I landed a couple more with the best being 2.5lb then headed home.

Tales Of A Wandering Fisherman by Chris

I have missed a number of club trips this season as I have been wandering further afield. My Christchurch based daughter wanted to fish Lakes Georgina and Lake Selfe in Canterbury. Next time I will try to avoid the Canterbury Lakes opening day.

We arrived at Lake Georgina just before lunch and the wind was starting to get up. This meant there were a large number of boaties already heading home from Lake Coleridge so the gravel road was busy. There were 16 cars at Lake Georgina when we got there. Many had already had enough and soon left. Lake G is about 2.5 x the size of Von lake but has a road right down one side of it directly beside the water. Makes for fun casting a fly rod while trying to dodge the cars going past.

I walked most of the way round the lake and only saw one fish. One local had landed a reasonable fish early in the day but that seemed to be it.

On to Lake Selfe which wasn't too far up the road. Fished the southern access where there was about 300 metres of fishable beach. Several spin fishers left as we arrived and heaps more arrived and departed while we were there. One group of 4 with all the flash gear decided they could come in and fish between the 3 of us who were already fishing. Some impolite words on my behalf let them know I wasn't happy and they didn't go past me. The beach had a number of fish cruising along it but while there were a few looks nothing was tempted. Lake Selfe was very scenic despite the restricted waters and I suspect we will go back there again just not on opening weekend.

Just before Xmas the same group of us spent some time in Tekapo. Nicola and Helen used the spinning rods while I stuck to the fly. Carolyn and Alfie (the dog) provided encouragement. We fished the Tekapo canal below the Tekapo A power station, the fishbowl and slightly above it as well as the top of the Pukaki canal. Yes, we saw some big fish, no we didn't catch them. The only one that came to the net was a tiddler, but at least we got one. My highlight was night fishing and having two 10lb plus rainbows cruise past in formation just 3 feet from the bank. Again, not too disappointed in our results we only saw 3 other fish landed and a lot of fishermen were about

Lake Alexandrina Trip by Dave

We have a trip to Lake Alexandrina scheduled for February 4th to 9th. Accommodation at the SCAC Outlet Hut is confirmed.

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).

Te Anau Revisited by Dave

In December I headed back to Te Anau for my annual visit. This was the third year but was a bit later than the usual late November with us going to Te Anau on the 9th of December. The later start was to ensure Cole had time to fit MIQ in and also the house was not available due to maintenance work being carried out.

Over the thirty years this trip has evolved from a general fishing trip to a hard core fly fishing trip. I have had many people accompany me on the trip. The first year it was Wayne and Walter and then for the next few years just Walter although his brother from Scotland joined us one year. Then Andy started coming along until those two decided to call it quits. I was joined by Les for one year and then Kees for the next but neither came back. At that point I put an ad in the Ripples for a fishing companion for the trip and got a response from Cole in British Columbia. He has been every year except two when he was unable to make it to New Zealand (once because of an eye operation and the other while he sorted out family issues). The first of these absences came at short notice and I found a diplomat from Uruguay on the NZ Fly Fishing Forum who was coming to New Zealand for a month and he joined me for the Te Anau trip (and had a ball). The other time Cole sent a friend's 18 year old son out from Canada and Ken joined us as well.

The quality of the fishing has varied significantly over the years as the weather has varied as well as the fishing conditions and my fly fishing skills have changed. 2021 was a good year after a really tough year in 2020.

We headed to Te Anau on a Thursday, a little later than usual as we weren't supposed to move in until 2pm but did arrive a little earlier than this. First job was to go to the supermarket for supplies then back to the house for lunch. Traditionally we have gone to the top of the Whitestone on the first afternoon but it was a bit late for that so we went to Queens Reach where we found pretty much no activity at all.

This trip Cole was having trouble with his knees so my challenge was to take him places where he could be picked up from rather than walk back to the car. So, on the Friday we went to the Upukerora where there are two accesses reasonably close together. We didn't see a lot of fish and only landed a couple between us. At least we were both on the board.

Saturday and the weather is poor, just as the forecast said it would be. We decided to go and look at the Eglington and finished up going up as far as Lake Fergus for a look. We had a walk down the river near the top but saw no sign of fish. Further downstream we stopped where we could look out over the river and there were fish rising but no way of actually getting down to them. We finally found a place we could get to the river a couple of kilometres further down and set off towards where we had seen the fish. We found fish before we reached the spot where we had seen the fish rising, then fished the spot and headed a bit further upstream until we couldn't go any further. By this time we had had a ball and landed seven fish between us. Some were in amongst fallen trees so that made for some challenges. I left Cole to bush bash to the road and walked back to the car.

Sunday was our big trip day as we decided to head to Mavora and take the boat to the top of the North Lake and fish the Mararoa. It was a day of action with nice rainbows rising to a dry in fast water. We didn't see many fish but had a ball anyway. During the day I spotted a person waving to us from the 4WD track and he asked if we had a locator beacon. I replied I did and he asked me to set it off as a member of his party had fallen off her motorbike and badly broken her arm. I set the beacon off (and that caused more than a bit of concern at home) and went across the river to where he had come down from the track. He introduced himself and said he knew who I was. I gave him the beacon and sorted out its return that night in Te Anau. 40 minutes later a big black chopper arrived and landed where we were. After a quick chat they set off to find the injured

(Continued on page 5)

Cover Photo by Dave

A large coloburiscus mayfly sitting on Cole's hand on the Eglington River.

Te Anau Revisited (cont)

party and an hour later lifted off bound for Kew. We continued our fishing with more rainbows coming to the net before heading back to the boat. We had to squeeze around a breakdown truck that was loading a disabled camper to get out from the ramp.

Monday there was rain forecast in the Te Anau Basin but it looked better over the hill so we headed to the Aparima. Unfortunately, as we were heading out of town I got a tyre pressure alarm up indicating we had a slow puncture from the trip into Mavora. I went to the garage and when the mechanic arrived, he was able to fix the puncture. We discussed where we had been the previous day and he said he had been to Mavora to pick up a disabled camper the previous day and had to take it to Queenstown. With the weather being overcast and the Aparima being hard spotting anyway, this was to be a day of blind fishing. The day got off to a bad start when Cole slipped on a rocky bank and broke his rod. Back to the car and my spare rod was rigged up and away we went. Another good day with some very active browns and another seven fish to the net. Once we finished Cole headed across farm land to the road while I walked back to the car.

Tuesday, we decided to fish the Mararoa below the Key bridge. Somehow Cole managed to break his other rod and again fished with my spare. This time he had a spare tip but it was back in Te Anau. Once again, a good day with both blind and spotted fishing. I managed the biggest fish of the trip with a 5¼lb brown spotted in a back water that rose to a dry fly. By the end of the day, we had landed six fish. After some discussion Cole decided to cross farm land to the road. We could see a track on the other side of the river but weren't sure if I would be able to find where to get onto it.

Wednesday, we headed back to the Eglinton but a bit further downstream. Again we found fish, both browns and rainbows. Only four fish landed but it was great fishing in an absolutely stunning spot. Where we stopped there was a track out to the road that I was familiar with so again I left Cole to head up this track while I headed back to the car. These flat grassy areas on the Eglinton are actually anything but flat and once the track I was walking down ran out the going got quite tough.

Thursday and our final day fishing. We decided to head to the Hamilton Burn to see what we could find. Unfortunately, the river was quite coloured in spite of being low. We had a pretty tough day although at one stage I came across a pool with about five fish rising to emerging mayflies. By the time I had landed one the rise had stopped. Cole also managed one fish. The vegetation along the river's edge made walking difficult and we called an early finish and walked out to the road with just the two fish having been landed.

Friday morning it was time to clean the house, pack up and head back home. All in all it had been a pretty good trip and it was great to get to Eglinton as the last few trips it has not been in suitable condition for fishing. 2022 will see my 31st annual trip to Te Anau.



Cole on the Mararoa above North Mavora.

January Club Trip

I headed off to Fish & Game on the morning of January 9th for the January Club Trip not knowing who was going to be there. In the end it turned out that I was the only one, so away I went, heading for the middle Mataura.

I arrived at one of my favourite spots and headed off downstream in perfect conditions. On the way down I encountered a river crossing that has changed quite a bit and was now much faster and deeper than it had been previous seasons. However, I made it safely across and headed on down. When I was nearly down to where I have started fishing in the past, I found there had been significant changes. There had been a pool where there almost always were fish rising but it was gone. The bank that had previously been on the true left of the river was now a narrow bank only about 3 metres wide on the true right. The old pool was completely gone and was now just a gravel bank. Not to be deterred I set up and started fishing. Unfortunately, the water was quite blue and spotting was difficult so I wasn't seeing many fish. I finally found a couple and one came to the net.

I then arrived at a wide section of the river with willows on the opposite bank. It was lunch time by then so I sat and ate my lunch while watching under the willows on the other side. Soon I spotted fish that looked like they were rising to willow grubs. This section has always been too deep to get right across to the other side but this year that was easy and I soon had a willow grub on and was casting to rising fish. I was using a small willow grub made from yellow foam and I had six of these in my fly box. I soon had a take but that broke off when I tried to stop it going into the willows. Fish continued to rise and I managed to hook another 10. Unfortunately, some of the willow grubs I was using were #20 and I straightened the hook on a couple of these (as well as one of those in my fly box already having suffered from this). I also broke another couple off and destroyed one of the flies trying to get it out of the fish while holding the fish, the landing net and the rod in the middle of the river. I managed to land four fish before running out of willow grubs. It had been great fun while it lasted. I didn't see many more fish on the rest of the walk back to the car but had had a good day out.

Fly Fishin Course - January 29th & 30th

We have our annual Fly Fishing Course on January 29th & 30th. We will need members to help out with the casting on the Saturday afternoon and on the river on the Sunday. If you can help out please give Chris a ring on 027 423 7016.

At this stage we only have 11 participants so there is room for more if you know anyone that would be keen.

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

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

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

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
13 th Feb	Fishing	Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game - 7am
22 nd Feb	MM	This meeting is “On the river” --- BBQ Tea about 6pm
23 rd Feb	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
1 st Mar	CM	Fly Tying
13 th Mar	Fishing	Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game 7am
23 rd Mar	Fishing	Mid-week 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
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- 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 (027 236 9576)
- 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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