

“Ripples”

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

February 2022



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



*Southland Fly
Fishing Club*

President's Report by Dave

Firstly, a welcome to all those who joined us on the Fly Fishing Course and who are likely to be reading their first Ripples. I would have liked to see some of you out on the Club Trip on Sunday 13th. There were only two of us on the trip so there was plenty of room for more. You will learn a lot more by coming out with experienced anglers than trying on your own.

Well, it's been a busy time for me since I reported in the last Ripples. I have had a couple of trips away, to Mavora and Lake Alexandrina, as well as the Fly Fishing Course and the Club Day Trip. This means I have been home for one weekend day in the last four weeks. Lucky I am retired or there would be a huge list of jobs around home.

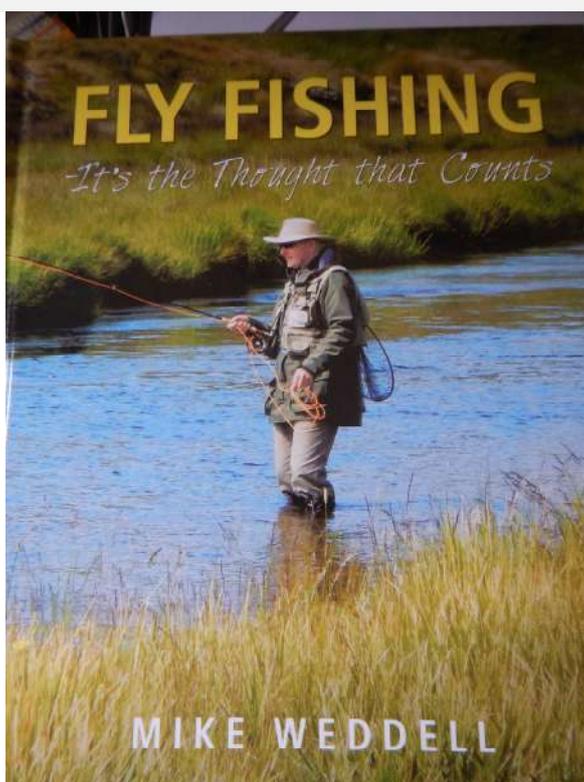
On the weekend of the course, four of us went out to the Mataura just below Wyndham on the Saturday night. As with the fishing on the course there was not a lot of activity. We only managed three fish between the four of us (and in spite of what Chris suggested they were not all the same fish). The river bottom had a lot of algae on it and this may have affected the aquatic insect population meaning the fish were elsewhere or it is possible the river was getting a bit warm and this affects the fish. I suspect the later. There is not much we can do about water temperature in the summer but we do need to be careful if we are catching and releasing fish as they don't recover well in warmer water.

On the Sunday of the course, I went out to Wyndham with Mike as he had stayed with me on Saturday night. I got a ride home with Chris and we stopped for an icecream at Edendale. I didn't have a mask with me so Chris had to buy both icecreams.

The next Club event is the BBQ at Coal Pit Road. This takes the place of our February meeting. Unfortunately, Chris, who normally cooks the BBQ, is going to be out of town. We will still have the event at Coal Pit Road but if you want to cook food you will need to bring along your own. You can bring a picnic dinner or similar and have an evening fishing the Mataura. We must be due for a good evening rise. I will be out on a mid-week trip the following day. If you want to join me, give me a call on 027 201 6722. We will leave town about 9:00am so it is not an early start. Don't worry about how far I am likely to walk, this trip will be tailored to those who are on it..

Fly Fishing—It's the Thought That Counts

Mike Weddell has released another book – *Fly Fishing - It's the Thought That Counts*. This is available in either paperback or hard cover from Mike at www.mikeweddellflyfishing.co.nz/



Fly Fishing Course by Dave

We only had 11 anglers on our Fly Fishing Course this year after the late withdrawal of two people.

The course followed its usual pattern with the first session at Fish & Game as tutor Mike Weddell went through a lot of details on what trout eat, where they are and what you need to catch them on a fly. All participants received a gift of fly fishing accessories from Hunting & Fishing Invercargill as well as there being a draw for a Simms vest donated by Manic Tackle Project. The winner of the vest was Jimmy. A selection of flies was also provided by the Club.

We then moved out to James Hargest College for casting lessons. Unusually no-one had asked for the use of a Club rod as all had their own. However, a couple had issues with what they had, and therefore finished up using Club rods. In general, the casting was better than average with many looking quite competent.

Sunday morning, we all met up on the Mataura River at the Wyndham bridge. The river was low and clear. During the casting practice a couple of fish were landed. Melissa managed a tiny brown that flicked off the hook before we got the opportunity to get it photographed. Sam also landed a nice fish. Towards the end of the morning Mike slipped away from teaching to fish a ripple a little upstream and managed to land a fish.

After lunch it was time to break up into groups with Simon, Chris, Mike and myself taking a group fishing either upstream or downstream from the bridge. The fish were not co-operative with only Simon and I managing to land fish and mine came just before we finished for the day.

Hopefully those who partook enjoyed the course and will continue on with their fly fishing.

Thanks go to Mike Weddell for taking the course and to Hunting & Fishing Invercargill and Manic Tackle for their generous sponsorship of the course.



Everyone in the classroom at Fish & Game on the Saturday.

Fly Fishing Course (cont)



Jimmy receiving his fishing vest from Mike. Vest was courtesy of Manic Tackle.

Course participants receiving casting instruction from Mike.



More casting instruction as well as fishing instructions on the river.

February Club Trip by Dave

Just Chris and myself on the February Club trip. Chris had commitments later in the day so we were in for an early finish. However, as we were away at 7:00am there was still plenty of time.

The forecast wasn't great with southerly winds, cool temperature and a few showers. Nowhere stood out as having better weather. A quick conversation and we both wanted to head to the mid-Mataura so away we went.

When we arrived at the river a quick look showed the river to be low but carrying a bit of colour. We did immediately spot a fish but it was heading away. Back to the car to get ready then on up the river. There were a good number of birds working and quite a few mayflies in the air and on the water but very few rises.

First action was a small fish that took my nymph when I cast to where I had seen a rise. It didn't come up for the dry but grabbed the nymph. Unfortunately, it didn't stay attached long enough to be netted. A bit further up I had another hook up with a small fish in likely looking water. It too came off before being landed.

A bit further up we spotted a couple of fish in a likely looking spot. It was a difficult lie with swirling currents and we had no luck. Then I crossed to a small pool that looked like it should have fish rising to willow grubs. I wasn't confident as it felt it was too cold. I immediately spotted three fish and there were a couple of rises to what I thought would be willow grubs. Once I had a willow grub tied on, I cast it to the nearest fish. It was clearly looking for willow grubs and hovered mine up in an instant. It headed for the willows and I tried to stop it without success resulting in a break off. I couldn't see any more still in the pool but found one just above (under a willow) and tried to cast to it. A really good hook up on the tree. That's two flies gone. I tied on another and the fish rose to it. Plenty of resistance on the strike but no hook up.

Chris was at the next run and had spotted four fish feeding on nymphs. He had to change to a heavier nymph to get down to them and soon had a good hook up. Unfortunately, he also managed to break off. He missed a take on another fish before hooking up on the final fish and getting it to the net. He continued to hammer the area but didn't find any more fish.

Meanwhile I moved up to the next lot of willows. I saw a couple of rises but the second was completely under the tree. I put a cast up close to the tree and the fly was taken immediately. It was out a bit from the trees and I managed to get it away from them without too much tension and I too was on the board.

We moved up a bit further and found a nice looking backwater that had at least two fish in it. They were taking something of the surface but wouldn't look at anything we offered them. We went a bit further up but it was getting time to turn around if Chris was going to get home on time. I stopped at the back water again and tried a couple of other flies but without success. If I had had time, I would have persevered but Chris was well down the river and I didn't want to be responsible for him being late. I caught up with him before he made it back to the car so it wasn't entirely my fault that he was a bit late home.

Shortly after we left the river we hit some heavier shower so we were glad to be in the car rather than still on the river. Not a bad day in difficult conditions.



Chris with his February Club Trip brown

Mavora Trip by Dave

In late January, Cole, Julie and I headed off to North Mavora Lake for 4 days. The weather forecast looked good and we had pretty good weather for the whole trip.

We headed away on a Friday morning with the first stop being the supermarket for supplies. With everything loaded it was off to the lake. Once at Mavora I was surprised at the number of boats, trailers and campers as I had thought that most people would have returned to work by the time we went. Once the boat was loaded and in the water, we headed up to the hut in good conditions.

I was pleasantly surprised to find no-one at the hut when we arrived. We unloaded the boat and settled in for lunch. After lunch it was time for fishing. We boated across to the river mouth as this is a good place to start. Cole and I headed up the river while Julie fished the drop off and around the edge of the lake. The river was very clear and quite low. Unfortunately for Julie on the lake edge, the wind was blowing (gently) from the South and made it an on-shore wind so no chance of cicadas being blown on to the lake. By the end of the day four fish had been landed, all from the river.

Saturday was clear and reasonably calm. Cole and I decided on a long walk up the river while Julie stayed at the hut with the intention of fishing the lake edge. We had a pretty good day with another four fish being landed. We didn't see as many fish as we expected to but there were some rising even if they spooked before we could get a fly to them. When we arrived back at the hut there were a number of people there. There was a group of motorcyclists from Queenstown as well as some Te Araroa walkers. However, there was no sign of Julie. We were told she had set out down the side of the lake early afternoon but hadn't returned. We decided to try and find her so it was off in the boat again. A check below the hut showed no sign of her so we went back above the hut and still no sign. We stopped and asked a couple camping on the lake shore if they had seen her but they hadn't. As we headed back past the hut there were people waving and we came ashore to find she had turned up back at the hut so all was well.

Sunday, we decided to fish the edge of the lake. As the southerly breeze was still blowing, we headed across to the north side of the West Burn delta where it would be an off-shore breeze, hopefully blowing insects out on to the lake. As we were setting up I spotted a couple of fish just along from the shore. I saw one of the fish race after something in the water and advised Julie that a woolly bugger might be worth a try. As I watched the other fish it swam straight towards me. I still had a royal wulff on from the previous day so cast that just on my side of the fish. It rose up and took the fly without hesitation. It is generally difficult to spot fish around the edge of the lake so normal procedure is to cast a dry out to the drop off and wait for the fish to take it. This worked reasonably well and we had landed five fish by the end of the day. We headed back to find we had the hut to ourselves for the night.



A nice brown from the Mararoa above North Mavora Lake.

Monday and the weather was a repeat of the previous three days. Cole and I decided our mission for the day was to get Julie a fish from one of the ripples in the river so for me it was a day of guiding rather than fishing. Unfortunately, with the river being low we didn't manage to find any rainbows in the ripples on the way up the river. We only fished as far as the Windon Burn where we stopped for lunch.

While eating lunch I spotted what looked like a black cicada on a rock. Closer inspection confirmed that is what it was and I caught it to show the others. All the previous cicadas I have seen up

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Mavora Trip (cont)

here have been tussock cicadas and these are green or fawn. There are a whole group of black cicadas in New Zealand it could have been one of a couple of different species. It was quite small like the tussock cicadas. I am sure they must get blown out onto the lake just like the tussock cicadas so this looks to be another option when the fish are rising with an off-shore wind at the top of the lake.

We headed back down the river getting ready to head back to the hut, pack up and head home. At the last ripple in the river, I spotted a fish feeding on the drop off. I did my best to get Julie to cast her fly to it but she couldn't see it and it wasn't co-operating. It was time to go so we finished with a fishless day.

Another good trip to one of my favourite areas.

Lake Alexandrina Trip by Dave

With a couple of withdrawals, there were only four of us heading for Lake Alexandrina. Cole was already in that part of the country and Julie had headed up early so she could fish the canals prior to coming to Lake Alexandrina. That just left Roger and myself to head up together. This was just as well as we only just managed to fit everything in the car. I had all the food so that took up some of the space in the car as well as all the gear for the kayak (seats, rod holders, paddles, life jackets, fish finder etc).

As we weren't due to be in the hut until 4:00pm we didn't head away until late morning. First stop was for gas at Lorneville and we weren't far up the road from here when we hit the rain. We had rain all the way, with it quite heavy at times. Our only other stops on the way was for a Jimmy's pie in Roxburgh for lunch and a stop in Twizel for gas.

As we turned off the main road just before Tekapo we found Julie waiting for us and she followed us to the lake. First job on arrival was to unload the kayak as I can't open the tail gate with the kayak on the roof rack. Fortunately, the rain had eased so we didn't get too wet unloading. From here it was up to the hut to unload.



Julie with her canal salmon

Julie was in a happy place as she had managed a couple of fish from the canals, a 3lb rainbow and a 10lb+ salmon. However, she was very wet and had managed to lose her glasses.

Saturday wasn't a great day with weather conditions unsuitable for fishing on the lake. After a quiet morning we went for a look around. We went to where Julie had caught her rainbow and she fished for a while with no luck. From here we had a look at where she had caught her salmon. Then we headed off to where she had stopped to look at a river and where she thought she had lost her glasses. I wanted to look at this river as I suspected it was where I had seen some nice fish being caught on a youtube video. Julie said she had taken her coat off at a pile of gravel but we couldn't see her glasses there so we went on a bit further. On the way back Roger and I stopped at the gravel pile and Roger spotted Julie's glasses there.

On Sunday the weather was a bit better and we were able to take the boat and kayak out on the lake. Generally, Julie came out with me in the kayak and Roger went out in the SCAC

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Lake Alexandrina Trip (cont)

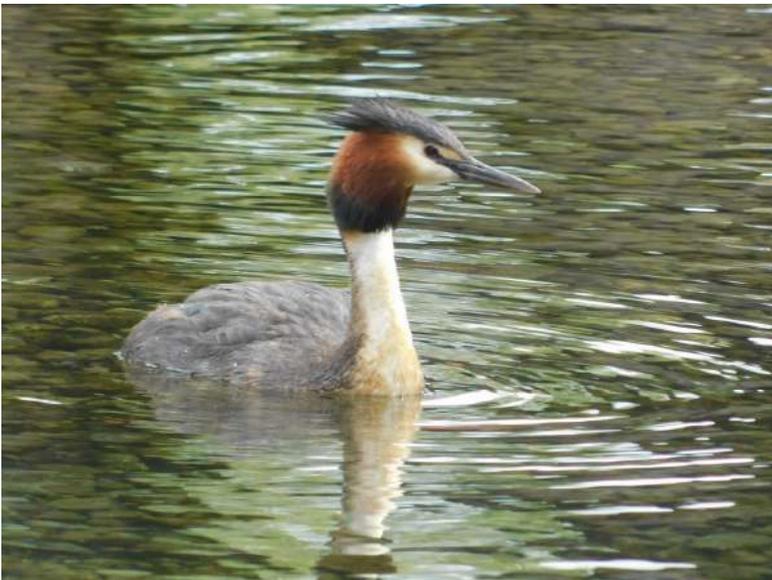
dinghy with Cole rowing. However early on fish were hard to find. I was somewhat hindered by leaving both my harling reels/lines at home. I did manage to get Julies spare line on one of my reels but it was pretty marginal and I didn't have much backing.

We had a visit from Serena, who is a local (Timaru) women, a keen fly fisher and is one of Julie's on-line contacts. She stayed for dinner on Sunday and then returned Monday and stayed the night. I took her out in the kayak without success. On that trip the front rod holder detached itself from the kayak and I had to refit it using just a small multitool that I carry in my vest. No fun trying to poke holes in the plastic with that but I managed to get it reattached.

Finally on Monday morning Cole came out with me in the kayak and we caught our first fish of the trip. I was using a threadline rod with a fly tied on a jig head and had the first hookup. Cole netted the fish for me and as I was trying to sort everything out, it flicked out of the net, over my leg and off the side of the kayak, breaking the line in the process. I was going to release it anyway but it was the only fly I had of that pattern so had to tie some more. Not long afterwards Cole, who was using my fly rod that I had put Julie's spare line on, hooked up and landed a nice fish. He wanted to keep it so I had to find something to hit it on the head with. This entailed taking the extension section out of the middle of my paddle and using that. Fortunately, I didn't drop anything over the side. While Cole and I were out in the kayak Julie and Roger had to fish from the shore as neither would row the dinghy.

On the final couple of days Roger seemed to get his act together and landed at least five fish some of which were released. He was putting out almost all his backing and this helped get the fly down to where the fish were.

At some stage every day the wind would come up and it would be too rough. On the final day this was quite early and it was a bit of a struggle in both the kayak and the dinghy to travel up wind. I was well across the lake and headed diagonally into the wind so I could make the final run down-wind. No issues except Julie told me the water was coming over the front of the kayak. As we were walking back up to the hut the rain started again. This meant we had to load everything up in the rain and we did get a bit wet doing it.



Thanks go to the South Canterbury Anglers Club for the use of their hut.

There were southern crested grebes nesting in the outlet stream again this year. At the time of our visit, there weren't as many as last year but there had been a lot more earlier.

Coal Pit Road BBQ - February 22nd

As mentioned in the President's report we will be holding our February meeting on the river at Coal Pit Road but the Club will not be putting on a BBQ. You can bring your own BBQ, being a picnic dinner or have dinner before you come out.

Cover Photo by Dave

North Mavora Lake looking towards the top of the lake from the West Dome delta.

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

22 nd Feb	MM	This meeting is "On the river" --- Bring own Tea
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 – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
29 th Mar	MM	
5 th April	CM	Fly Tying
10 th April	Fishing	Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game 8am
23/24/25 th April	Fishing	Lodge Trip (End of Season)
26 th April	MM	
27 th April	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 (927 201 6722) dcharris@southnet.co.nz
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz
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- 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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