

“Ripples”

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

June 2022



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



*Southland Fly
Fishing Club*

President's Report by Dave

Well winter has finally arrived and all the rivers are closed except for the tidal waters. Of course the lakes are all still open so there is nothing to stop you getting out if the weather is suitable. I am sure Julie's Fishin' Friday group will still be heading out.

My final outing of the season was the Lodge Trip at the end of May and I managed to make it a three day trip. Fishing on my own on the Friday, then with Chris McDonald on the Saturday and Chris and I were joined by Chris Cowie on the Sunday.

Since then we have had our first Fly Tying Day of the winter and our Club dinner. At the June meeting we will have our photo night and photo competition so you need to sort through all your photos, get some printed for the competition and put all of them on a memory stick to show at the meeting. There will be Hunting & Fishing vouchers for the winners of each section in the photo competition.

July will be a quiet month for Club activities with only the Annual General Meeting and Prize Giving at the end of the month. I will be away visiting family in the winterless north for much of the month so there will be no trout fishing for me in July.

Competitions by Julie

Fly Tying Competition

The first fly for the year was the black spider at the May meeting and we had six entries. Dave and Julie scored equal points and Julie won the prize draw.

The fly for June is Chris's deer hair mouse (see last month's Ripples for instructions) and the fly for July is a Klinkhamer Special. The instructions for this are on page 6 of this Ripples. This fly requires a special hook and Dave has a supply of these so ask him for some to use to tie the fly.

Photo Competition

Our annual photo competition will be held at the June meeting. There are four categories - trophy, scenic, action and general. Members can enter up to three photos in each category. Photos are to be from the past season and are to be as they come off the camera. Prints are to be 5 x 7. Judging will be by member vote and there will be a prize voucher for the winner of each category.



Winning flies from May. Julie's on the left and Dave's on the right

Cover Photo by Chris C

Dave about to net a fish on the Sunday of the May Lodge Trip. Chris is looking for more in the background. A total of five fish were landed from this pool.

Club Dinner by Dave

The annual Club Dinner was held at the Cabbage Tree restaurant after the June Fly Tying Day. There was about the usual number present, ten plus a baby this year. Meal was to the usual standard and there was the usual exchange of gifts. There were a couple that changed hands but nothing that seemed to be so special everyone wanted it. One interesting gift was a fisherman's plate.



Fisherman's plate



Members at dinner

Fly Tying Day by Dave

I arrived at the Fish & Game Office just before 9:00am to open up and get the heater going for the June Fly Tying Day. It was a bit chilly but my hands were soon warm enough to start tying flies. I had just about run out of gold bead head hare & coppers by the end of the season so I started off with those. It was pretty lonely for a while. Chris had sent me a text to tell me he wouldn't be there until about 11:00am as he was doing the Park Run but I hadn't heard from anyone else. Finally, just before 10:00am, I got a text from Julie asking if the room was warm enough yet. She arrived shortly afterwards and Gerda and Jim arrived at the same time. Chris turned up about 11:00am and Murray arrived a little later.

Most were trying to tie the deer hair mouse for the fly tying competition and this seemed to be a bit difficult for some. Chris was tying heavy nymphs and I tied a couple of Klinkhamer Specials to show the others how to tie them. I have to admit the demonstration tie went better than any of my previous attempts.

The box of materials ex John Day proved popular especially with Jim who found some useful materials in it.

Jim and Murray left at lunch time having other things to do for the afternoon. Chris didn't come to lunch, staying on to get some more flies tied while I took Gerda and Julie to the Queens Park Kiosk for lunch.

I am not sure a huge number of flies were tied but it was a good get together and gave us time to catch up with Julie after her trip to the Taupo area. (Story next month.)



Gerda working on a deer hair mouse



Julie tying her mouse. Note feather on her finger nail.

May Lodge Trip - Prelude by Dave

I set off early on the Friday morning with all my gear and the food for the weekend at the Lodge. I went straight up to the Lodge, turned on the power and the pump, made sure the fridge was working and unloaded the car, leaving just my fishing gear in it.

It was still reasonably early when I left the Lodge and headed up towards Te Anau. Just before the Mavora turnoff I caught up with another SUV with a picture of a trout on its spare wheel cover. As I got closer there was enough information to indicate it was a fishing guide. I overtook the car and headed on up to the river. Once into the Te Anau basin I hit fog, not unusual during May. What was unusual is I didn't clear the fog until almost at the river and as I drove down to the river I could see that it was foggy not far below the access point. Not to worry as I was intending to fish upstream and that was clear of the fog.

I had hardly started to get ready when the SUV I had passed comes down the hill. Yes, it was a guide but he wasn't guiding. He had his wife with him but she wasn't going to fish, just go for a walk along the river with him. He asked what I intended to do and I said I was heading upstream to which he replied that was no problem and he would head downstream and fish back up.

The river was in pretty good condition but there was quite a bit of dark algae build up on some of the stones and this made it difficult to tell if it was a fish or a stone in the river. Of course, with it being late May, the sun wasn't very high in the sky and this didn't help spotting. This was the first time I had fished this section of river for a while and it wasn't as good as I remembered it to be with a lot of shallow water and not many holding spots. Of course, at this time of the year you are likely to find browns that are moving up in the shallow water but you have to spot them and I was struggling with this.

By the end of the day, I had only caught two browns but it had been a pretty good day. It was a reasonable walk back to the car to head back to the Lodge and then into Lumsden for some fish & chips for tea.

May Lodge Trip Day 1 by Chris

Dave and I left the lodge at around 7.45am and headed past Te Anau. Dave knew where we were going but I had never been to that particular stretch of the river. He said we would have a long walk downstream and then fish back to the truck. As usual we would rig up once we reached the turnaround point.

Away we went walking through paddocks slightly away from the river. Eventually we did a sharp right turn onto the river bed and then came a river crossing. Three quarters away across and there was the first fish for the day. He smiled as he finned away upstream.

Two pools later Dave says this is where he usually starts fishing but the gravel bar at the bottom of the pool is new. We rig up. Dave crosses to the gravel bar to fish the back water behind it and I decide to fish up the edge of the first run. About five casts in and the blowfly indicator is swallowed by an unsighted rainbow. After a typical rainbow fight a nice fish was landed.

Nothing else was in the pool and we moved upstream. We spot another fish and Dave spends some time casting to it and changing flies. Eventually he has enough weight in his nymphs and the fish takes. Another nice fish is landed. Unfortunately, that was our last fish for the day.

After lunch the river proceeded to cloud up a bit with snow melt. We were able to spot quite a few fish but none were the cooperative type.



Chris C with a good rainbow on the May Lodge Trip. Dave in the background releasing a brown

May Lodge Trip Day 2 by Chris C

I woke up before my alarm -ready to go. I had given myself plenty of time to meet Dave and Chris McDonald at 7.30am at the fishing hut. I grabbed some food from the local dairy and still was making good time. I buzzed up to the fishing hut and arrived at 6.50am. Thinking I had done well and remembering that Chris McDonald likes to leave at 7 if possible. There were lights on so I knocked on the door and entered to find two men in underwear definitely not ready to go. I smiled and said hello. Dave replied and tapped his watch and said I was early, I didn't mind and sat in the car for half an hour. Briefly popping in every 10mins or so to check progress which was slow but steady. 7.30am rolled around and we were out. Dave and Chris piled into the Jeep and I took the VW hoping we were not going anywhere too extreme. The Upuk said Dave. We arrived at the Upuk approximately 9am and I was fretting that someone had taken our spot. Low and behold it was clear. Dave said he was minus a pair of wadding socks due to them drying at the fishing hut. The day was cold with a slight easterly blowing. We walked down stream for about an hour and started to fish our way back up. The first section looked good. We split up to each have a go. I walked down stream a little further and promptly lost my dry and dropper first cast on a tree. I didn't like how it was casting in the breeze so changed to two nymphs, one woolly caddis followed by a horned caddis. I arrived to see Dave and Chris excitedly catching fish. Chris had his rod bent with a lively brown and told me there is heaps of fish in there, but you need two nymphs, I said I'm good to go. Dave was changing his setup to two nymphs from a dry and dropper. So I had a go, I watched one fish swing towards the left when the nymphs were close to it so I struck and felt the fish on. I landed a 2 ½ lb brown. Dave jumped in and nailed a 2 ¾ lb brown. I had another go and saw a bigger fish swing and I struck and had a 4lb rainbow on. Chris McDonald offered some helpful advice to land it and helped get it in the net. Dave took the opportunity to have another go also and caught another 2lb brown making it five fish total from one pool.

We proceeded up stream and Dave and Chris changed back to dry and dropper and I stuck with what was working with the nymphs and the twin coloured indicator. Aka 'the budgie' as Chris McDonald likes to refer to it. We took turn about fishing blind after Dave had recalled the rainbows sitting in fast water unseen last week. Chris McDonald's turn was up and I saw his dry fly dip under and I muttered an 'EEEERT!.... was that a fish?' Chris struck and the fish was on which he landed in fast water. Two more rainbows took my heavy woolly caddis on the way up, a 3 ½ and 4 ¼ lb. The 4 ¼ lb was sitting behind a sucken log which he kept charging up river trying to get back to. I was stomping around trying to stop it from wrapping around it. Chris McDonald turned up wondering what the heck is going on, assuming I am snagged on the tree. I said no it's a fish and we both landed it. We caught up with Dave at the junction of the river and Chris McDonald fished his way up mid river over a bubbly run to see a nice brown rise up out of the water and take his dry fly, but he missed it. I jumped across the river and had a take from two more fish, both of which I lost. One with the hook coming out and the other with the line breaking. The day was drawing to a close and it was time to go but I still hadn't kept a fish for dinner so saying goodbye to the other two I fished on into the twilight and caught a 3 ½ lb rainbow after the budgie indicator disappeared for the third time on a fishy run. Ecstatic I had one of the best days fishing this season. Thanks Dave Harris and Chris McDonald.



Chris C with a nice brown caught on the May Lodge Trip

Klinkhamer Special by Dave

July Fly - Klinkhamer Special

Originally, I was going to have a dragonfly dry as the July fly but I had a lot of difficulty getting it to look right. Then when I picked up John Day's fly tying gear and books from his family there was a photocopy of an article on the Klinkhamer Special. We have tied this in the past but it was a long time ago and I decided this looked like a good option.

I did quite a bit of research and found a lot of information on the Klinkhamer special. The fly was developed by Hans van Klinken and was originally tied as a grayling fly but it has also been successfully used for trout. The best article I found on it was by van Klinken himself. <http://www.tomsutcliffe.co.za/fly-fishing/fly-tying/item/248-hans-van-klinken-on-his-klinkhamer-special.html>

After my research, it became obvious I had to find some suitable hooks. The Daiichi 1160 is recommended in the article but I couldn't find any of these and settled on a Hends BL 550 in size 14. I managed to get some of these from Australia.

Materials:

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Hook | Hends BL 550 #14 | Dubbing | Superfine adams grey |
| Thread | Unithread 6/0 black | Thorax | Peacock herl |
| Wing post | White poly yarn | Hackle | Grizzle saddle hackle |



Run thread part way down hook.



Cut a piece of poly yarn and trim end at an angle



Tie in poly yarn with angled section along hook



Run thread down yarn to form tapered body.



Dub to just behind wing



Stand wing up with a few turns in front.



Wind thread up wing to form post



Strip one side off hackle and tie in.



Tie in 3 peacock herl behind post



Wind herl forward and tie off



Whip finish head and tie off.



Remount fly in vice so wing is horizontal



Restart thread around base of post



Wind hackle down post 5 turns



Tie off hackle and whip finish on post below hackle



Trim wing and put a dap of cement on whip finish.

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

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|
| 28 th June | MM | Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition |
| 5 th July | CM | Fly tying |
| 26 th July | AGM | Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper) |
| 2 nd Aug | CM | Arranging the calendar for the next season |
| 7 th Aug | Fly tying | Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am |

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 (027 201 6722) dcharris@southnet.co.nz
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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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