

# “Ripples”

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

September 2022



[www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)



# Southland Fly Fishing Club

## President's Report by Dave

Just a few days to go and the new season will be underway. At present the rivers look pretty good so hopefully they will stay that way or at least return to that state before the start of October.

There has been a fair bit of activity since the last Ripples. We had our August meeting at Hunting & Fishing as normal. However much of their new season stock has not arrived yet so some members will have more shopping to do yet. We have had two fly tying demonstration on Saturday mornings at Hunting & Fishing. Gerda and I did the first demonstration and although the shop was relatively quiet, we had some interest in both the Casting Day and next year's Fly Fishing Course. Chris did the second demonstration and he was pleased with the interest. I accompanied three ladies to Te Waewae Lagoon as part of the International Women's Fly Fishing Day. I went to Fish & Game to meet up with others for the September Club Trip but as no one else showed, I had been to Te Waewae the previous day and I had jobs to do at home, I didn't go out. Finally, we had the Lodge Working Bee that turned into a fishing trip.

Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> we have our Casting Day at Queens Park, starting at 1:00pm. The long-range weather forecast looks good with no rain and not too much wind for the day. Our final event for September is the Monthly Meeting at Fish & Game. We will have Cohen from Fish & Game along to speak to us. As there have been no regulation changes in Southland for the next season he will be speaking on some scientific research he has been doing.

The following weekend is, of course, opening weekend with October 1<sup>st</sup> falling on a Saturday. This will also be our first Club Lodge Trip for the season. Normal procedure for a Lodge Weekend is for us to go up Friday night, pooling transport where it suits and then head away fishing Saturday morning, usually in pairs. After a day's fishing we will meet at the Mossburn Pub for dinner. Sunday we will again set off to various places to fish before returning to the Lodge to clean up and head home. Food is generally looked after by one person although some prefer to bring their own. If you are keen on coming let me know (027 201 6722).

Dave with a nice brown caught at Mavora after the Lodge Working Bee



Cover Photo by Dave

Gerda, Rebecca and Julie at Te Waewae Lagoon on the International Women's Fly Fishing Day

## International Women's Fly Fishing Day by Julie

The aim of the day is simply to encourage women throughout the world who fly fish to celebrate what they do and to entice new women to the sport.

They are asked to post a picture on the IWFFD social media sites to share their day's planned fishing activity with other women. Photos are posted at 11am relevant to the time zone you are in from countries all over the world. The day unfolds from New Zealand across the world to the west coast of the USA over a 20-hour period.

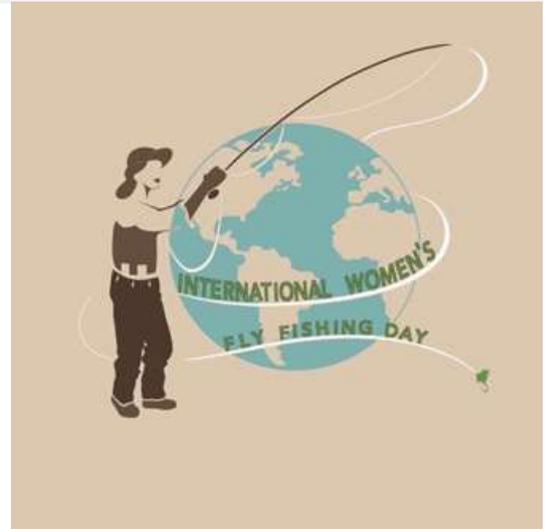
So, on the 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022 this year in Invercargill Gerda Johnstone, and new member of SFFC Rebecca Munro, along with myself piled into Dave Harris's car and we headed to Te Waewae Lagoon. Dave kindly offered to be photographer for the day. Unfortunately, he left his camera behind so cellphones to the rescue. The bottom photo indicates Dave's boot with just how much gear and food can fit into a Jeep's boot.

For those that do not know Te Waewae Lagoon it lies in Te Waewae Bay the westernmost of three large bays lying on the Foveaux Strait coast of Southland, New Zealand.

Fortunately the weather was warmer than it had been the previous week and apart from a challenging wind from the South we had a lovely day of fishing and comardarie. In true womens style we chattered and fished and dined on Paua patties, choc fish and heaps of other goodies having a wonderful time.

With help from Dave and myself, Rebecca was casting sufficiently well and into the water in a very short time. We are looking forward to Rebecca being at our Casting Day on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> Sept and encouraging her and other women to the addictive sport of fly fishing.

For the third year running our (IWFFD) went well across the world with my angling buddy and one of the organisers in Northern Ireland reporting she got about three hours sleep following and replying to all the awesome posts. The posts were stunning, young and old fishing, great venues and amazing fish and vistas. Wow, we have all had to add to our bucket list of places in the world we'd like to go fishing. It really is worth looking up the web site on Instagram or Facebook to have a browse.



Rebecca with a Te Waewae brown

All packed ready to go

## Lodge Working Bee by Dave

The Lodge Working Bee this year was scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup>, this being about the only weekend day in September that didn't clash with something else. It looked like we would have five people and Gerda was keen to go to Mossburn for tea after the working bee. Julie was forced to pull out at the last minute but Gerda and Chris made it to my place to sort out who was going with who. David planned to meet us up at the Lodge. When Gerda arrived, she suggested that we should head to Mavora Lakes once we have finished our work at the Lodge. Chris had enough gear with him and I rushed around to find the right gear for the lake. Chris wasn't planning on going to Mossburn afterwards so he headed off in his own car and Gerda came with me.



Gerda doing the vacuuming

Once there, it was power and water on. The tank was full but the supply was not on, although this was sorted later in the day, so it all looks good now. I did find a plumbing leak near the bathroom drain tap but managed to stop the leak by tightening a fitting. I had to try and fix the TV reception by aligning the satellite dish and the rest of the work was concentrated on cleaning and weed killing. Chris had brought his water blaster to clean the windows and it was also used to clean the deck (first time in over 20 years?) and the south side walls. Chris took to the oven with some heavy duty cleaner while Gerda was busy doing other housework. There was a broom bush growing by the fence out the back and David had brought a suitable saw to get rid of this. He also had weed killer to keep the grass and weeds clear of the building. By lunch time the place was looking really good so we decided to call it quits. Once we had eaten lunch, David headed for Arrowtown and the rest of us set off for Mavora.



David dealing to the weeds

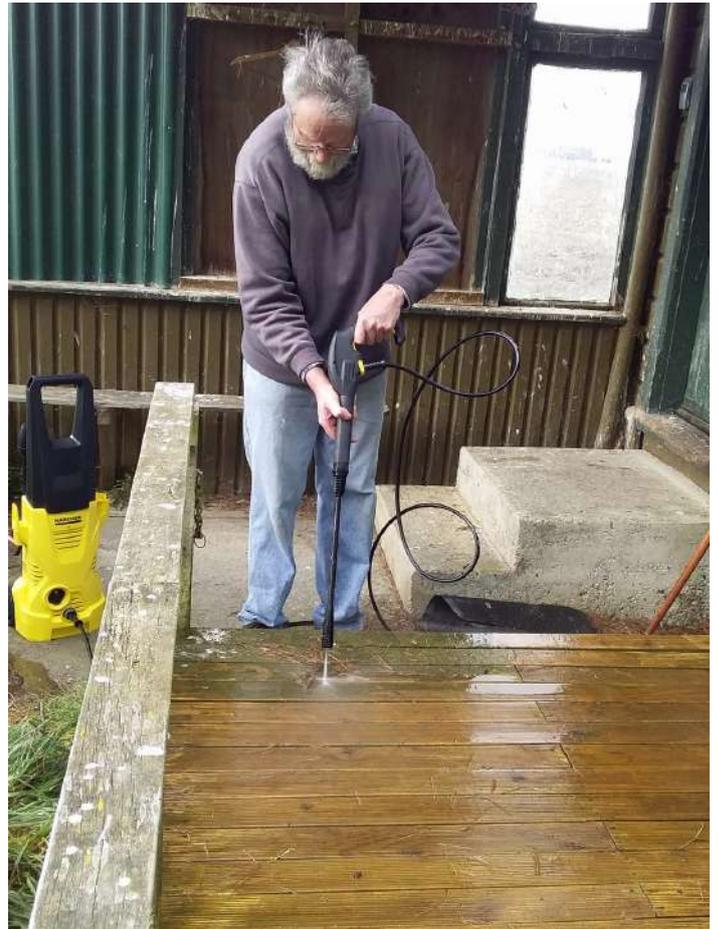
The Mavora Road was dry and very dusty. I was following Chris and there was enough wind to clear the road in some places but not others. The wind was from the north so the dust from the surprising amount of traffic wasn't a problem. We stopped at the top of the South Lake to get set up and look for fish. It was a bit overcast and there was a northerly breeze blowing (gentle by Mavora standards). The lake was quite low. We all headed off across the top of the lake to the shallow areas towards the river mouth. Spotting was going to be difficult in the main lake but these shallow areas should have been a bit

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Lodge Working Bee (cont)

*(Continued from page 4)*

better. Chris soon spotted a fish and it came to his fly but didn't hook up. I had a couple of casts at it as it swam down past me towards the main part of the lake. I ventured out to the drop off and found I could easily cross to the other side. No sign of any fish here so I headed around the top of the lake to fish the top bay on the other side where it would be sheltered from the wind and hopefully much easier to spot fish. Here the trees hang over the lake edge so you have to wade out to have room to cast and I did this. I soon spotted a fish swimming straight towards me and watched it come up and take something off the surface. I was directly in the fish's path and didn't have time to change to a dry so I cast my damsel fly nymph towards the fish and let it sink while waiting for the fish to come closer. Once it was close to where the fly was, I started a jerky retrieve which was soon interrupted by the fish. The fight was a bit disappointing and I soon had a 4¾lb brown in the net. I looked for quite a while but couldn't see any more fish, so started heading back around to where the others were. I saw no more fish and by the time I got to the others Chris was packing up as he had run out of time. He said he had seen a couple more fish but hadn't managed to get any to take his fly.



Dave water blasting the deck

As Chris headed off into the distance, I decided Gerda and I should head back down the lake to a sheltered bay where we might find more fish. As soon as we cleared the trees, I spotted a fish. It was the first of several but most were not interested in what I had on. With one I tried at least four different flies before it drifted away. Most of the fish were drifting very slowly around but I finally found one that looked a bit more active and it was really keen on my damsel fly nymph. It put up a lot better fight than the earlier fish but finally came to the net. It pulled the scales to 4¼lb. I spotted a couple of fish for Gerda but they were generally a bit far away for her.

It was soon time to head to Mossburn for dinner, back to the Lodge to check a couple of things (yes the water tank was full again) and on home.

A really good day with some work done and some enjoyable fishing.



Chris cleaning the oven

# Competitions by Julie

## Fly Competition

There were just four flies entered last month, with the fly being Jim's muddler minnow. Fittingly it was Jim who got the most votes with 4.



Flies entered in last month's competition.

This month sees the last of our flies for this year's competition. The fly is Gerda's highland dun variant as shown in last month's Ripples.

## Fishing Competition.

The Club Fishing Competitions this year take the same form as in the past. This is an honesty competition where you hand in your cards at the monthly meetings (or any other time you can find me). You were given 7 cards when you paid your subscription and that is one card for each month of the season. You can put more in but you will need to buy more cards from the Secretary to make it through the season.

There are 4 sections – heaviest brown, heaviest rainbow, total weight and condition factor. The first two are easy to figure out, total weight is the total for one fish per month (hence the seven cards) and the condition factor is based on the length and weight of the fish.

Calculation is:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight} \times 100000}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}}$$

Weight is in pounds and length is in inches

If you use metric instead of imperial measures it looks like this:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight} \times 3612.8}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}}$$

Weight is in grams and length is in cm.

A very good fish gives a condition factor of 60 – 70. If this calculation gives numbers over this, I get very suspicious of the data.

There is also a Junior Competition and this is based on taking part in Club activities. Points are awarded for attending meetings, coming out on Club trips putting in fish cards each month, entering the photo competition and entering flies in the fly tying competition.

## Photo Competition

There will be a one night photo competition at the end of the season with 4 classes – scenic, trophy, action and general. So remember to take your camera and take plenty of photos. Photos should be fishing related and come from the 2022-2023 season.

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

25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Casting	Casting Day at Queens Park 1:00pm
27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	MM	Fish & Game speaker
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct		Opening Day (Saturday)
1/2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Fishing	Lodge Trip [Weekend at the Lodge]
4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	CM	Fishing Stories & Fly Tying
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Fishing	Club Day Trip meet at Fish & Game – 7am
25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	MM	Tony Harvey will speak about fishing the canals
26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	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](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)
- President Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (027 201 6722) [dcharris@southnet.co.nz](mailto:dcharris@southnet.co.nz)
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) [mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz](mailto:mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz)
- Vice-President Julie Cook, 11 Ruru Ave, Otatara (027 630 2949) [juliecook@actrix.co.nz](mailto:juliecook@actrix.co.nz)
- Editor Dave Harris [dcharris@southnet.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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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