

“Ripples”

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

February 2023



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



*Southland Fly
Fishing Club*

President's Report by Dave

I haven't managed much fishing in the past month as I have been too busy doing other things, with three weekends in a row tied up with other activities.

This included a trip to Wellington for a New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting. As most of you will know Fish and Game is financed purely by sales of fishing and game bird hunting licences. From where we sit here in Southland this shouldn't look like a problem but sales of these licences are a lot lower once you move out of Canterbury, Otago and Southland and running the organisation in most other parts of the country is much more financially challenging. This made more challenging by work that will need to be done with regard to the Natural and Built Environment Bill that is presently going through parliament. Fish and Game are having to spend quite a lot of money on submissions to the select committee as the bill as it stands is very unfavourable to Fish and Game. This is in contrast to the present Resource Management Act which was quite favourable to Fish and Game. Fish and Game are also proposing to do some campaigning as hunting and fishing are not seen particularly well by many of the urban community and we are in danger of losing our social licence to continue with these activities. This will see more money needing to be spent. We had preliminary budget discussions for the next financial year at the meeting and it looks like there will have to be another licence fee increase for next season in spite of using the increases in the non-resident licence fee to offset the resident's licence fee increases. This will be decided at a future meeting once all of the Fish and Game Regions have submitted their budgets.

As for fishing, I have only been out on four occasions since my report in the January Ripples (and only once in February). I have found two things, the rivers are very low and there are a lot of non-resident anglers around. Consider the low river levels when out fishing as the fish are likely to be stressed if the weather is warm, as with less water, the rivers warm up more quickly than when the flows are high.

On the weekend of the course four of us went out to Wyndham on the Saturday night. There was a spinner rise as it was starting to get dark. I haven't fished many of these recently but did have some spinner dries in my fly box. I didn't have my torch so getting the tippet through the eye of a #16 hook in the gloom was really difficult but I finally managed. I only had one fish take the spinner and it didn't stay on. When the fly came out it flew back and finished up hooked in my sun gloves that I normally wear and that was another problem trying to get it out in the dark. I was still wearing my gloves as it makes handling the fish easier.

By the time you read this six of us will be away to Lake Alexandrina for our annual trip there. Fishing on the lake is generally harling from a boat or kayak so is a bit different from river fishing. Most of the fish are rainbows and they are generally found mid-water in the middle of the lake. There are all sorts of restrictions that make getting down to them tricky but we are getting better at catching them so hopefully we will get some to the boat.

I will not be organising a mid-week trip for February as it clashes with the Lake Alexandrina Trip. Coming up on the Club calendar is the barbecue at Coal Pit Road on the Mataura on February 28th with food being served about 6:15pm. The Club will provide all the food so all you need to do is come along and enjoy it as well as doing some fishing before or after. If you are coming please let my wife Barbara know before Sunday 26th (details elsewhere in this Ripples). We will also have a Club Trip on March 12th, meeting at Fish and Game at 7:00am and a mid-week trip on March 22nd. If you are coming on the mid-week trip, give me a ring on 027 201 6722.

There is also the Teviot fishing competition on March 5th that some of our members go to. This is a method of sampling the size of the fish in the Teviot River by scientist Ross Dungey. Meet where Bridge Huts Road crosses the river. Bridge Huts Road runs off the Lake Onslow Road. Julie has all the information on this. Finally, the Gore District Council is holding their "On the Fly" Festival on the banks of the Mataura River at Walnut Grove, Woolwich Street, East Gore on March 19th, 11am – 3:30pm. We will have a tent provided for us to carry out a fly tying demonstration. Anyone who is keen to help, please let me know 027 201 6722.

January Mid-week Trip by Gerda

Only Dave and myself headed out at approximately 9 a.m. deciding to go to Aparima River. Beautiful hot day if I recall, was cloudy at times which made spotting somewhat harder, however Dave spotted what he thought was a fish after only walking a little way and pointed it out to me and told me where to land my cast which, after a couple of attempts, bore fruit. After much ado it was nearly in the net, which Dave was helping me with, thought we had it but I let down my guard (rod) and it missed the net, broke off my tippet and went on its merry way. It was a real jumper; I learnt quite a bit that day which would help me in the near future. After lunch we carried on fishing, saw quite a few but never wanting to take what was on offer for either of us, until we were walking out to go home and we decided to give the spot where I had lost that fish another go. Well, it wasn't long till Dave hooked up with a beautiful brown. The only other thing I like more than catching a fish is watching someone bring a fish to the net. It is such a beautiful sight, ending the day with at least a catch. Although we did, in fact, end the day with an ice-cream on the way home.



Dave with his mid-week brown.

Fish n Friday by Gerda

Jan 26th (One day early)

Jim and I went to Mataura. Really nothing much to say, the fish weren't very obliging though we did see quite a few. The river was extremely low and we were walking on riverbed where we caught fish last season. We left that place and went to Coal Pit Road, had lunch, and never landed a fish - it being so hot we gave it away and contented ourselves with an ice-cream on the way home.

Feb 3rd

Left Jim's place round 8.40 a.m. heading back to Aparima River. After setting up we were on the river shortly after. There were numerous fish but easily spooked due to shallow water. Julie arrived shortly after, having stayed back waiting for a friend who at the last minute couldn't make it. We had a lot of action on the river; I saw Jim up from me netting at least two fish before lunch. As for me, was in the shallows looking to spot them. After lunch we headed back out. Decided to stay in my wee spot by the willows. Jim had caught his fish on willow grubs that he'd made and he kindly gave me one, so after changing line and hooks I finally was ready to stalk the fish that I had seen under the willows. I was at this time becoming rather envious as I hadn't netted a fish this season - think I had just about given up – anyway perseverance is a good thing for I entered the water behind where I'd seen that fish and I cast my line at it, it fell short but seeing the fish was still there I made another attempt and, well, he just went for it. It did two long runs and a little run. Everything sort of came together in my mind, probably took six to seven minutes to tire the fish and ease it unwillingly into my new net. My best trout so far 3 ¾ lb, I'm still grinning from ear to ear. Meanwhile when I took my catch over to Julie and Jim, our master had caught another one making his total four for the day. How cool is that! I am so lucky to have the experience from you all because the final act actually catching the fish yourself gives you such a thrill.

Fly Fishing Course by Chris

We only had a half full course and then two registrants didn't show. The remaining 6 got a lot of individual tuition. Our thanks to Fish & Game for the use of their premises.

Mike Weddell went through all the things you need to know about fly fishing in his usual relaxed but very informative manner.

The draw was held for the Vest. The lucky winner was Joefi Fischer. A bag of our sponsors products supplied by **Manic Tackle & Invercargill Hunting & Fishing**, was handed out to each of the course participants. We do thank our sponsors very much for their support, and hope that the course participants will show their appreciation to our sponsors in the future, buying their products.

Saturday afternoon casting practice was held on the fields at James Hargest College Senior Campus. As usual there was an assortment of rods on display from the participants. It was a very hot day and sunscreen was a must. With only 6 on the course the participants hardly had any time without someone giving them advice.

After the casting session Chris, Dave, Julie and Mike headed out to the river in search of an evening rise. It sort of arrived right on dusk but several people had forgotten their torches so we finished up fairly early. We did however catch more fish than we had in recent years.

Sunday on the river proved very interesting, the weather was very hot, the river was good, the fish were rising to spinners. Unfortunately, we did not have the usual casting day hook ups and Mike had to go upstream to land a fish before lunch for autopsy purposes.

After a leisurely lunch, people were split up into three groups and went fishing. The fish continued to rise to spinners and Mike and Dave caught "a few" while those with them had opportunities and cast to several fish.



Class of 2023



JoeFi Fischer receiving his vest from Mike

(Continued on page 5)

Fly Fishing Course (cont)

(Continued from page 4)

Chris's group also had their opportunities without hooking up. Chris stalked and hooked a fish that took him into the backing and eventually got off as he tried to deal with a reel malfunction. He blames Lamson reels not liking right hand wind.

We all had a good weekend just a pity about the number of participants.



On the river, Sunday morning

February Meeting - On the River & BBQ

Our February Meeting is on the Mataura River at Coal Pit Road. As usual we will have a barbecue tea that Chris will cook for us. The Club will provide food and drink. If you are coming please let Barbara know on 03 215 6068 (you can leave a message) or 027 388 6215 (don't leave a message on this number but you can text).

Before and after tea you will be able to fish. Coal Pit Road is the last road on the left before the Wyndham Bridge on the road from Edendale to Wyndham. We go in at the anglers access that is marked by a Fish & Game sign.



2020 barbecue

Southland Fishing Regulation Review

The Southland Fish and Game Council is reviewing the second schedule of the Anglers Notice (the local Southland fishing regulations). If you would like to suggest changes to the Southland fishing regulations please email your suggestions to southland@fishandgame.org.nz by March 5, 2023.

Cover Photo

Gerda with a Fish n Friday brown.

Teviot Angling Competition

Where: Teviot River, Bridge Huts Section

When: Sunday, 5th March 2023

Time: 8.30am - 4.00pm

Why: To gather information on the fish population

To enter you must;

- Fish as part of a two person team so that you can help each other measuring your fish and record the area fish were caught in.
- Register at the cattle stop opposite Bridge Huts Bridge from 8.30am on.
- Carry your own metric tape measure and notepad to record fish lengths.
- Weigh in any fish you wish to keep.
- Hand in your record of the day's catch at 4.00pm to be in the draw.

You could win:

One of several spot prizes to the value of \$50, being a voucher for gear of your choice from Allan Millars Hunting & Fishing. Prizes will be spot prizes.

Background:

Information gathered will be used to provide baseline fisheries data for the Teviot River hydro scheme resource consent monitoring. We now have a 20 year record which is a valuable dataset and one of the best in Otago. Your assistance is much appreciated. The Competition is sponsored by Pioneer Energy Ltd.

How to Find the Teviot River

Cross the Millers Flat Bridge on the Clutha River, turn left and then right onto the Tima Burn Road to Lake Onslow.

At the intersection with the L. Onslow Rd. turn left.

At the intersection with the Bridge Huts Rd. turn right.

"Weigh in Station" and registration will be at the first cattle stop on the road on the true left bank upstream of the bridge.

Proceed to the river and fish up or downstream from the registration site.

The Teviot River is on map NZMS260 G43

Measuring fish:

It is very important to measure your fish carefully. Here is how to measure the fork length.



This measurement is fork length

In other words from the "V" in the fork of the tail to the tip of the nose.
Please measure to the nearest millimetre.

Recommended Flies:

Large flies such as size 10 and 12. Adams and Humpies for big fish which will be in the big pools. If you want to catch a lot of fish use small flies such as 14s and 16s, Adams, Humpies, Coch-y-bondhu and small nymphs, HEN, Bead Head etc. Dark nymphs generally work well.

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

28 th Feb	MM	This meeting is “On the river” --- BBQ Tea about 6pm (details page 5)
5 th March		Teviot Fishing Competition
7 th Mar	CM	Fly Tying
12 th Mar		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game 7am
19 th Mar		On the Fly Festival – Gore
22 nd Mar		Mid-week Trip
28 th Mar	MM	
4 th April	CM	Fly Tying
9 th April		Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game 8am

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
- 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 (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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