

“Ripples”

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

April 2023



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

Just a few days to the end of the season for most of the rivers so you need to get out before it all comes to an end. Unfortunately, I won't have as much opportunity as I would like as I have a New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting in Wellington on the 21st & 22nd. I will have to travel up on the Thursday afternoon and won't get back until late Sunday morning so that takes out four days. On the last weekend we have our April Lodge Trip and I will be heading up to the Lodge on the Friday night and will fish on the Saturday and Sunday (weather and river conditions permitting).

After having drought conditions for much of summer we seem to have had a spell of higher than normal rivers and not so good weather. This has resulted in the last month being pretty poor for me fishing wise. The mid-week trip for March didn't go ahead as there was just too much water. I only got out on two occasions, both to the Aparima and both times Gerda came along. I had a great day on the Saturday of Easter with six fish coming to the net. These were all good fish between three and four pounds. All were taken on a gold bead head hare & copper nymph. The best part was that I didn't break any off so the new tippet I am using seems to be an improvement over what I was using. I am still not sure what was going on with my tippet but have started working on a rig to test tippet (and knot) strength to see if I can figure out what went wrong earlier in the season.

My second outing was the Club trip reported elsewhere in this Ripples.

Not a lot of Club fishing trips planned for the remainder of the season but we still have two Lodge trips (April 29th & 30th and May 27th & 28th) one Club trip on May 14th to the lower Mataura and two mid-week trips (April 26th & May 24th). I will be organising the Lodge trips and the mid-week trips so if you want to come on any of these just give me a call on 027 201 6722. If you haven't been on a Lodge trip before these are a good opportunity to get out with other members and may-be a chance to go to rivers you haven't been to before.

The fly tying competition starts in May and runs for five months. Details in this Ripples as well as instructions for the fly for May. The fly pattern information is printed more than a month before the fly needs to be tied to give you time to gather up any materials you may need.

From the Editor

I didn't have much copy this month as you can see by what is in this edition of Ripples. It would be great if members could provide me with some articles. You must have been out fishing at some stage and must have done something or had something happen that would be of interest to other members. To help fill this edition I have put in a few photos from my season.

Please if you have anything just email or text it to me and then I won't struggle so much. The closing date for articles is the third Sunday of the month.



Cole hooked into a rainbow an overcast day on the Mararoa

April Club Trip by Dave

The April Club trip fell on the Sunday of Easter so I didn't expect many on the trip. The weather forecast was good but some of the rivers were up a bit and carrying some colour.

Gerda was the only other person to turn up at Fish & Game for the later 8:00am start and we had actually been out together the previous day. Knowing the Aparima was in good condition and the Oreti had been a bit coloured the day before we headed back to the Aparima but to an access Gerda had not been to previously.

When we got there, we could see signs of recent visitors including a vehicle having gone out through the electric fence on a track that lead to nowhere and a large patch of squashed grass that looked like someone had been camping. However, they had moved on so we had the river to ourselves.

We got set up and figured out how to get down the bank to the river. Gerda was concerned about how we would get back up but that was a problem for later. We started fishing just below where we had parked the car. Gerda was having a few issues with the downstream breeze coming across her right shoulder and had a couple of tangles as a result. While she was untangling her line I hooked a nice fish, While I was playing the fish a couple of blokes came along the high side of the pool carrying a lot of gear and headed on down the river. Not sure what they were up to but maybe they were building a maimai for duck shooting. We stayed at this first pool for quite a while and I landed a second fish. These fish were between three and four pounds and in great condition.

We headed up stream with some nice looking water but not a lot more activity. After lunch I spotted a fish on the other side in what looked like a tricky spot with lots of different currents in the water. I waded across and after a couple of casts it took the nymph and came to the net.

Towards the end of the day I went on up the river to check out a spot where I had caught a fish in a back water earlier in the season. Sure enough there was a fish there and it was taking off the surface. I needed to change my fly as the heavy nymph I had on was not suitable. By the time I had changed the fly the fish had disappeared (probably into the willows at the top of the pool) so no joy there.

I headed back down to where Gerda was fishing and we decided to head home. I found a spot where getting up the bank was easy but we did have to deal with an electric fence to get back to the car.

A good day out in lovely weather.

Dave with a nice Aparima brown caught on the April Club Trip



Cover Photo by Dave

Simon weighing a fish on a previous April Lodge Trip.

April Lodge Trip by Dave

A reminder that the April Lodge Trip is on the last weekend of April (29th & 30th). We will head up to the Lodge on Friday night so we can be away fishing first thing Saturday morning. We will go to the Mossburn pub for Saturday dinner. Sunday morning we will again be away first thing before returning to the Lodge to pack up, clean up and head home late in the day. I will organise food for breakfast and lunches which we will make before we head out in the morning. If you require any drinks other than tea or coffee you will need to bring your own. If you need to keep your drinks cold there is plenty of fridge space.

These lodge trips are a good opportunity to get out with other members and if you are relatively new to fly fishing you could pick up a fair bit of knowledge from some of the more experienced members.

If you are coming let me know on 027 201 6722 so I can sort out car pooling and make sure I have the right amount of food.

Competitions by Julie

Fish Competition

The April meeting will see the last card prize draw for the fish cards entered in this season's competition. You can put in cards for any month of the season if you haven't already put them in. I will accept cards for the competition (but of course no prize draw) until the May meeting. So if you have any catch cards from this season, get them in.

Fly Tying Competition.

The fly tying competition starts in May. The flies this year will be:

May	red spinner	by Dave (details P5 of this Ripples)
June	tba	
July	diving beetle	by Julie
August	parachute adams	by Chris
September	timberline emerger	by Gerda

As normal, the instructions for each fly will be in the previous month's Ripples and the fly will be demonstrated at the previous Club meeting except the August fly which will be demonstrated at the August executive meeting as the July meeting is the AGM.

If you want to enter a fly but are unable to get to the meeting just get it to me before the meeting and I will put it in for you.



John playing a brown on a slightly discoloured Mataura

May Competition Fly by Dave

Red Spinner

A couple of times this season I have fished the Mataura lower down than I normally do and have come across a spinner fall. I had some spinners I had tied a long time ago and these seemed to appeal to the trout. I only had a few of these and I gave one to Isaac on the March Club trip (and he landed his first fish on a fly using it) so I decided I needed some more. By making it the competition fly for May I had to tie a few.

The most difficult part of this fly is the cerci (tail). There are three fine long strands sticking well out the back and well spread. Initially I tried to use fiblets but I just couldn't see these well enough to do anything with them. I finally settled on deer hair as I could see this and it is a bit easier to deal with but don't tie it down too tight or it will go where ever it wants and you won't be able to do anything about it. Initially I built up the body using floss but this tends to be a bit fluffy. I tried coating it with uv epoxy and it looked good but it may have been a bit heavy. In the end I just built up the body with tying thread.

The first fly I tried with this recipe looked good but disappeared when I took it out of the vice. While looking for it I managed to pull the light mounting off the desk, delaying tying another (and taking photos while I tied it). A trip to town for more hooks and some different screws to reattach the light later and all was good. Barbara even found the missing fly.

Material:

Hook	Black Magic E16
Thread	Red Unithread 8/0
Cerci (tail)	Deer hair
Wing	White Tiemco Aero Dry Wing



Run the thread half way down the hook.



Tie in three deer hairs on top of the hook. Hairs need to finish up almost twice the length of the body.



Manipulate the hairs so they are spread widely. A drop of epoxy or cement should be used to hold them in place.



Build up the body using thread.



Tie in the wing using figure 8 across the top. It helps if you try and twist the wing threads together so you have most of them under control.



Trim the wings to length (a little longer than the body) and whip finish. Wings should be pushed up just above horizontal. Put a dab of cement on the wings to hold in place and on the head.

Peter Morse Casting Tuition May 6th by Julie

Fly fishing legend Peter Morse has most generously agreed to give a presentation/teaching afternoon at Donovan Park at 1pm Saturday the 6th May.

Just in case you've not read any fly-fishing magazines for the past 40 years here's a quick rundown on "Morsie".

Peter Morse, fly fisherman, writer and photographer is also a Master Casting Instructor (MCI) with the International Federation of Fly Fishers, is a brand ambassador for Sage rods, Rio fly lines, and JM Gillies. He has been fly-fishing for 40 years and has fished many corners of the world, racking up a tally of 306 species on fly in fresh and saltwater. He is a widely experienced and respected teacher of many different aspects of the complex sport of fly fishing and fly casting. A regular contributor to a variety of magazines including FlyLife, he is also a front man for television and DVD productions specializing in fly fishing.



My apologies that this date coincides with the opening of duck shooting but this is the only date that works in with Peter's timetable while in Southern NZ.

I got to spend a day in Leura, NSW with Peter last December and found him to be excellent. He introduced me to the IFFA programme for the International Casting Certificate and I found him to be a great teacher.

Anyone attending I am sure will learn lots and Peter is very good at answering questions and observing ways we can improve our casting. This afternoon is geared for anyone interested in learning to fly fish from beginners to experienced anglers.

Peter has kindly offered his services to the Southland Fly Fishing Club and to the Fish n Friday Group free but we are asking for a donation to help with overheads.



Isaac getting ready to net his first ever fish on a fly on the Mataura.

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

25 th April	MM	
26 th April		Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
29/30 th April		Lodge Trip (End of Season) – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
2 rd May	CM	Fly Tying
6 th May		Fly Casting with Peter Morse - Donovan Park
14 th May		Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game 10am, to the lower Mataura
24 th May		Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
27/28 th May		Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge
30 th May	MM	Fly tying competition starts

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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