

“Ripples”

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

June 2023



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



*Southland Fly
Fishing Club*

President's Report by Dave

The season is well and truly over with just the lakes and tidal reaches of the rivers still open, so it is time for fly tying rather than fishing.

The end of May was not great for fishing. I did manage a final trip to Te Anau for the mid-week trip, one day late at the end of May. Gerda joined me for the trip. The weather was pretty good but the river was still a bit discoloured. However, with heavy rain forecast the next day it was the only chance we were going to get. When we arrived at the river there was already an angler (a regular here) and he had gone downstream. We headed to the river to head up. Nothing in the first ripple but I spotted a fish in the first pool by some willows. This pool used to be really good but it filled with gravel a couple of years ago. It has slowly been coming back and improving each time I go there. The fish was keen and was soon on but didn't stay on very long. At the top of the pool, I spotted another fish that was also keen and it came to the net. We headed up the river and I spotted quite a few fish but many of them were paired up and weren't interested in anything. Fish on their own were much keener and by the end of the day I had hooked nine but only six came to the net. Gerda wasn't doing so well as she couldn't see the fish in the discoloured water.

That wasn't quite the end of my season as I went on the one-day Lodge Trip with Chris and Isaac on May 28th. See report elsewhere in this Ripples.

We had our first Fly Tying Day on June 18th and I managed to tie a few flies. We have another Fly Tying Day in August and will be tying at the Boat Show, also in August, so this should give us the chance to get a few tied.

We have our annual photo competition and members photo and video night coming up at the June Meeting on June 27th. Get all of your photos from the last season and put them on a memory stick and bring them along to the meeting and we will all be able to enjoy. Also pick out the best action, trophy, scenic or general photos, get them printed 7"x 5" and bring them along to enter the photo competition. You can enter up to three photos in each category. There will be Hunting & Fishing vouchers for the winner of each section.

As most of you will be aware I am on the Southland Fish & Game Council and I am the Southland appointee to the New Zealand Fish & Game Council. For some time these Councils have been working on controlling the pressure on our under pressure fisheries. This problem is worse in Southland than any other F&G Region and Southland has led the work on this. Surveys have shown that non-resident anglers make up about 80% of the anglers on the Upper Oreti and Upper Mataura Rivers. With the borders being closed the past couple of seasons the number of anglers on these rivers was almost as high as it had been prior to covid. This indicated that resident anglers are keen to fish these rivers but are staying away, probably because of the number of non-resident anglers. With this in mind Fish & Game looked for a means to control the number of non-residents on these rivers. A new system of designated waters has been developed. To fish these you will need to obtain a designated waters licence. For residents this will cost \$5 per Fish & Game region. For non-resident anglers this will cost \$40 per day and they will be restricted to a maximum of 5 designated waters day licences in any one region for the season. For Southland the designated waters will be the Oreti River from the Mossburn bridge upstream and the Mataura River from the Waikaia confluence upstream. Otago Region has decided to make all their rivers previously requiring a back country licence designated waters. The back country licence as it exists now will disappear. (This proposal has not yet been approved by the Minister of Conservation but is expected to be approved.) In Southland other waters may be added for future seasons but there will need to be research carried out to see what waters need this control before any more are added. The extra money F&G will receive will be spent on implementing and enforcing these requirements.

Cover Photo by Chris

Mavora on a sunny day at the end of May.

Close Lodge May 2023 by Chris

Yet another club trip affected by the weather. Over 40mm of rain forecast for North Mavora and almost as much for the Von. The decision was made to make the closing of the lodge weekend into a one-day trip. Travel to Lake Mavora late morning, fish during the warmest part of the day, back to the lodge to close it down for the winter, tea at Mossburn Pub then home.

Three of us headed away. As expected, all the rivers were high and dirty. South Mavora was higher than I had ever seen it before let alone fished it, but it was clear. The top of the South Lake was almost one big puddle. There was no real right turn from the river to into the lake. The river flowed straight into the top of the guts and lagoons we normally fish.

We headed to what was usually the biggest gut but it was a side stream. Dave and Isaac headed towards where it joined the lake but I headed nearer to the river. I had tied on a Damsel mink. One of our competition flies from several years back as I had run out of Woolly Buggers. I spotted a fish in the middle of the gut and as it was my first cast for some time I thought I would have a warm up and cast well to the left of the fish i.e. over 15 feet away. The fly hit the water, the fish put on the afterburners and absolutely hammered it before I even started the retrieve. Shortly thereafter a 2lb rainbow was landed and released.

Isaac joined me. We waded across the top of the gut and I showed him where I had spotted a fish on last year's trip. He waded to an island (which is normally shoreline) and started casting. A few casts in he spots a red flash in the water and a rainbow takes his Woolly Bugger. After a couple of nice splashes it decided to keep it. Bugger.

I fished back to the main gut. Dave was fishing the North End so I fished the South end. I waded through a lot of water that was not usually there so that I could fish into the normal channel. Two unsighted rainbows decided that the Damsel Mink was on their menu. These fish were 2.5 and 2.25 lb.

(Continued on page 4)



Isaac casting at South Mavora

Close Lodge May 2023 (cont)

(Continued from page 3)

It was starting to get a bit colder so I told Isaac I would show him where the river usually runs into the lake and then we could head back. We headed towards the top of the last gut which had a nice flow coming straight over the bank from the river. We paused to have a good scan of the top of the gut and Isaac says “I think there is a fish under that matagouri bush right beside us.” He was right. The fish stayed absolutely dog-go until it’s tail got poked by a rod tip then it headed out to the lake in a big hurry.

We waded through the gut/side-stream and reached the normal river mouth. Water, water, everywhere and an uncooperative fish tucked right up in the slack water. It soon headed out into the lake.

Isaac and I fished our way around the shore back towards the other side of where we had fished the last gut. An even smaller rainbow took the Damsel and that was it for the day. We headed back to Dave. He had had one touch and not sighted any fish.

We packed up and headed back to the lodge. The duck shooters had left it in superb condition -thanks guys and appeared to have scared away the cluster flies. A quick tidy up while Dave drained the water and we were away to the pub for tea.



One of Chris's rainbows

May Competition Flies



May competition flies. Chris's winning fly is on the left.

Fly Tying Day - June 18th by Dave

We held our June Fly Tying Day on June 18th. This was a bit of a change as it was on a Sunday. Previously we had held it on a Saturday and followed it up with our Annual Dinner. This year we decided to move it to a Sunday with the hope of attracting some who couldn't make it on a Saturday and decided to move our Annual Dinner until after the August Fly Tying Day on August 5th.

Not many of us there but Isaac was along for his first go at tying flies. I set him up with one of the Club vices and showed him how to tie a hare & copper then set him on his way. He was soon doing pretty well and had tied a few so we moved on to a woolly buggler and once he had tied a couple of these, I showed him a pheasant tail. He struggled a bit more with these but still did pretty well considering it was his first day tying.

Gerda was working on a fly for the Club competition but was having a bit of difficulty getting it just right. She has another couple of months before we need it tied and shown in the Ripples.

Chris McD was coming and going as he had to referee some children's hockey during the day. I am not sure how many flies he tied but when he was tying a fly for the competition, I couldn't get the camera to focus on it. Once back home I found I had accidentally changed the camera to scene mode so no wonder it wouldn't focus on a fly.

Chris C, Amy and Ainsley were also along but I think he just spent his time sorting out his gear and John popped in to say hello and explain why he was on crutches.

We also had a visit from Zanda, a friend of Isaac who recently received a fly rod and has been tying some flies.

I managed a few flies, mostly for demonstration purposes but was also experimenting with different materials for wings on my royal wulffs as I have run out of cow hair. I tried congo hair and supreme hair but I am undecided on how they will perform. I tie my wings on first and the congo hair, being very fine, tended to get caught up in everything else. Might be good if I tie the wings on after the tail and abdomen.

A good way to fill in a cold winter day.



Competitions by Julie

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 Hunting & Fishing voucher for the winner of each category.

Fly Tying Competition.

There were just three flies entered last month and Chris was the winner with two votes. He also won the prize draw for the Hunting & Fishing \$20 gift voucher.

This month's fly is the alexandrina lure as detailed in the last ripples. July will be a parachute adams dry fly.

July Competition Fly by Chris

Parachute Adams - Chris's version.

The parachute adams is a great dry when the fish are rising to duns. We tied the parachute adams back in 2018 and in the comments Dave mentioned that he had landed four fish on it on his last trip to the Aparima for the 2018 season and he tells me he did the same this season.

We have used most of the 2018 photos here due to camera issues at the Fly Tying Day. There are two differences. I have used hackle fibres for the tail and I tie it in a different order to what Dave did in 2018. I tie in the tail first, then the post and hackles while Dave ties in the post and hackles first.



Materials:

Hook Black Magic E16 (1x short dry fly hook)
Thread Grey unithread 8/0
Post White poly yarn or McFlylon
Tail Brown and grizzle hackle fibres
Dubbing Superfine dry fly dubbing – adams grey



Run the thread to the tail and tie in about 12 tail fibres, half brown, half grizzle (same length as body)



Tie in the post across the top of the top (about 4 turns). I use ½ thickness of the poly yarn as it will be doubled when tied on.



Stand the two halves of the post up and bind thread up the post.



Tie in the two hackles, tying them on just in front of the post and then binding them to the post. They will get in the way as you tie the rest of the fly but just put up with this.



Dub the body taking the dubbing past the post to the eye and finish with the thread behind the post.



Wind the hackles around the post going down the post. 2 turns with each hackle. Try and get them a bit flatter than those in the photos. Tie off hackles between the hackles and the body around the post. Whip finish around the post under the hackles. Trim the post to height. Put a dab of cement on both sides of the whip finish.

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

27 th June	MM	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
4 th July	CM	Fly tying
25 th July	AGM	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
1 st Aug	CM	Arranging the calendar for the next season
5 th Aug		Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am - Meal at night, (\$5 funny gift)
13/14 th Aug	Demo	Southland Boat Show
20 th Aug	Fishing	Club Trip (winter) Fish & Game 9:00am
29 th Aug	MM	

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



Disclaimer:

The opinions or views expressed in this newsletter, are those of the respective authors, and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Southland Fly Fishing Club. The Editor takes no responsibility for the factual content of this publication.