

“Ripples”

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

October 2023



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



*Southland Fly
Fishing Club*

President's Report by Dave

Well, the new season has opened and hopefully you have managed to get out in spite of the river and weather conditions. I was out opening day, later the same week and then both days of the first weekend but haven't been out since. I have caught some fish so that is good for me.

The last Sunday in September we had our casting day at Queens Park and we had put in a bit of effort to attract members of the public along to this. We had more members of the public there than Club members so that was great. The public ranged from those that had never cast a fly to a couple of boys who were clearly quite experienced.

We had a session at Invercargill Hunting & Fishing with Bryce from Manic Tackle Project along to tell us all about their new products that they have this season. Originally we were going to have our September Monthly Meeting at Hunting & Fishing but with the opportunity to have Bryce there we had a special meeting there instead. Manic have some interesting new products so it was a good night.

The following night I headed up to Arrowtown, taking Gerda and Julie with me for the Fly Fishing Film Festival. This was a bit different to previous years as it was actually hosted by the Wakatipu Anglers Club. There were some interesting fly fishing films showing different types of fly fishing, both fresh water and salt water, from various parts of the world. It was well worth the trip even if it meant a pretty late night.

The October Lodge Trip was on the first weekend of October (it always is) and this year we had an issue with the water supply to the Lodge again. I had left a message on the farmer's phone to get him to turn the water on and had not heard back. While on a preseason reconnoitre, I had discovered it was not on. I finally got hold of him and he said the pipe to the Lodge had been hit while ploughing the paddock but he didn't know where. That meant no water supply for the weekend but the tank was almost full so we just had to make sure we didn't use too much. The farmer has since located where the pipe was cut and I went up and dug it up. Then we ran a temporary line above ground and got supply back on. By now the farmer should have planted the crop (moving our water line out of the way to plant and then putting it back in). It can stay through the crop until he is going to graze it and then it will again be disconnected. Once the crop is grazed, we will have to sort the problem out permanently. What is interesting is the pipe was cut well away from where the farmer thought it ran. A bit more investigating to do yet.

Unfortunately due to both weather and river conditions the October Club Trip scheduled for October 15th was cancelled. The present weather patterns look like this may be a common occurrence this season with a lot of both wind and rain.

What is coming up. We have our monthly meeting on October 31st and we will all be able to tell everyone how our season has started. The following day is high country opening so that means the top of the Whitestone, the Upukerora and Eglinton rivers all open (as well as all the rivers in Fiordland and the Von River). The following weekend we will have another Lodge Weekend so if you are keen to come on that let me know. The monthly trip will be on November 12th (meet at Fish & Game at 7:00am) and the November mid-week trip will be on November 23rd. Give me a ring on 027 201 6722 if you want to come on the mid-week trip.

Finally, we are taking enrolments for our Fly Fishing Course in January. If you have a friend or family member that is interested in learning to fly fish this is a great opportunity. Details are on our web site. We already have a number of enrolments.

Cover Photo by Dave

Chris playing a fish on the Lodge Trip.

Opening Day by Dave

It was great to get out to the river on opening day but conditions were not good to say the least. With the rivers in flood only a few days before opening day it was not looking good for fishing. Add in a poor weather forecast and I know many didn't actually bother to head out.

I decided to take a look at the rivers the day before so headed up to check out the Aparima and Oreti rivers. The Aparima at Wreys Bush was just fishable but looked good at Jacobs Bridge while the Oreti at Lumsden wasn't looking great. Unfortunately, the weather forecast for the region around Jacobs Bridge was very strong winds and these would be down the river and it is very exposed up there.

I was up early to the head away and decided to fish the Aparima but not right up the top at Jacobs Bridge. This meant I was going to have to deal with water with quite a bit of colour so sight fishing was unlikely to be an option. Still, I have had plenty of success on the Aparima fishing blind. I arrived at my preferred site and there was no-one else there so parked the car and got set up. It was cold, overcast and quite windy (down the river of course). My immediate thought was that it wasn't going to be very comfortable in those conditions so I might just fish until I caught a fish and then head home.

I walked down to the river and it was a bit coloured for me but I was there so had to get on with fishing. I had put on a big nymph below a dry fly and I cast this into a likely looking bit of water. With the light conditions and the rippled water, I couldn't see my dry fly on the first cast so I lifted to cast again. The line tightened and the rod bent as a 2½lb brown had taken my nymph first cast. A great way to start the season. The thought of leaving as soon as I caught fish disappeared as I had to put a bit more effort in than one cast.

I worked my way upstream and came to a very small side stream that was a bit clearer. It had a couple of wider sections which were virtually still waters. The first of these was too deep to see anything but the one further up was shallower, had good background to reduce glare and was pretty sheltered from the wind. It also had a couple of fish swimming around feeding. Even better they were pretty keen to take a nymph (a smaller one that I had started with) and I soon had landed both of these fish. As I headed back down to the main river I did spot a fish in the first large pool but it was gone in an instant.

Back to the more coloured water (and the wind) and I worked my way up a high bank and soon had another hook up. I had to take the fish downstream to be able to land it and as I was bringing it to the net the hook pulled. I continued up the river and found another spot where a small side stream came in with clearer water, I spotted a fish sitting in relatively shallow water. It saw the nymph and didn't hesitate, taking the nymph immediately. It was soon in the net. I walked up the small stream but didn't see any fish in it.



It was lunch time but was still cold and windy so I decided to head back to the car, have my lunch and go home. On the way back I picked up a duck decoy I had spotted while heading up river. So I had landed four fish and found a decoy so it wasn't a bad morning.

The nice sheltered pool from which two fish were landed.

October Lodge Trip by Dave

I picked up Chris on Friday evening with the car full of all the supplies we needed for the weekend and we headed for the Lodge. All was well when we arrived except we knew we only had the water in the tank to make it through the weekend but we felt we could manage that without too much difficulty. Unfortunately, the rivers had been up again during the week so a bit of research was needed to decide where to go. The weather forecast also didn't make great reading but there was nothing we could do about that.

Up first thing Saturday morning, had breakfast, made our lunches and headed to Aparima as this looked like the best option with regard to river level. The access we chose to go had a road closed sign by the road so we had to park on the road and walk down to the river. The reason for the road closed sign was pretty clear when we walked down as there was a large washout from the floods a few days earlier.

River level and conditions were pretty similar to opening day with quite a bit of colour in the water and a downstream wind. We were into fish reasonably early and managed five landed between the two of us for the day. There were also some that came off or broke off but we were pretty happy with the day. All were taken on nymphs although there were clearly mayflies coming off by the amount of bird activity. This was a good sign and showed the recent floods had not had too much effect on the insect life. Eventually we called it quits and headed back to the car. We had fished further up this section of river than I did last season and by the time we got back to the car we had walked over 10km.

From here it was off to the Mossburn pub for dinner. John joined us here as he was fishing with us on Sunday. The meal was up to its usual standard and the staff were friendly as normal.

Once again, we were up early in the morning, had breakfast, made lunch and headed to the Aparima River again but to a different access this time. The final part of the track was a bit rough and I probably shouldn't have taken the new car down the final section as it clearly doesn't have as much ground clearance as the Jeep did. We had just started fishing when another angler started to walk past us up the river but after some discussion, he was happy to head downstream. Weather and river conditions were much the same as Saturday and again we landed five fish between us and just like Saturday lost a few as well as breaking some off. We didn't walk as far on Sunday but still covered plenty of river.

From here it was back to the Lodge, measure up a couple of things for little jobs that need to be done and pack up before heading for home. Another good Lodge Weekend.



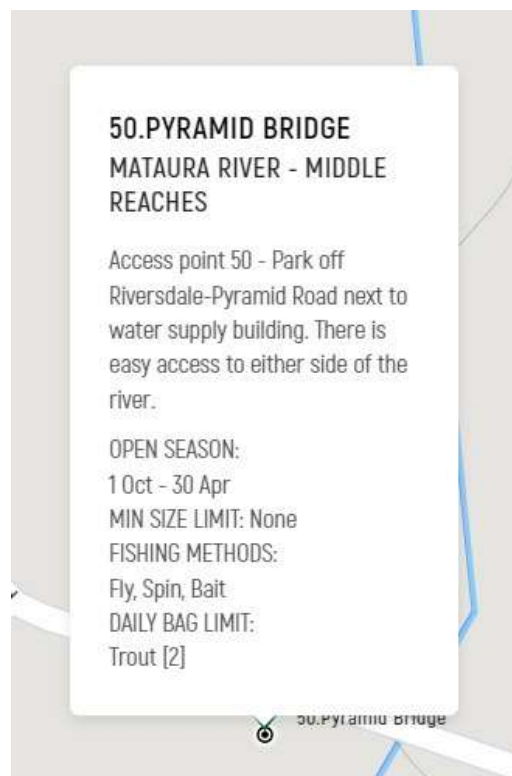
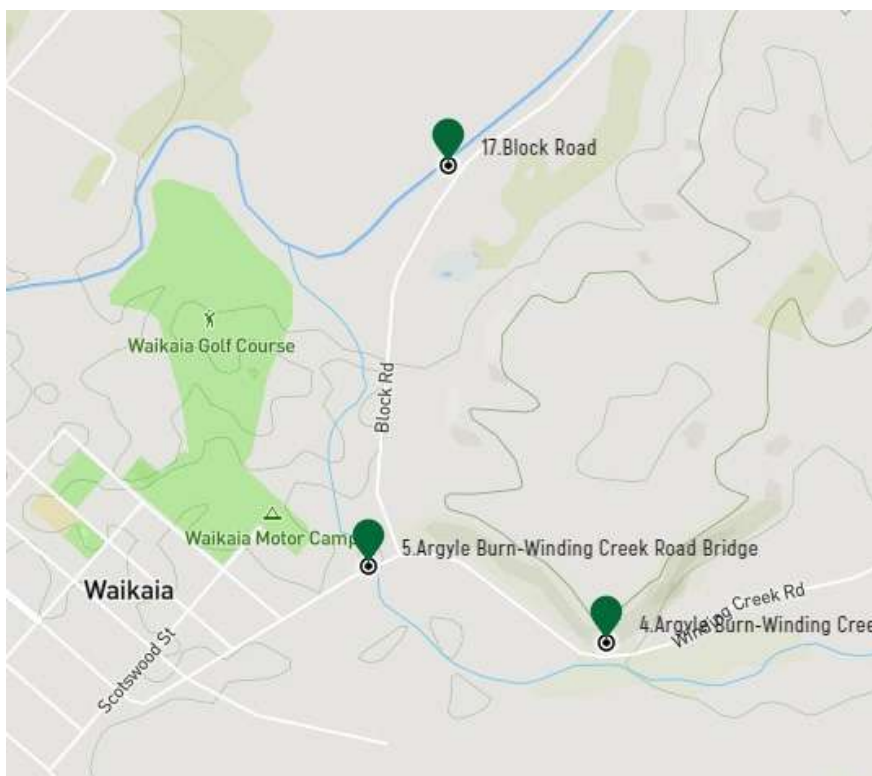
Chris with a fish caught on the Saturday of the October Lodge Trip

Southland Fishing Access

Fish & Game have a new web site detailing fishing access points throughout the region. It can be found here. <https://fishandgamenzaccess.org/fg-southland-region/>

This will open the site and you will get a map of Southland with access points marked. You can get details for the access point by clicking on the green symbol for that point. It works well on a computer. It will work on your phone but may be a bit more difficult on the smaller screen.

The same information is also available for other Fish & Game regions and these can be found by replacing southland in the address. Here is the Otago version <https://fishandgamenzaccess.org/fg-otago-region/>



Competitions by Gerda

Fly Tying Competition.

September was the last month of the Fly Tying Competition and the fly was the timberlake emerger. Only three flies entered and Dave's was the clear winner. Chris tried one of these emerger on the Mataura on opening day and was successful with it.

Fishing Competition

The fishing competition starts at the October Meeting. If you have caught a fish in October, fill in one of the cards that Chris gave you when you paid your subscription and get it to me by the meeting to be in with a chance of a Hunting & Fishing gift voucher.

You were given seven cards so it is best to use one per month for the season unless you catch a big brown and a big rainbow in the same month as only the biggest fish for the month goes in your total for the Masters Trophy.



Dave's winning timberlake emerger.

November Lodge Trip by Dave

The November Lodge Trip will be on the weekend of November 4th & 5th. We will head up to the Lodge Friday evening. Hopefully we will get in two days of fishing before returning home Sunday night. Normally I sort out breakfast and lunch for both Saturday and Sunday and we go to the Mossburn Hotel for dinner Saturday. We try to pool transport to reduce costs as much as possible. If you are keen to come give me a call or txt on 027 201 6722

Club Activity



Julie with a nice brown



Jim, Gerda and Zanda practising at the Casting Day



Chris talking to members of the public on Casting Day.



One of Dave's opening day Aparima browns.

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

31 st Oct	MM	At Fish & Game 7:30pm
1 st Nov		High Country Opening (Wednesday)
4/5 th Nov		Lodge Trip - High Country Opening (contact Dave 027 201 6722)
7 th Nov	CM	Fly Tying
12 th Nov		Club Day Trip meet at Fish & Game – 7am
23 rd Nov		Mid-week trip - Dave Harris 027 201 6722
28 th Nov	MM	
5 th Dec	CM	Fly Tying
7 th Dec		Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
10 th Dec		Club Day Trip , Catlins – Meet at Fish & Game 7:00am

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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- Vice-President Gerda Johnstone, (022 166 1149) gerda.johnstone10@gmail.com
- 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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