

“Ripples”

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

February 2024



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

Another month gone. Where did that go.

I have had three trips away from Invercargill in the past month, two fishing trips and a New Zealand Fish & Game Council Meeting. The two fishing trips were both to lakes (although some river fishing in the first) and both were pretty good. With ten nights out of Invercargill, I guess that is what made the month seem so short.

We have had a few Club activities during the month. The mid-week trip was cancelled as I was out of town but we have had the Fly Fishing Course, the Lake Alexandrina trip and a Sunday Club Trip. Reports are in this Ripples.

Other than a trip to Mavora and the Club activities I haven't been out fishing in the past month. Weather or river conditions meaning when I had time to go it probably wasn't worth going out and as I write this, I am not missing any fishing with the wind blowing at about 60 km/h from the west. Hopefully it will be better in the next few days and will give me a chance to get out and catch some fish. I need to as I haven't caught a fish for the Club competitions for February.

We will be at the Gore "On The Fly" Festival on February 25th. This is being held on the true left bank of the Mataura immediately upstream of the Mataura bridge. We will be doing a fly tying demonstration as we have for the last few festivals.

Our February meeting (27th February) is on the river and Chris will be cooking us a barbeque tea. Details elsewhere in this Ripples. We have our mid-week trip the following day so let me know (027 201 6722) if you are a starter for that. There is also the Teviot Fishing Competition that is organised by Ross Dungey as a way of researching trout abundance and size in the Teviot River for Pioneer Energy. Details on page 8 of this Ripples.

I have planned another expedition and will be heading to the West Coast next month with Cole, staying in Hari Hari. Hopefully I will find some good spring creek fishing in the area.

February Club Trip

Chris headed down to Fish & Game on Sunday 11th February to meet up for the Club Trip. Unfortunately he found he was on his own, with Dave, Isaac and Zanda all going radio control car racing that day.

He headed up the road and fished the Upper Oreti River, using his designated waters licence for the first time. Conditions were good but the fish were not keen on the flies he offered so he came home without success.

February Meeting - On the River & BBQ - 27th February

Our February Meeting (27th February) is on the Mataura River at Coal Pit Road. As usual we will have a barbeque tea that Chris will cook for us. The Club will provide food and drink. If you are coming please let Chris know on 027 423 7016.

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.

Cover Photo by Dave

Mike Weddell demonstrating casting on the river to the 2024 course members.

Mavora Trip by Dave

The last couple of years I have taken Cole and Julie to Mavora for a few days. This year it was late January. We drive up to the bottom of the North Lake and launch the boat there and travel by boat to Careys Hut near the top of the lake. This gives us both the lake edge and the Mararoa River to fish. Preparation of the boat had a bit of a hiccup when I found that the auxiliary outboard didn't have any cooling water flow. I was quite surprised with the ease of getting a new water pump impellor for the 32 year old outboard, Marine South had one in stock (price was pretty high). I had some difficulty reassembling the outboard but water flow was good in the end.

We set off from town with the car fully loaded with equipment and supplies and the boat behind. This was the first time I had towed the boat with my new RAV4 (other than into town for a wof for the trailer) and I wasn't sure how it would go. The trailer was well below the towing rating so I was reasonably confident. We had no problems on the way up but getting the boat in the water was a bit of a challenge. The RAV4 has automatic braking and when I tried to reverse the trailer into the lake the brakes would come on. You can turn this automatic braking off but I wasn't sure what Toyota had called it and I turned several things off before success. I had had the same problem with my Jeep in 2016 but I could understand what the Americans called everything, not so with the Toyota.

Finally got the boat in the water and we set off up the lake to the hut. Conditions weren't too bad and we were soon unloading at the hut. It was only lunch time and there was no one else at the hut so we had a choice of which bunks to use. Weather conditions weren't great for fishing and we spent the afternoon in the hut. As expected, by evening we were joined by a number of trampers (the hut is on the Te Araroa Trail). It was quite cool in the evening so we lit the fire in the hut (we had brought firewood with us).

The next morning it was cool with a fresh dusting of snow on the tops but we ventured over to the river mouth and fished both the river mouth and the lake nearby. A couple of fish were landed from the last run in the river. I ventured up the river a bit but didn't spot any fish. The river was higher than expected and with cloudy conditions, spotting was difficult. There was very little surface activity in the lake. After returning to the hut for lunch we had a look at a couple of spots on the other side of the lake. Julie had a bit of activity but neither Cole or I spotted anything. Back to the hut for the night and another fire was needed. A number of trampers there but they all camped outside.

The next day was pretty much a repeat and still no sun. I walked some distance up the river but spotted very few fish and those I saw were not at all co-operative. I spotted what I thought was a fish (turned out to be a rock) and cast to it. As I lifted to recast a rainbow hit the fly so at least I had some action as a reward for my walk up the river. Once again we went to a couple of different places around the top of the lake and a few fish came to the net. One I spotted didn't come to the net in spite of offering it a number of different fly options. It finally disappeared into deeper water. Once again we needed the fire in the evening and again we had trampers including one who was determined to sleep in her tent but moved into the hut during the night as she thought her tent was going to blow down.

The final morning dawned quite windy and knowing it was likely to increase as the day went on I decided that we should have breakfast and then head back down the lake. It was not a popular decision but that is the way it is. There is no boat ramp at Mavora so you have to launch and retrieve the boat across the stones at the bottom of the lake. With a northerly wind this is exposed so it can be difficult to get the boat on to the trailer. The trip back down the lake was uneventful and we took the opportunity to give the auxiliary outboard a run in a sheltered bay before heading across to where the car was. We didn't have any trouble getting the boat on the trailer and we were soon on the road heading for home.

Another good trip in spite of the weather conditions being a bit poor and with the cool weather, not a lot of insect activity.

Fly Fishing Course by Dave

As we do every year we had our Fly Fishing Course at the end of January. We had started promoting the course at the Boat Show in August and continued while carrying out our fly tying demonstrations at Hunting & Fishing during September. We also had a couple of posters up at Hunting & Fishing and their staff were actively promoting the course. It was also promoted on our facebook page and the Southland Fish & Game page. We had enough registrations that we did not need to put an advertisement in the Southland Express this time. Well before the course we had 16 registrations and had to turn a few people away.

Once underway on the Saturday we only had 14 of the 16 people at the course. Chris made a phone call but the missing people could not be found. I knew John, an old workmate from when I first arrived in Invercargill in 1977, was keen and I had his phone number. He had actually paid and been refunded as the course was full. A quick call and we were up to 15 people.

The course followed its usually format with Mike Weddell taking a class room session on Saturday morning and early afternoon covering where the trout are, what they eat and what you need to catch them. I also passed out a gift from Hunting & Fishing to each participant consisting of a few items that you need for fly fishing. Manic Tackle had donated a Simms vest (as they do every year) and a lucky winner was drawn from the hat. This year the vest went to Harry, the youngest course member. We also had John from Hunting & Fishing come along to speak to the course members.

Mid afternoon we headed to James Hargest College for casting practice. It was pretty busy with 15 people to be instructed in fly casting but most were looking reasonable by the end of the session. Prior to the course I had purchased two new Primal Wild sets for the Club as we had several people on the course who did not have their own gear. I had a couple of casts with one of these rods and it felt pretty good to me. Great value at \$200.

On the Saturday evening Mike, Chris, Julie and myself were planning to head out and fish the Mataura. This gives us the chance to check out the river for the next day and we decided to head to the Wyndham bridge where we would be taking the course the following morning. Course participant John heard us talking about the outing and asked if he could join in. In the end Julie wasn't feeling well and opted out so four of us headed out to Wyndham after dinner. We didn't find a lot of activity but there were a few fish rising and some were caught on nymphs (or hooked and lost). In the end seven fish were landed. I landed three, including the only one I saw rise. It was great to see a fish rise, put the next cast over where it was and have it take the dry fly.

Chris managed to land four while Mike and John were out of luck. The fish were all pretty small but at least they were fish.



Course participants in the classroom

Sunday morning dawned fine and warm. Great for fishing. When we arrived at the river I was surprised how shallow it was where I had been fishing the night before. As usual we started the day with casting along a gravel beach as casting on the water is a bit different to casting on the grass. As happens some years, a couple of fish were caught during this casting practice.

After lunch we broke up into groups and headed to different parts of the river. Fishing was tough with, I think, only one fish landed and that was landed by one of the

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Fly Fishing Course (cont)



Mike presenting Harry with his new Simms vest courtesy of Manic Tackle



Casting practice at James Hargest College

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course members who had already landed one in the morning. I did hook one but it came off and I suspect it was actually foul hooked.

Another good course and for a change the weather cooperated, although the river had a bit more colour in the water than I would have liked. I think all the course members enjoyed the course and hopefully we will see them all out on Club trips in the future.

Thanks to Hunting & Fishing, Invercargill, and Manic Tackle for supporting the Fly Fishing Course.



Success. Hugo with a fish caught during casting practice. He caught another later in the day.



On the river - Sunday morning

Lake Alexandrina Trip by Dave

There were five of us going to Lake Alexandrina this year. Roger travelled up with me while Gerda took Julie and Cole would meet us there.

I had a few things to do this year before I left as I hadn't fitted the roof rack bars to the RAV4 and once I got them on I was a bit dubious as to how they would work as they were quite close together. However, once we got the kayak on everything looked good.

We had a meeting on the Friday to sort out the food and then Julie and Gerda went and did all the shopping.

Saturday I picked up Roger and then loaded the kayak and headed away, meeting up with Gerda and Julie at Kennington. Pretty quiet trip up. First problem, the Jimmy's Pie Shop in Roxburgh was closed so had to get a pie in Alexandra. We had a quick stop in Tekapo for more supplies and on to Alexandrina. Cole was there waiting when we arrived at the South Canterbury Anglers Club hut.

A quick look around showed us the crested grebes were nesting in the outlet stream again. This is New Zealand Forest & Bird's "Bird of the Century".

The weather forecast indicated we could expect windy conditions, especially in the afternoons. With this in mind we were up at 5:30am and on to the lake at first light. Gerda joined me in the kayak while Julie and Roger were with Cole in the club boat. The weather was pretty good but as the morning wore on the wind started to come up. I decided we should get off the water and we were soon ashore. Cole also decided they should come in but before they reached the shore the wind died down again and they had a perfect morning. Both Roger and Julie came back with a rainbow.

The following two days were all similar except with variable wind. On the second day I hooked a fish in reasonably windy conditions and Gerda had some difficulty holding the kayak in place while I netted the fish. It was returned to the lake. We had a lot less difficulty landing Gerda's fish. On the Tuesday morning the club boat had been moved from where it had been left and Gerda and I set out in the kayak keeping an eye out in case the boat had been pushed into the lake and drifted away. We headed a long way down the lake just in case that was where the boat was. Our travel was interrupted by a nice rainbow that decided my fly looked good. It went back. After trying to pull the lake bottom into the boat we headed back up the lake and spotted the others out in the club boat. It had been moved but was still on the shore. We spotted another boat and the angler was landing a fish as we headed towards him. Not far from where he was I hooked up on another fish and it came to the net. Unfortunately, Gerda managed to get her fly hooked in the transducer mounting on the back of the kayak as she was winding in. We pulled alongside the other angler and he unhooked it for us. He

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South Canterbury Anglers Club Outlet Hut at
Lake Alexandrina



Crested Grebe at Lake Alexandrina

Lake Alexandrina Trip (cont)

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told us the fish he had landed was a 5lb salmon. The others came in that morning with Julie having landed another fish.

The final day dawned fine and calm but Gerda and I decided not to head out, in spite of being up at 5:30am. The others were out again for the morning but no fish came to the boat. It was then time to pack up, clean the hut and head for home.

We had only landed seven fish, with three into the club row boat and four into the kayak. All those coming to the kayak were released. The fish seemed to be spread over a greater depth than previous years and this may have been why we didn't catch many. On the bright side the winds were a lot less than forecast and this allowed for a lot more fishing time than expected.



Lake Alexandrina rainbow. Not a lot of room for fish in the kayak.

Roger had to pick up a car in Frankton so we came home that way. Traffic was terrible, moving very slowly and it was not just tourists, a horse float holding us up all the way down Lake Wakatipu.

Thanks to the South Canterbury Anglers Club for the use of their hut.



Outlet village at Lake Alexandrina.

There was other bird life we are not used to.
Australasian coots on Lake McGregor.



Teviot Angling Competition

Where: Teviot River, Bridge Huts Section
When: Sunday, 3rd March 2024
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.



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, Cochy-bondhu and small nymphs, HEN, Bead Head etc. Dark nymphs generally work well.

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

25 th Feb		On the Fly Festival – Gore
27 th Feb	MM	This meeting is “On the river” --- BBQ Tea about 6pm
28 th Feb		Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
3 rd March		Teviot Fishing Competition
5 th Mar	CM	Fly Tying
10 th Mar	Fishing	<u>Club Day Trip</u> , meet at Fish & Game 7am
26 th Mar	MM	
27 nd Mar	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
2 nd April	CM	Fly Tying
14 th April	Fishing	<u>Club Day Trip</u> , 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) daveharris823@gmail.com
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz
- Vice-President Gerda Johnstone, (022 166 1149) gerda.johnstone10@gmail.com
- Editor Dave Harris daveharris823@gmail.com
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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