

“Ripples”

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

March 2024



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

During the past month we have had our Club barbeque, the mid-week trip, a fly tying demonstration at the Gore "On the Fly" Festival and our monthly Club Trip. The "On the Fly" Festival saw Chris, Julie, Gerda and myself tying flies and there was quite a lot of interest in the fly tying and in the Club itself. I had tied a couple of damsel fly dries at the previous executive meeting and neither Gerda or Julie had seen these tied before. I was tying red damsels (following a request from the Otago appointee to the NZ Fish & Game Council, who wanted to see a couple of these at the next Council meeting) and the ladies asked about blue damsels as well. I managed to get some blue materials in time to tie these at the Gore event so this is what we started with. The blue damsel is untried at this stage but quite a few people took materials away to try. While at the festival I found out that the red damsel had been mentioned by Otago Fish & Game in their weekly report and got to meet David Dodd from Ranfurly, who I have supplied materials to for the damsel and who was the angler mentioned in the Otago report featuring the damsel.

As I write this there are only six weeks of the regular season left so you need to get out and make the most of the rest of the season. I still haven't managed to get to the Upper Oreti to use the designated waters licence I purchased at the start of the season. Generally, the weather has not been suitable with wind and/or cloud in the forecast. The wind has just been unbelievable this season. Tomorrow looks suitable to go to the Oreti but I have to get ready for my trip to the West Coast with Cole so that's out.

I have had a few outings in the past month. These have been to either the Mataura or the Aparima. I was on the middle Mataura on the day of the barbeque but found virtually no activity and only saw a couple of fish in a backwater but they had already seen me, cloud did make spotting very difficult. The following day was our mid-week trip and John joined me for the day. It was a tough day but we managed four fish between us, including two I got from a likely looking spot under some willows. I spotted them both and it only took three casts to hook both of them. The following day I was again on the Aparima, this time on my own and further up. I landed a couple of fish on this trip.

My next trip was a few days later to the middle Mataura. I found a lot of activity this time. The first run had three or four fish rising to spinners. They weren't keen on my imitation but eventually I did manage to get one to take it. At the top of the run I spotted a couple of fish on the edge of the current and both were keen on my nymphs so I was quite happy as I headed further up the river. I found a number of fish that were rising and I have no idea what they were taking. A couple took my parachute adams but most just ignored whatever I offered them. I couldn't see anything on the water but the obviously the fish could. I did have one hook up that was a bit of a surprise. I didn't see anything happen, there was just something on the end of the line without me striking. The fish was on my nymph but by the way it went, it was foul hooked. It eventually got into the willows and broke off. I landed six fish for the day and dropped four more (including the foul hooked one) so it was a reasonably busy day. Had I been able to figure out what they were rising to I am sure I could have hooked more.

My final trip in the past month was to the Aparima and is covered in "A Day Out" later in this Ripples.

February Meeting - On the River & BBQ by Chris

We had a better turn out than the last few years. As usual the non-working members had already been fishing for most of the day so no one was keen to get their rod out until the fish started showing themselves. As this did not happen most headed home after eating and having a yarn. Thanks to Dave Murphy for his assistance in cooking the meat.

Cover Photo by Chris

Hugo with his fish caught on the March Club Trip.

March Club Trip by Chris

No one was at Fish & Game but I had arranged to pick up two of the younger course participants on the way out. Based on the gale force winds forecast after lunch and my having an ankle problem we decided to hit the lower/middle Oreti and try and use the willows as a wind break.

Once at the river the lads said they had spin fished it before Xmas. I had never fished it. The lads said they had not seen any fish in the river but had done so in the backwaters. We headed downstream and found a very nice backwater at the bottom of the gravel beach we were on. Both Hugo and Jackson cast at two fish without luck. Note to self, Hugo has got great eyesight.

We fished a little further downstream then headed back up checking out the back water again. We crossed the river and stalked the next back water. Again, the younger eyes soon spotted fish which were to entertain us for the next 3½ hours. We chased the fish for a while. The lads learnt that a dropper rig means four times as many tangles. We gave the fish a breather while we had lunch as the forecast winds arrived.

We could see the fish in the backwater. They were within casting distance and the wind was behind us so we stayed where we were. Eventually a slabby 3¾ lb jack took a diving beetle for me. Hugo made a reasonable job of netting it so we were happy. The wind was fair howling so we packed up.

There was less wind at Lochiel so Hugo showed us his local water. He picked up a nice 3lb fish on bluebottle so it was worth the stop.

A Day Out by Dave

It is still dark but time to get up. By the time I have had a shower and eaten breakfast at least it is light. However it is still cold. A quick look on the computer shows a slight lift in the level of the Aparima River at Dunrobin but that shouldn't be a problem. Tell myself to check again before I leave the car. Weather forecast still looks okay with partly cloudy conditions and some wind but not too much.

The car still thinks it is dark as we head north out of town. Indicated outside temperature is 6°C, pretty cold for mid-March. First stop is at Lorneville for petrol and then head north up SH6. Road is still wet from overnight rain. There is the normal amount of traffic heading into town from Winton but there isn't much heading north



Final fish of the day

and it is moving well. Not far out of town the car decides maybe it is daylight and the instrument panel comes on to the daytime setting but the headlights stay on. Eventually the car decided it was in fact daytime and turned the headlights off.

After an easy drive I arrive at the river access where I intend to fish. The track to the river is still closed due to the washout that occurred during floods in September so I park on the road. Temperature has dropped to 5°C. Get changed into my usual fishing gear and change the flies on my rod which is still set-up from my last trip but the flies on it are the ones I use on the Mataura,

(Continued on page 4)

A Day out (cont)

(Continued from page 3)

not the Aparima. Tie on a royal wulff and a gold beadhead hare and copper (what else would I use on the Aparima). Put the "Gone Upstream" sign on the dashboard and head for the river. Realise I have left my GPS at home so will not be tracking my walk today.

Once I get to the river it is quite different to last time I was here (and that was early October) and the really nice run where I start is too shallow for fish. Not to worry there will be plenty of good spots as I head up the river. Remember I was going to check the river level before I left the car but I have left my phone in the car so I have to hope it is not going to come up too much as the day wears on.

A side stream I always fish is dry so fish up the main river. Not too far up and I have my first fish on. It gives a good account of itself but I manage to get it pretty much to the net a couple of times but the hook pulls. Bug-gar. A bit further up I am into another fish but it only stays on for a few seconds. Start to hope it warms up a bit as the wind is cold.

Not long afterwards the indicator dips again and I hooked up again. This fish pulls pretty hard but is suddenly gone, broken off above the dry fly so two flies gone. Tie on a couple more flies and hook up and land a nice fish in the next ripple. On the board at last. More noticeable changes to the river but still plenty of good water. Another fish to the net and this one is a bit bigger at 3¼ lb. A bit further up I am forced into some long grass and when I can see the river again, I spot a fish close in. It moves off slowly and I don't know whether it is spooked or not so have a couple of casts. Another hook up pretty much straight away but it pulls the hook. Continue up the river and start looking for somewhere to sit down for lunch. Spot a nice looking log to sit on but decide to fish the run before stopping. Another solid hook up along with quite a bit of aerial activity and a nice 4¼ lb fish comes to the net.

Stop for lunch (kindly made for me by my wife) and then head up to the top of the run. I see a couple of fish moving down. I hadn't seen them until they moved and they were not sticking around to be cast to. I fish a couple more runs and a lovely looking backwater. There was a fish in the back water but it saw me before I saw it. Check the time and decide to head back as I have a Fish & Game Zoom meeting at 4:00pm so need to make sure I am home for that.

I pull apart my rod and put it and my net on the sides of my pack and head back down the river. The walk is a bit tough as there are a lot of big stones and these make walking hard work but I arrive back at the car with plenty of time to get changed and get home for my meeting.

I had been a bit further up the river than I usually do at this access (but not as far as I went in October). It was a pretty good day but it never really warmed up and I still had my jersey and jacket on when I got back to the car. For this summer it wasn't too bad a day but decent fishing days have been hard to find. Maybe autumn will be better.



Released back into the river

Teviot River Survey by Julie

The Teviot, for those readers that may not know, is a small and beautiful stream in the remote high country. It exits Lake Onslow from the North West of the Lammerlaw range and flows through a rocky gorge to the Clutha River. It's an area of rolling tussock-covered hills and, pending weather, it can be quite a journey getting to it. Last year some anglers had to turn back due to the mud and water on the road. Definitely 4WD in wet weather.

Teviot is quite famous for its very pretty little and very colourful brown trout. My best over the years has been 13 fish for the day but some have caught numbers in the 30s. I think it is a lovely wee spot, and a fun place to take children for a picnic and a fish.



Lisa, Sam, Julie and Rose

Each year since the dam was built Pioneer Energy Limited does a survey on the quality of water and fish coming from the Teviot stream. Ross Dungey, Environmental science researcher, heads the operation, with the Teviot Anglers Club promoting and encouraging other clubs to take part in the day. Ross says to get a comprehensive survey we need a 100 fish. So this is always the target we aim for collectively.

I think this is around my 8th year of taking part representing the Southland Fly Fishing Club. I've noticed anyone that goes generally comes back the following year. It is such fun. This year the weather was looking okay but there were a great many other events on so a challenge to get enough anglers. Our club had five go, Rose, Jamie, Sam, Lisa and myself. We all went up and camped the night on the river in preparation for the early 7.30 start the next day. When I arrived Rose and family had already started with a little fishing and were having a ball. Two tents were already set up, plus a bus further down.

After deciding to sleep in the Prado, the sky was clouding over and looking like rain later in the evening I soon joined the others. I was greeted with a bacon butty cooked by Sam who is a cook extraordinaire. Like to take her on all our trips.

We spent a lovely evening over a drink and shared fishing stories, debated when the rain would hit and deliberated about strategies for the next day.

Ross arrived and was not looking too flash and advised that he was just over covid and his wife had gone down with it the previous day. We all kept our distance. Do hope all is well in his camp now. Shows his commitment to still undertake the survey.

Everyone was in his or her bed just on dark and very optimistic for the next day. Around midnight I woke to heavy rain on the roof of the Prado. I woke to more heavy rain three or four times during the night and wondered how those in tents were getting on. Fortunately by 7am the rain was over, but we had a rather wet surrounding area. On checking all campers were fine and none washed away. It was rather a chilly start to the day and waders and woollies were the go for most.

Fishing was exceptionally slow this year, and hard yakka fishing in my usual spot. Well down on the catch rate of fish for me over recent years at the Teviot. However, I did notice my first fish was 9.20am and I had

(Continued on page 6)

Teviot River Survey (cont)

(Continued from page 5)

the same recorded time the last few years for my fish in the same place. Interesting. It was a 160mm long. This is typical size from the Teviot. The picture is one I caught that was 215mm. The others had similar sizes caught on the fly. Our group contributed five fish and they were hard earned. Talking to Ross at lunchtime he was seriously doubting we would make the 100 given the challenge the day was presenting. He too had a very hard time catching in the morning. The weather improved with warm sunshine in the afternoon making it pleasant.



Typical Teviot brown trout

End of the day around 14 anglers had turned up and nine were spin fishing. Ross is always pleased to see a mix of fly and spin. The spin anglers out fished the fly anglers this year and what was unusual was that one caught a fish over 2lb on soft bait. It is not very often you get larger fish in this river so this was a surprise. It was evident that the larger lures caught some larger fish. The fly fishing angler's sizes ranged from 125mm to around 380mm. The good news was we reached our target of 100 fish.

It was a memorable day and I am always struck by the friendliness and willingness of all the participating anglers to share information to help everyone have a great day no matter what their experience.

I strongly encourage other anglers to give it a go next year.

Competitions by Gerda

Fish Competition

Just a reminder to get your catch cards in for the fish competition. You can put your fish cards in at any meeting. Cards in by the March meeting will go in the draw for a Hunting & Fishing gift card at the March meeting. If you miss the March meeting get them in by the April meeting to go in the final draw for the Hunting & Fishing gift card. Cards can still be put in until the June meeting but after the April meeting they will not go in a draw for a gift card.

Fly Tying Competition

The Fly Tying Competition starts in May and we will tie a different fly every month until September. This means we need five fly patterns for the competition. We need suggestions on what flies to tie, so if you have a fly you like tying and think it is suitable let me know what it is and we will consider it for the competition. If you know of a fly you think would be suitable for the competition (or want to know how to tie) but don't know how to tie it, let me know and I will find someone to sort it out for the competition.



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

26 th Mar	MM	
27 th Mar	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
2 nd April	CM	Fly Tying
14 th April	Fishing	Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game 8am
24 th April	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
27/28 th April	Fishing	Lodge Trip (End of Season)
30 th April	MM	
7 th May	CM	Fly Tying
12 th May	Fishing	Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game 10am, to the lower Mataura
22 nd May	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722

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



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.