

“Ripples”

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

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www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



*Southland Fly
Fishing Club*

President's Report by Dave

Well, the river season is pretty much over except for the lower reaches. The weather has also become very wintery so maybe it is time to stay inside and tie flies. That said there are a couple more fishing trips programmed for this season. There is the mid-week trip on May 22nd (ring me on 0273016722) if you want to come and of course the end of season Lodge Weekend on May 25th & 26th. This trip we will have the Upukerora, Eglinton, Waiau and Von rivers available as well as the top of the Whitestone. The long-range forecast doesn't look too bad so the rivers should be okay for fishing. Might be cool and a bit breezy but no rain (or snow) in the forecast. For June there is no fishing scheduled but we do have a fly tying day at Fish & Game on June 16th. We will be there from 9:00am. We will have equipment available for anyone who doesn't have their own and we can help out beginners and get them started.

Our fly tying competition starts this month so get out your gear and tie an elk hair caddis as described in last month's Ripples and get it along to the meeting on May 28th. There is a Hunting & Fishing gift voucher up for grabs and all flies have an equal chance to win it no matter how good or bad.

It was good to have ex-member Les along to talk about photographing trout at the last meeting. I was surprised how many of the photos Les put up that either had me in or were of Les, and I had taken them. Les and I used to fish together a lot before he injured his shoulder and found it difficult to cast.

During the past month we had three fishing outings scheduled. The mid-week trip on April 24th for which I had no other takers so went on my own, the Lodge Weekend (see report elsewhere in this Ripples and the May Club Trip.

For the mid-week trip I headed to one of my favourite spots on the Aparima. I was surprised how much the river had changed since my previous visit. Conditions were such that spotting fish was not possible and I found nothing rising, so it was blind nymphing all day. I was a bit disappointed in this as last year at the end of April I found a number of fish rising and they were keen on my parachute adams. I did hook a couple so it wasn't a blank day but it could have been better.

As for the Sunday Club Trip, I met up with Gerda at Kennington and we headed out to the Mataura at Wyndham. We looked at the access by the bridge but the cowlane was very muddy looking so we headed to the racecourse where we found the access closed. We decided to head just downstream from the bridge but



Fish I found on my trip to the Te Anau Basin. All the dark bits in the water are brown trout.

stopped to check the river from the bridge. We should have done this first as we discovered it was quite coloured and we decided to head home with no fishing. Checks had shown it was up a bit but it shouldn't have been that dirty.

I have also made a couple of trips to the Te Anau basin in the past month. The first trip I arrived at the river hoping to head down but there was another car there and he had headed down. It was a Gore guide but when I have seen him here in the past he has not been guiding. While I was getting changed another guide arrived with clients and he had to head away elsewhere. I didn't see many

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President's Report (cont)

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fish on this trip. The second trip I left an hour earlier and there was no-one there when I got there so I was able to go downstream. I walked down to my usual starting spot and started back up. I was surprised at how few fish I saw. However, the very first one I spotted took the nymph but didn't stay on. A bit further up I cast in some fast water beside a backwater and had a good hookup. The fish headed into the backwater so I waded across to make it easy to land it. I was amazed as I got across to see a large number of fish in the back water (over 100?) and of course I had spooked the lot by coming across to land the fish. It had also stirred up all the others. I landed the fish I had on but of course nothing else would touch my fly. I have never seen so many fish in a river but from there back to the car I saw very few more. I suspect they were all waiting for the river to come up a bit before moving further up. I had planned another trip but the weather put paid to that. Still, we can go there on the Lodge Weekend. Hopefully by then they will be spread up the river a bit.

Fly Tying Day - June 16th

We have the first of our winter fly tying days on June 16th at Fish & Game, 17 Eye Street, starting at 9:00am. There will be some of us there all day while some will only be there for short periods. If you want to have a go at fly tying we will have enough gear and materials for you to have a go and will be able to show you how to do it. You don't need to come along for the whole day, just pop in any time you like for as long as you can. Also if anyone has a fly they want to know how to tie come along and we will see if we can help you out with it.

We will also be able to show you how to tie most of the flies for the fly tying competition. Of course the fly for May will have been judged by then but we have sorted out what flies are for the following months and will be able to demonstrate them.

Competitions by Gerda

Fish Competition

There is still a chance to get your fish cards in for the annual competitions. I will accept cards up to the June meeting, so if you have any get them in to me.

Fly Tying Competition

The fly tying competition starts this month. This month's fly is Dave's Elk Hair Caddis that was detailed in last month's Ripples. If you can't make it to the meeting with your fly, get it to me, Dave or Chris before the meeting and you will then be in the competition as well as in the draw for a \$20 Hunting & Fishing gift voucher.

The flies for the competition (pictured below, left to right) are:

May	Elk hair caddis
June	Parachute dad's favourite
July	Green stonefly nymph
August	CDC emerger
September	Koura



April Lodge Trip by Dave

My original plan for the April Lodge weekend was to head up to the Lodge on the Thursday (Anzac Day) and fish four days in a row. John was coming down from Queenstown on the Friday and Isaac would join us Friday night. There was also interest from a couple of anglers from Wanaka who were not Club members. Their plans were to come down Friday, fishing on the way down and then stay two nights with us at the Lodge.

Weather forecast and river conditions were not looking good for Thursday so I delayed my departure until Friday. I had purchased all the supplies on the Thursday to allow an early start on Friday but the weather forecast still wasn't what I would have liked so I was a bit later away. I arrived at the Lodge and got the power on, cleaned up the flies and then unloaded all the supplies. I stopped at the bridge just above Athol to check the river. It was up and a bit discoloured but definitely fishable (and much better than I expected). I reported the conditions to those in Wanaka and they were still considering coming down on Saturday. There was an angler's car at the bridge and as I drove up the road towards Garston there were cars at most access points. Finally found a place where there were two beats and only one car (a guide).

Before starting I decided it was lunch time and also decided to contact John to see where he was. He replied he was getting gas in Kingston. I told him where I was and he soon joined me. Lunch was first, then fishing.

Lunch finished it was across to the river to see what I could find. Spotted a fish immediately but it didn't stick around. I suspect it had seen quite a few anglers this season. I immediately spotted a person just up the river and thought that it was an angler not following the beat system. No such worries as it was a woman with a young girl who seemed to be locals and were just looking at the river. We worked up the river together, but with the water getting deeper and the bank covered in a lot of vegetation I decided to get out of the water and see what was further up. John with his chest waders was able to manage the deeper water. I walked quite a way before I was able to access the river again but it was quite difficult due to the long grass and uneven surface beneath. I found a place where I could get to the river and walk up reasonably easily. I continued up and found some easier going but saw no fish. I finally came across another angler who had come down so decided to turn back and see if I could find John. Then the rain started.

I made a couple of attempts to find John but decided the rain was too much so headed back to the car. Once I could see the cars, I could see that John was back at his car as he had also given up because of the rain. So, no fish, just one spotted.



Back at the Lodge it was time for a beer and to cook some dinner. Isaac finally arrived, being dropped off by his mother.

Saturday weather looked a bit better and at least we knew the river would be fishable. The anglers from Wanaka contacted us to tell us they had decided not to come down due to the conditions. We set off in John's car and found a beat to fish, got set up and headed down the river to the start of the beat. Conditions were not too bad but fish were pretty hard to find. I finally spotted one that was rising and it

John on the Upper Mataura on the Saturday of the April Lodge Trip

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April Lodge Trip (cont)

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was happy to take my cdc emerger. I tried to extend my net by putting my foot in it and pulling the handle up (like I always do) but the net got caught on one of the bars on the bottom of my boot and it was stuck there. I called for assistance and Isaac came down to try and net the fish for me. It didn't go to plan and the fish broke off. Soon after I hooked a second fish but it didn't stay on. Neither of the others hooked up on anything. We reached the end of the beat and headed back to the car.

It was still early so I suggested we check out a tributary. Here we spotted a few fish but they weren't doing anything so no joy here. Back to the Lodge and then over to the Mossburn pub for dinner. The menu had changed and the mixed grill was back on it. It proved to be a little much for Isaac.

Sunday dawned fine and sunny and we decided to head to the middle Matuara where we hoped to find less anglers. We went to one of the places where you walk down and fish back to the car. This involves a number of river crossings and I knew the first one was usually quite deep but slow moving. It was too deep to cross so we went up a bit where we could get across but this involved a bit of bush bashing to get down the river. The next crossing had been pretty easy earlier in the season but it too, was too deep to get across. We decided to cross back over between the two deep crossings and bush bash to the paddock and head back to the car with a bit more bush once we got up to the car. The electric fence was definitely on!

We got back to the car an hour after we had left and decided to head up to Cattle Flat. When we got there, there were people and cars everywhere so we headed back down a bit to find a beat that was not occupied. We found a beat that looked pretty good. It involved walking down and fishing back up. We walked a fair way before starting to fish. A later check showed where we started was in fact the start of the beat.

We found a few fish rising as the day went on. Several were missed by all but I did manage to hook up two which came to the net. The first rose to a #14 parachute adams which was really only there as an indicator as I thought it was too big. The second took a #18 cdc emerger. Well before we had fished all of the beat it was time to head back to the car, back to the Lodge to clean up and off home. The rising fish we saw as we walked home were very tempting but getting down to them would have been difficult.

Considering the weather forecast and the above normal river it was a pretty good trip. Not as many fish rising as I had hoped but at least there were some to cast to.



Mataura River on the Sunday afternoon of the April Loge Trip

Cover Photo by John

Lake Wakatipu rainbow caught recently by John.

June Competition Fly by Chris

Parachute Dad's Favourite

The fly for the June Fly Tying Competition is a parachute dad's favourite.

The dad's favourite is a fly that has history in Southland. It is a result of some dark quill spinner flies that were supplied to Hamilton's sports store in Invercargill that were a much lighter colour than they should have been. Almost no one would buy them but one local angler found them to his liking. He would send his boy along to buy them and he would ask for dad's favourite, hence the name. This was a conventional dry fly with quill body and feather wings.



The fly here is a parachute version of the dad's favourite. The body is made from stripped peacock herl. The best way to strip your peacock herl is with an eraser.

The fly in the photos is a bit scruffy but it is the first one I tied and Dave was at me to get it done so he could prepare the Ripples.

Materials:

Hook	Black Magic E14
Thread	Unithread 6/0 dark brown
Tail	Brown cock hackle fibres
Body	Stripped peacock herl
Post	White poly yarn
Hackle	Brown cock hackle.



Peacock herl partly stripped using an eraser.



Run the thread to the bend in the hook and tie in the tail.

Tie in the stripped peacock herl pointing out the back of the fly.

Tie the poly yarn in on top of the hook with about 3 or 4 turns of thread

Pull the two ends of the poly yarn together and run thread up to form a post.



Tie in the hackle up the post.

Build up a tapered body with the thread.

Carefully wind the stripped herl forward with touching wraps. Be careful with it as it is a bit fragile.

Wrap the hackle around the post about 4 turns and tie off around the post. Trim hackle and whip finish under the hackle. Trim thread and cut the post to height.

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

22 nd May	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
25/26 th May	Fishing	Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge
28 th May	MM	
4 th June	CM	Fly Tying
16 th June		Fly Tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am
25 th June	MM	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
2 nd July	CM	Fly tying
30 th July	AGM	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
6 th Aug	CM	Arranging the calendar for the next season
10 th Aug		Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am - Meal at night

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
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- 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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