

“Ripples”

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

September 2024



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



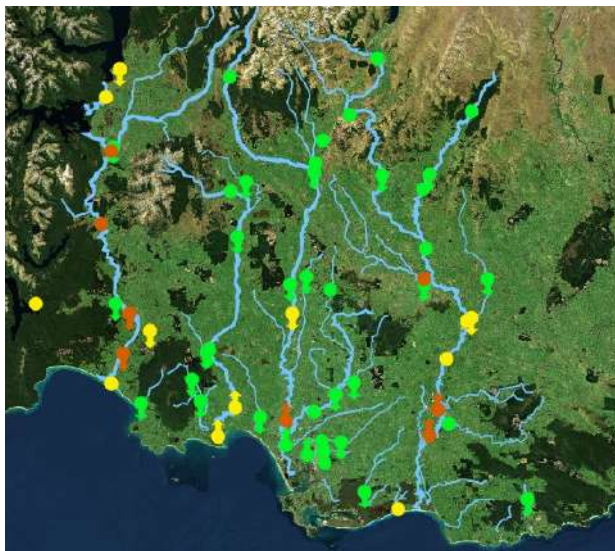
Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

Well the season is just a few days away so hopefully you have all your gear sorted, flies tied and a new fishing licence.

I am not sure what the conditions will be like on opening day. The rivers are all pretty high as I write this (15 days to go) and the weather forecast for the next few days is not encouraging with plenty more rain (and snow) forecast. I haven't planned where I will go opening day as it will depend on the weather forecast and river conditions.

Last year conditions didn't look good and the forecast was not right for fishing. On the 30th September I went for a drive up through Winton, across to Wreys Bush, up to Mossburn and then to Lumsden (where we stopped for coffee) and the only reasonably clear water we saw was at the top of the Aparima but there were strong north westerly winds forecast and this section of river is very exposed to the north west. On opening morning, I headed to the Aparima but a bit further down where the wind would be a bit less of a worry. Conditions were cold and windy and the river was carrying more colour than I like but I did catch fish. Some of which were even spotted. I was off the river by lunch time. Hopefully it will be better this year.



River levels from ES's website
16th September

Even though it isn't fishing season the month has been reasonably busy. We had a fly tying demo at Hunting & Fishing on the first Saturday of the month (and have another on September 21st) from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Gerda joined me for this and we had some interest in the Club, the Fly Fishing Course and the Casting day. Gerda and I also attended the Hunting & Fishing Annual Fishing Night. I got to speak to those present about the Course and the Casting Day so hopefully that will attract some anglers to those.

We didn't get out for our September fishing day as we were going to go to Te Waewae but there was just too much water in the Waiau and the lagoon would have been very high. This means I haven't actually been fishing since my last trip to the Upukerora in May!

We will have our first Lodge trip of the season on the first weekend of October and our first Club trip for the season on October 13th, meeting at Fish & Game, Eye Street, at 7:00am.



Dave tying flies at Hunting & Fishing

Cover Photo

Julie Having fun at the Patagonia Fly Tying Bar in Queenstown, International Women's Fly Fishing Day 2024.

International Women's Fly Fishing Day by Julie

Saturday 14th September was the 5th Annual International Fly Fishing Day for Women. This is celebrated at 11am in every time zone around the globe. What happens is that women post on facebook or instagram a picture of themselves celebrating fly fishing. Fly Fishing is becoming a booming sport for women around the world. In NZ Google reports we have 24% of licences sold to women. There is a world wide movement to encourage more women into the sport.

In Southland this year we were planning to join with the Wakatipu Anglers Club for a forum on Sat 14th rather than do our usual trip to Te Waewae Lagoon or the Mavora lakes. Unfortunately, it did not happen. I arrived at the Queenstown events centre to find the hockey field was still booked for the day but no-one showed. Turned out that the Wakatipu Club in conjunction with Patagonia shop ran a forum for women for several days from September the 7th. Despite good intentions by Patagonia to have a casting day Saturday the 14th for women it did not happen either. This was due to snow, rain and hail the previous couple of days and was cancelled to protect the hockey field.

The weather on the way to Queenstown was shocking with fog to the ground in places and dark rain filled clouds with snow on the hills and road side. Despite this weather on the trip up to Queenstown, Queenstown itself turned on brilliant sunshine for the day. After leaving the events centre somewhat discouraged, I had a lovely morning tea with Arrowtown friends at Millbrook. The sun was shining brightly on the snow that was piled high at the path edges and made it a beautiful place to be.

After this I went to the Patagonia shop and met with Santillan De Pinto who is their Fly Fishing Manager and representative for Patagonia Aotearoa. The Patagonia Fly Tying Bar at their shop is awesome. Definitely worth a visit if in Queenstown. I was amazed at the feathered capes they had. From left to right in the cover picture is a Hungarian Partridge, a Cree, a Badger and a Grizzly cape. Some of these I had never seen before.

Santillan said they had recently advertised a women's event and they had over 25 women attend. 75% of these were under 30 years of age. So, this is great news for women's fly fishing. Santillan also connected me with Leigh Johnson from Women on the Fly. Leigh is actively encouraging women to take up the sport of Fly Fishing. Her web page is <https://womenonthefly.nz>. I'm sure she will be pleased to have contact with anyone interested in this sport.

There is current talk of developing a NZ wide web site linking all women from different areas of NZ that fly fish. In the event of travelling this means easier contacts with women who fly fish. All great news. Also, I found it interesting that the Patagonia shop is very conservation minded. They sell all their flies in a cellulose box that disintegrates if it comes in contact with water. They are also producing and will be available soon unisex waist waders. I am looking forward to seeing them.

All in all, it ended up being a very informative day. I just hope other women that turned up to the events centre during the day found their way to the Patagonia Fly Tying Bar. It's at 49 Beach St, Queenstown.

Again Southland women, i.e. Gerda and myself kicked off the day at 11am by our NZ posts. The International Womens Fly Fishing Day site is well worth a visit to see the awesome fish and rivers around the globe. As coined by social media this is the 'World's biggest Fly Fishing day out.'



Road conditions and Queenstown snow.



Lodge Working Bee by Dave

Just three of us made it to the Lodge for the working bee. Isaac came up with me and David was there when we arrived.

The first job to be done was to replace the smoke detectors that had disappeared. By some good fortune the new ones I had purchased fitted the old base and Isaac soon had the new ones on and installed.

While David worked on a few inside jobs, Isaac and I set about replacing two boards in the deck. This job was not pleasant as it was raining and we don't have any spouting on the building so there was a fair bit of water coming off the roof. However, we managed to get the two old boards out and the new ones screwed down.

We then set about trying to stop the mice getting into the bunk room. They were getting in under the old door and the actual area was covered by carpet that went a little way up the wall. I had seen a mouse disappear over the top off the carpet a couple of years ago so had nailed the carpet to the wall so they couldn't get in. Next visit there was a neat round hole gnawed through the carpet. To see exactly where they were getting in required the carpet to be pulled off the wall and folded back. I had assumed they were getting under the door and had a piece of aluminium that was meant to go across the bottom of the door and be screwed to both the door and the floor. However, they had actually gnawed away part of the frame and a bit of the door so the aluminium did not cover the complete hole. A bit of quick work with the tin snips and we were able to fold the aluminium around the frame. Hopefully, this will slow them down a bit (I am not going to say it will stop them getting in).

I spoke to the farmer and the water is not yet completely connected but the water line is in to the fence and it will be connected before the first Lodge Trip on the first weekend of October. The tank was full so we had water for cleaning etc.

David didn't get the weeds killed around the Lodge as it was way to wet to be spraying weeds and we didn't get as much cleaning done as we should have but it was getting colder and Isaac and I were wet from working outside, so we had lunch and headed for home.



Isaac cleaning spider webs off the wall

The repaired deck



Casting Day - 29th September

We have our annual casting day at Queens Park cricket ground on September 29th starting at 1:00pm. This is a chance to come out and flex your arm before the season starts.

This year we will have Mike Weddell down from Dunedin to help sort out anyone's casting issues. Mike is an expert caster and excellent teacher so it is a good chance to improve your casting.

We will have Club rods along so if you know anyone who is keen to learn to cast but doesn't have gear, get them to come along and have a go with our gear. Last year we had a woman along who was really struggling to cast with her own rod but found it much easier with one of the Club rods. Her rod was an old, heavy fibreglass rod and it was pretty hard to cast with.



Competitions by Gerda

Fly Tying

The fly for the August meeting was a #16 CDC emerger. There were five flies entered and Chris, Dave & Gerda all got equal votes for their flies.

The September fly is Chris's koura as shown in the August Ripples. If you need materials give Dave a call as he has everything you need.



Winning flies from August

Fishing Competition.

The Club Fishing Competitions this year take the same form as in the past. This is an honesty competition where you hand in your cards at the monthly meetings (or any other time you can find me). You were given 7 cards when you paid your subscription and that is one card for each month of the season. You can put more in but you will need to buy more cards from the Secretary to make it through the season.

There are 4 sections – heaviest brown, heaviest rainbow, total weight and condition factor. The first two are easy to figure out, total weight is the total for one fish per month (hence the seven cards) and the condition factor is based on the length and weight of the fish. All entries at a meeting go into the draw for the Hunting & Fishing \$20 gift voucher.

Condition factor calculation is:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight}}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}} \times 100000$$

Weight is in pounds and length is in inches

If you use metric instead of imperial measures it looks like this:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight}}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}} \times 3612.8$$

Weight is in grams and length is in cm.

A very good fish gives a condition factor of 50 – 60. If this calculation gives numbers over this, I get very suspicious of the data.

If you don't measure the length of your fish it is still eligible for all sections except condition factor.

Lodge Trip - 5th, 6th October by Dave

Our first Lodge Trip of the season will be held on the weekend of 5th & 6th October.

Normal procedure for a Lodge Trip is to go up after tea on the Friday and then fish Saturday and Sunday.

Normally we try to share transport as much as possible, both going to and from the Lodge and also for each day's fishing.

Someone (usually me) organises all the food for breakfasts and lunches and we usually go to the Mossburn Hotel for tea on the Saturday evening.

The Lodge has electricity, running water and flush toilet. There are three main rooms, the kitchen, the lounge/dinning room and the bunk room. The bunkroom has 9 bunks but it would be pretty crowded with 9 people. There is a toilet and shower as well a pump room out the back.

The Lodge is at Castlerock, so is close to Lumsden (4 Square supermarket and 24 hour petrol), as well as being not too far from Mossburn (more 24 hour petrol).

Its location is close to the Oreti River, the Aparima and the middle and upper Mataura are not too far away. A little further and you have Mararoa as well.

If you want to come on the October Lodge Trip give me a call on 027 201 6722. If you can't make it for the whole weekend you could just come for one day. This is a great opportunity to get out with more experienced members and to fish rivers that are a bit further away from home.

There will be another Lodge Trip at the start of November. With November 1st (high country opening day) being a Friday it is likely that some of us will make this a three day Lodge Trip. More details next month.



SEASONS PAST

Just to get you in the mood for the season



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

24 th Sept	[MM]	Fish & Game speaker
29 th Sept		Casting Day at Queens Park 1:00pm
1 st Oct		Opening Day (Tuesday)
1 st Oct	(CM)	Fishing Stories & Fly Tying
5/6 th Oct	Fishing	Lodge Trip [Weekend at the Lodge]
13 th Oct	Fishing	Club Day Trip meet at Fish & Game – 7am
23 rd Oct	Fishing	Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
29 th Oct	[MM]	
1 st Nov		High Country Opening (Friday)
2/3 rd Nov	Fishing	Club Trip [Weekend at the Lodge] - High Country Opening

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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