

“Ripples”

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

November 2024



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

Well at last it looks like the weather is starting to come right and the river conditions are improving. As I type this it is fine and sunny (and calm) outside so I should be out fishing, not preparing a newsletter.

We finally managed to hold a Club fishing trip with the November Lodge Trip going ahead as planned. The November day trip didn't happen. I am not sure what happened as I was busy at home and completely forgot about it but nobody called and asked what was going on so I presume everybody else forgot about it as well.

As well as the Lodge Trip I have had a couple of outings but fish have been hard to find. Gerda and I went up and had a look at a couple of spots on the Mataura in the Riversdale area late in October. The river was up a bit and had some colour making spotting a bit tricky. I only spotted a few fish but one came to the net. A typical Mataura brown. In the first week of November I took Gerda to the Hamilton Burn and we fished a reasonable length of river. Fish were few and far between and not keen on anything we tried. Unfortunately there were no fish rising where I had found them rising a couple of weeks before. I had two days fishing with Nigel Juby (Chairman of the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council) and his son Leo and have covered this elsewhere in this Ripples. My final trip for the last month was a day out on the Aparima in the best conditions I have found all season. I went to one of my favourite spots and found the river quite a bit different from last year. I managed to hook three fish, two of which came to the net.

Later this week secretary/treasurer Chris is scheduled for heart surgery in Dunedin and I am sure you all will wish him well with the surgery and his recovery. This means I am going to need a volunteer secretary to take the minutes at the November Club meeting.

What have we got coming up. The monthly meeting on November 26th, there is a mid-week trip on November 27th (let me know on 0272016722 if you want to come) and a Club trip on December 8th. On into January there is a Club trip on January 12th, a night on the river at Coal Pit Road on January 14th, a mid-week trip on January 22nd and our Fly Fishing Course on January 25th & 26th.

Finally this is the last Ripples before Christmas so I wish you all a great festive season.

First Fly by Kim

The first of October is always an exciting day for anglers, as it marks the opening of a new fishing season. This year, it also coincided with the Southland Fly Fishing Club's committee meeting, which, as tradition holds, included a fly-tying session.

For me, it was an extra special day—it was my very first club meeting with the Southland Fly Fishing Club, and it also marked my debut in fly-tying. Under the guidance of Dave Harris, I attempted to tie my first hare and copper nymph. Watching Dave's skilful hands, it all seemed deceptively easy, but when it was my turn, I wasn't so sure I could pull it off.

After a slightly shaky start and a few moments of wondering if my eyesight was failing me (maybe the lighting didn't help!), I finally managed to produce something vaguely resembling the right shape and colour. Admittedly, it looked like it had been through a few rounds with a fly swat, but hey—I had tied my first fly!

Upon inspection by Chris, he gave me a nod of approval, saying it wasn't the worst first attempt he'd seen. I'll take that as a win!

Rough around the edges as it was, the fly was mine, and I can't wait for the moment when I tie it onto my line and (hopefully) catch a fish with it. That's the plan, at least!



November Lodge Trip Part 1 by Dave

It looked like there would be just myself and Isaac on the Saturday of the November Lodge Trip with Chris joining us for the Sunday. At the very last minute, Zanda called to say he was keen to come. I had already bought the food and calculated that I had enough of most items and managed to grab a few more things from home to ensure that we were well feed.

While packing my car Isaac realised he hadn't packed his fishing rod so he called his mother who set out from Otatarā with said rod and we meet her halfway, then it was off to the Lodge.

The weather forecast for Saturday was pretty poor but, once I had made lunches, we set off to look at the Upukerora River. It was up a bit but carrying far too much colour to fish, especially sight fish. Next stop the Whitestone River. It looked pretty good. The weather was not so good with lots of cloud and the threat of rain. We fished some distance up the river but finding fish was difficult and with weather conditions getting worse we decided to head back to the Lodge.

Once back at the Lodge Zanda showed us a photo of a black stonefly nymph he had spotted on the riverside stones. I found this interesting as I have seen green stonefly adults on the Whitestone River and have had considerable success with green stonefly nymphs there. He then asked what fly tying gear I had with me. I replied everything and he asked if he could have a go at tying a stonefly like the one in his photo. He occupied himself for some time tying flies that looked pretty good and I am sure he is keen to try them.

We headed to the Mossburn Hotel for dinner to be greeted by the friendly ladies there. They had a new menu and I didn't ask about the mixed grill that I usually have. The only problem I had is that I had to drive back to the Lodge as neither of the boys have drivers licences so I had to limit my beers.

Back at the Lodge, Chris finally arrived and we discussed where to go the next day. The Von River sounded like a good idea although it is a long way to go if it isn't in good condition.

Up the next morning (not too early) and I made lunches for myself, Isaac and Zanda (Chris had come prepared). Then it was off to the Von River. The weather looked good and the ford across the Gorge Burn was

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Stonefly nymph on the Whitestone River



Zanda's artificial

Cover Photo by Chris

Zanda with his Von Lake rainbow.

November Lodge Trip Part 1 (cont)

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about normal depth and clear. When we reached the bridge across the Von River, the river looked normal and clear. Unfortunately when we got to the top of the lower gorge where Chris likes to fish there was far too much water and it was too coloured for sight fishing. After some discussion Chris decided he would like to go to the Von Lake and Zanda decided to join him.

I decided to take Isaac to the top of the second gorge and fish up from there. Unfortunately there was a car there when we got back after dropping Chris and Zanda off so we had to go a bit further up. From where we parked it was quite a long walk down a side stream to the river. When we finally got to the river it was in good condition so all we had to do now was find some fish. As seems to be normal we spotted a few things that looked like fish but were stones or weed but after a long walk we finally spotted a fish. I dropped down into the river but could not see the fish from where I could cast and then two fish shot up from below me into the pool I had seen one in to start with, so no luck there. Next I spotted a single fish in a good position to cast to and Isaac had a go at this but unfortunately it spooked and was gone. A bit further up and I spotted three fish in a pool. Two looked to be fighting so my guess is that it was two males and a female and that they had not yet spawned. I had a few casts at them and finally had a hook up but the fish was foul hooked. It came to the bank pretty easily and I sent it back on its way. It looked like there were no fish further down as they were still up the top of the river and hadn't finished spawning. Had we gone in a bit further up I am sure there would have been plenty of fish but I think they would have had other things on their mind.

By then it was time to head back to the car to meet up with the others. It was quite a long walk back to the car and as we neared the road we had to climb a very steep bank. I discovered one of my boots was loose on this bank but couldn't do anything about it until we reached the top. A new boot lace cured the problem and we finally made it back to the car. We were slightly late to the meeting point but the others weren't there. I finally spotted them in the distance and they finally made it back to the car.

So that was another Lodge Trip. Not a great trip fish wise but it was good to get out.

November Lodge Trip Part 2 by Chris

Things aligned so that I could join Dave, Isaac and Zanda for the second day of the lodge trip. I headed to the lodge on Saturday night. After a leisurely breakfast we headed up country.

Signs looked good. The fords were at normal height and clear. The upper river looked perfect at the bridge. Unfortunately, it got higher and slightly coloured from there down. At the turnback point it was clear the lower river was far too high to wade so we decided to go back upstream. Unfortunately, several other leisurely stater had filled in some of the spots behind us. Dave picked a spot for him and Isaac while I decided to take Zanda to the wee lake that I hadn't fished for several years.

We were dropped off and walked in to the lake. It was fairly low and had a lot less nuisance vegetation around the edges. Told Zanda where the good spots were. He went left and I went right. He only had a few casts and he was on to one. After a short fight a typical 2.5lb rainbow was landed. His first rainbow on the fly.

As often happens on trips the early fish was the only one we landed for the day. We each had a couple of opportunities but that was it. When it was time to head out, we were at opposite ends of the lake so we were a few minutes late to the pickup.

Dave had found another vehicle where they wanted to fish so they had driven back up the road and walked down creek to the river. They found the going tough. No fish sighted till mid afternoon and nothing landed.

Ah well better luck next time.

A Couple of Days at the Lodge by Dave

When I was first sent to the New Zealand Fish & Game Council the Auckland/Waikato appointee was Nigel Juby. Of all the councillors on the council I found my views aligned with his more than anyone and we had a lot of communication outside of meetings. He has not been on the NZ F&G Council for three years but has been chairman of the Auckland/Waikato Council for that time. He works implanting embryos into cows and does this throughout the country. This gives him the opportunity to fish in all parts of the land. He contacted me and said he would be in Southland in early November and was bringing his son Leo with him and would like to go fishing.

I booked the Lodge for a couple of nights and they were there before I was. I told him how to get in and get the power on and they were quite settled when I arrived about 8pm. Plan for the next day was to go fishing, taking both cars so Nigel could head away mid-afternoon to do some work while Leo and I would continue fishing and then head to the Mossburn pub for dinner.

I decided the Upper Mataura was probably the best bet for fishing. We headed into Nokomai and found a suitable beat to fish. River conditions were far from perfect but it was fishable. Nigel crossed the river to fish the other side while Leo and I stayed on the road side. Nigel is a keen euro-nympher so his gear and methods were a bit unusual to me. He fished along the edge and had a hookup reasonably quickly but lost the fish. I spotted some fish in what was almost a backwater and soon had a fish on the bank. Leo used my camera to take a photo and we continued on our way. Nigel also managed to land a fish.

We got to the end of the beat and there were a couple of other anglers just starting the next beat and one had a nice fish on the bank. I checked their licences and it was good to have one compliment the beat system that Fish & Game has on the Upper Mataura.

It was still early so we headed to another beat (these beats are only about 1.5km long). Nigel fished with us for a while then headed off to work while Leo and I moved on. Leo landed a fish and I went to take a photo but my camera wasn't in my vest. We discussed this and Leo said it may be in his waders as he was the last to use it and they were in Nigel's car. No more fish but it had been a good day.

I took Leo to the Mossburn Pub for dinner and just after we sat down two others came into the dining room and they looked like fishermen. I invited them to join us and they did. They were from South Australia and were here for a week's fishing. I mentioned the Southland Fly fishing Club and one said he read the Ripples newsletter. This was a bit of a surprise for me and I mentioned that I prepared the newsletter. We talked fishing over dinner and then I saw Chris Dore at the bar. He had brought his wife out for dinner and we all had a chat when he came into the dining room.

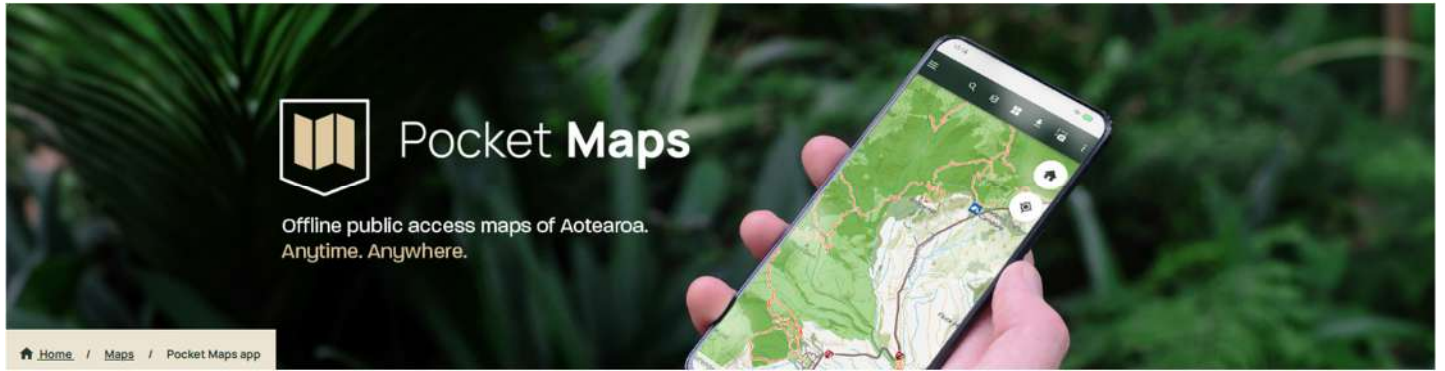
When Nigel finally arrived back at the Lodge we checked for the missing camera but there was no sign of it.

The next morning we decided to go back to the beat we had started on the day before to see if the camera had been left on the riverside. It didn't take long and the camera was found where I had landed my fish the day before. After a short discussion we decided to go to a different beat and away we went. The new beat provided fish for Nigel and Leo but I was out of luck. I did spot some but they weren't sticking around. Mid-afternoon it was time for Nigel and Leo to head off to Nigel's next job in Balclutha so we headed back to the Lodge, cleaned up and headed home.



Dave his Mataura brown

Pocket Maps App by Dave



With some of the Fish & Game access signs being removed even where they provide access via unformed public roads or other public access areas, I was thinking that it would be good to have an app on my phone that showed both the public access areas and where I was via GPS location. I went on line to the Herenga nuku (Walking Access Commission) website and found an app I didn't know existed. It provided exactly what I was looking for, bringing up a map showing public access areas and your location. You can find this at the App Store or Google Play depending on your phone's operating system. It is free so download it now.

Once you have the app installed you can download the regions you want to use on to your phone and this saves downloading the map data every time you want to use the app and allows you to use it when you don't have cell phone coverage. To do this you need to open the map region you want and then tap the download icon. Once you have downloaded it you will be able to select offline maps when you open the app and your downloaded maps will be listed.

Competitions by Gerda

Only two members put in fish cards at the October meeting. Surely more members have caught fish so can put their cards in. Julie won the draw for the \$20 Hunting & Fishing voucher. Remember you can put in your cards for any month at any meeting to go into the draw.



The Von River taken on the November Lodge Trip. While the river looks small the rainbows spawn above here.

A nice Aparima brown



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

20 th Nov		Mid-week trip - Dave Harris 027 201 6722
26 th Nov	MM	
3 rd Dec	CM	Fly Tying
8 th Dec		Club Trip , Catlins – Meet at Fish & Game 7:00am
19 th Dec	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
12 th Jan	Fishing	Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game – 7am
14 th Jan	Fishing	On the River, Tuesday straight after work, Coal Pit Rd
22 rd Jan	Fishing	Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
25/26 th Jan		Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel
28 th Jan	MM	

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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- 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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