

# “Ripples”

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

April 2025

[www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)



Next Club Meeting - April 29th 7:30pm

Fish & Game Office, 17 Eye Street



# Southland Fly Fishing Club

## President's Report by Dave

Not a lot of Club activity over the last month. I was on my own on the March Mid-week Trip and there was no one out for the April Club Trip. We do have a Mid-week Trip scheduled for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and a lodge Trip scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. If you want to go on either of these give me a ring (027 201 6722). Providing the weather looks suitable and the rivers fishable I will be going. Remember the season for the main rivers closes on April 30<sup>th</sup> and that is not far away. As I am writing this, all the main rivers are rising after the rain on Easter Saturday. The Aparima has risen sharply but the Oreti, Mataura and Waikaia have only risen slightly so hopefully they will be fishable by the 23<sup>rd</sup>. At this time of the year the water tends to start to cool and this can result in some good mayfly hatches in the afternoon with a reasonable number of fish rising to the mayflies making for good dry fly fishing.

The May monthly meeting will be the first night of our Fly Tying Competition. The fly for May is covered in this Ripples and is Zanda's big hair bugger. Zanda will demonstrate this fly at the April meeting so come along and see how to tie it (and to steal some materials off him if you haven't got what is required). We haven't decided on the other four flies for the competition so if you have a good pattern that you tie that would be suitable let me know and we will include it. Also, if there is a fly that you want to know how to tie, we could include that as well. Just let me know what it is and we will include it.

The April meeting is the last night for the fish card draw so if you have some cards for fish you have caught (any month of the season) get them in to Gerda at (or before) the meeting to be in the draw for the Hunting & Fishing \$20 gift card. It doesn't matter how big the fish is, you are in with the same chance. It just needs to be a fish you have caught on a fly in Southland or Otago.

I have only been out three times in the last month. Apart from the Mid-week Trip (reported else where in this Ripples) I have been out to the Aparima a couple of times.

The first trip was early April and I headed to one of my favourite spots. It wasn't a bad day weatherwise although the sun spent most of the day hiding behind the clouds. The Aparima is not the easiest river to spot fish

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It's autumn on the Aparima River



## President's Report (cont)

*(Continued from page 2)*

in so it is mainly blind casting to likely looking water. However, at this time of the year you can expect to see some fish rising to mayfly duns. I hadn't gone far when I had a good hookup on a reasonable size fish but it was only teasing me and was soon gone. The line pinged out and tangled itself so I had to spend some time sorting that out. Once sorted I looked at the river and was sure I could see the shape of a fish. Two casts later and the fish was on. A typical Aparima brown at just over 4lbs. With trees in the background here spotting looked pretty easy and sure enough I thought I could see another fish a little further up the river. I started to move towards it but spotted another before I got there. Once again, a couple of casts and the fish was on. Another nice fish but a little smaller. I then headed up to where I thought I had seen the next fish but it turned out to be a couple of stones on the river bed. The next section of the river was wide and shallow with no trees on the other side so spotting was impossible. I was on a high bank but dropped down into the river when I noticed a couple of fish rising. As soon as I stepped into the river, I saw a bow wave as a fish headed away from close to the bank. I spent some time casting to a couple of fish that were rising and as I moved up, I spooked a couple more that I had not seen. They were just bow waves in the shallow water. From here it just went quiet until late in the day when I had a hard take on my nymph in likely looking water. No need to strike this one, just let some line out so it didn't break off. Another typical Aparima brown and this one tipped the scales to 4½lb. Time to head back to the car and away home.

My second trip was on Good Friday. Once again it was overcast so spotting was going to be difficult. To make it worse the river was up a bit and the water was a bit dark. Straight away I saw a small fish rise once. It didn't rise again so I stuck with my dry dropper rig. I had a hook up as I was moving up river with the nymph trailing downstream. It was a small fish and I suspect it was the one that had risen. It didn't stay on long. A little further up I had a repeat as I moved up. Another small fish on the nymph trailing downstream. It too dropped off. A little further up I was on a bank and spotted a fish swimming slowly upstream. It was in quite shallow water (too shallow for the nymph I was using) but it wasn't going to stick around long enough for me to change nymphs so I cast to it anyway. After several casts it drifted out of sight. A bit further up I checked out a backwater and briefly spotted a fish. I cast in its direction but soon lost sight of it due to the ripple on the water. I never saw it again. After lunch I was fishing a likely looking ripple and a fish rose to my dry. Once again it wasn't very big and soon came to the net. It was about 1lb. I continued up the river before coming to a place where I needed to cross but couldn't see how deep the water was. I stopped here looking upstream as there were a number of terns taking mayflies and I expected fish to start rising anytime. No such luck with no sign of any fish. It was also starting to rain so I decided to head back down rather than tackle a challenging river crossing. All the way back to the car I had terns taking mayflies but no fish rising.

## Club 50th Anniversary Dinner - August 9th, 2025

According to Secretary/Treasurer Chris the Southland Fly Fishing Club is fifty years old this year. We are planning to have an anniversary dinner and all present and past Club Members will be invited. Planning is only at the initial stages but we have set the date of Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. This is the same day as our August Fly Tying Day so you can come to both the Fly Tying Day and the Dinner. If you are interested in coming to the dinner, let Chris (027423 7016) know so we can get an idea of numbers to help with our planning. Further details to follow as we progress with the planning.

## Cover Photo by Dave

Worsley River, Fiordland. The Worsley is one of Southland F&G's controlled fisheries and you need to enter a ballot to get to fish the river. Access is difficult as it is about 30km up Lake Te Anau from the nearest road or boat ramp. Season is November 1 to May 31.

## March Mid-week Trip by Dave

Nobody contacted me about the March Mid-week Trip but I went on my own.

Initially I headed up to the Lodge as there were a couple of things to sort out after my stay there a couple of weeks previously. When I arrived, I saw a small tabby cat disappear under the deck. I had seen the same cat when I was there previously so it looks like it may be in residence. I guess it will keep the mice down. There are no native birds in the area so it shouldn't cause any harm.

Once finished at the Lodge I headed across and had a look at the Mataura at the Ardlussa bridge. It was carrying quite a bit of colour but did look fishable. I headed up the far side of the river but didn't find anywhere to get into the river. Just past a gate there were two cars parked that looked like they were fishing. There were no F&G signs but that is the same around this area as someone has taken them all down. I didn't have any cell phone coverage so couldn't use the Pocket Maps app to find where there was public access. I went back down and across the bridge and headed up towards Cattle Flat.

I stopped at a place I have fished many times, got set up and headed across to the river. I immediately spotted a fish close in to the bank in some slack water. A couple of casts and it was gone. The water was clear enough for me to cross (just) and I went up the other side. It soon became apparent that, unless a fish rose, I wasn't going to see anything. I did see a rise well across the river but within casting distance. I had a number of casts but the fish didn't rise again so I moved up a bit. After blind casting in a couple of spots I decided I needed to be somewhere where I might spot some fish, so I headed back to the car.

I decided the Oreti might be better so headed across to Lumsden. The river was clear but it was a bit windy. I managed to spot a fish in a side stream close to some willows. I saw it heading down and it was chasing another fish. It soon came back and was rising to something very small. With the wind rippling the surface it was very hard to see and I kept losing sight of it. I did manage to get a fly over it several times but it wasn't interested in what I was offering. I moved on up the river, casting into some likely spots without success. Finally, I spotted a fish rising close to the willows. This was a good spot to be casting as the willows provided shelter from the wind. The fish was rising well but no matter what I offered it there was no response. I could occasionally see what it was taking but not well enough to know what it was. I spent an hour casting to this fish with it not even looking at anything I offered. I still don't know what it was taking but I suspect it may have been willow grubs. After an hour casting to this fish and with no more ideas of what fly to try, it was time to head back down the river and head for home.

## Competitions by Gerda

### **Fish Competition**

April is the last month to get your fish cards in for the fish competition and have those cards go in the draw for a \$20 Hunting & Fishing gift card. We need some more cards in to stop Dave or Chris winning all of the gift cards. The card just needs to be for a fish caught on a fly in either Southland or Otago. Any size of fish can win the gift card as it is drawn from a hat so all have equal chance.

I will still accept cards to go in the annual competitions up until the June Meeting so if you have some that you can't get to me by the April Meeting, you can still get them in the annual competitions.

### **Fly Tying Competition**

The fly tying competition starts at the May Meeting. The fly for the May meeting is Zanda's big hair bugger. Instructions are in this Ripples and Zanda will demonstrate it at the April Meeting.

We are still looking for what flies to tie for the rest of the competition so if you have any ideas let Dave or myself know. It could be something you tie and use or something you want to know how to tie. If you have something you want to know how to tie let us know and someone will be able to figure out how to tie it and then show everyone else as part of the competition. It does not have to be a fancy fly and could be a dry, a nymph, a wee wet or a streamer.

## May Competition Fly by Zanda

### Big Hair Bugger

#### Materials:

Hook	Kamasan B830 #6
Head	Small cone head (bead) gold
Thread	Unithread 6/0 black
Tail	Black marabou, blue flashabou
Body	Black chenille
Hackle	Grizzly hackle
Wing	Black chenille
Dubbing	black UV dubbing



1. Slide cone head onto hook and put hook in vice.



2. Run thread to the bend of the hook.



3. Tie in black marabou and blue flashabou tail.



4. Tie in black chenille and hackle at the bend of the hook.



5. Wrap chenille forward to the cone and wrap hackle over the top.



6. Tie in black marabou wing.



7. Dub immediately behind head with black uv dubbing. Whip finish and apply small amount of head cement.



From My Season by Dave



Early season Aparima brown.

Nice brown from the Upper Mataura



Very low Upper Mararoa in January.

23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
26/27 <sup>th</sup> April	Fishing	Lodge Trip (End of Season)
29 <sup>th</sup> April	MM	
6 <sup>th</sup> May	CM	Fly Tying
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Fishing	<b>Club Day Trip</b> , meet at Fish & Game 10am, to the lower Mataura
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
24/25 <sup>th</sup> May	Fishing	Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge
27 <sup>th</sup> May	MM	
3 <sup>th</sup> June	CM	Fly Tying
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Fly tying	Fly Tying day

### Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)
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*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](mailto: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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