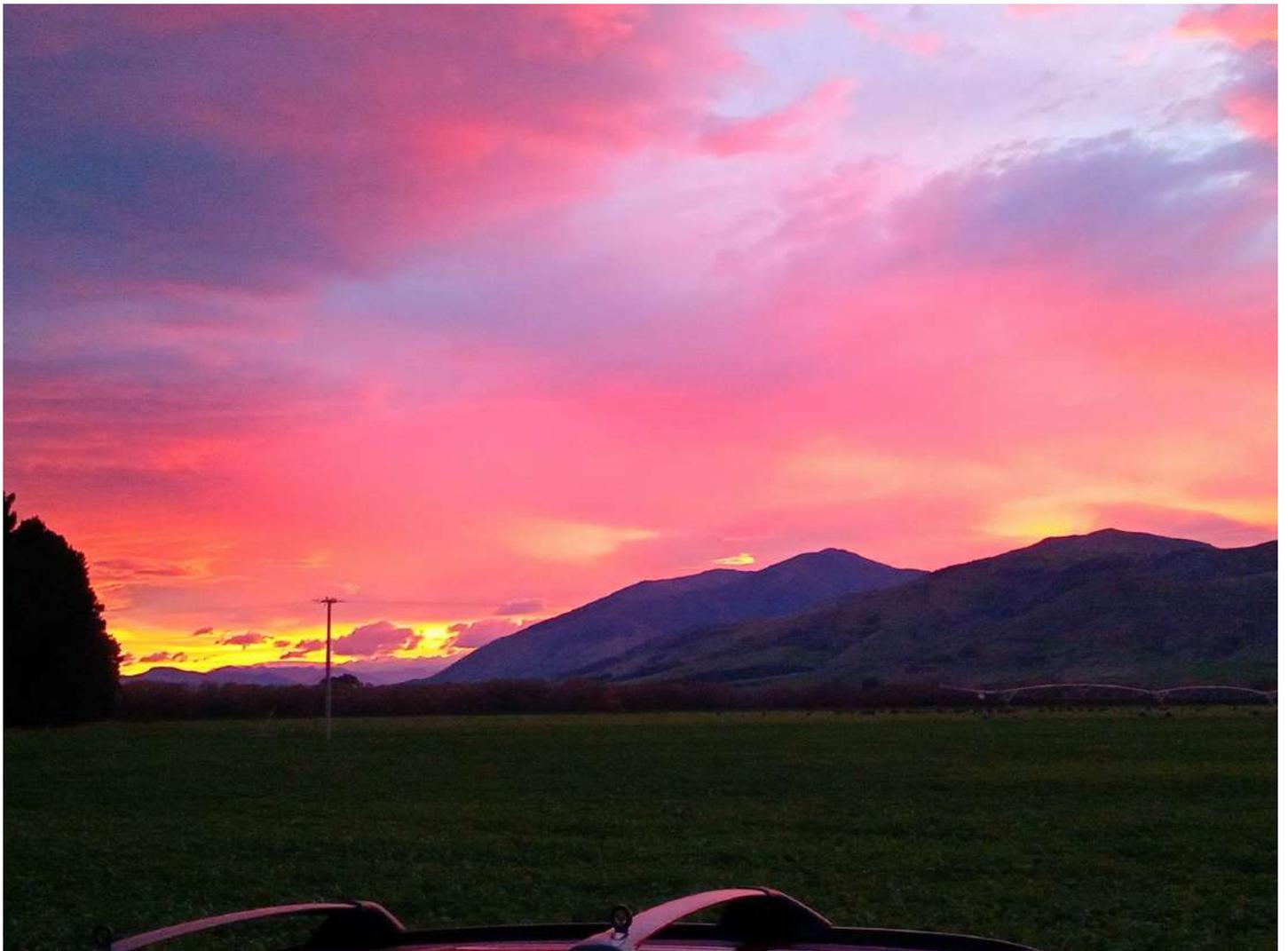


# “Ripples”

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

May 2025

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



Next Club Meeting - May 27th 7:30pm

Fish & Game Office, 17 Eye Street



## Southland Fly Fishing Club

## President's Report by Dave

Well, the season for our main rivers is over. The Mataura is still open from Gore down (and is open all year from Mataura Island downstream) and I have made one trip to it this month. It was only a short afternoon trip and the river had more colour than I like so spotting was impossible. There was no sign of any fish rising and no action at all.

I have also had one trip up to the Upukerora. The river level looked a little up from when I last fished it at the end of April but the water was reasonably clear, just a slight brown tinge that was only noticeable in the deep pools. Unfortunately, the sun decided to hide behind clouds all day and there was a downstream breeze that didn't help spotting. As you can imagine spotting brown fish in a river with a slight brown tinge and brown stones was not at all easy without any sun. However, I did spot a reasonable number of fish. The first fish came to the net after only a couple of casts and I hooked both of the next two that were reasonably close together but both came off. The second of these was clearly foul hooked as it went like a train and when the hook pulled it had a couple of scales on it. The final one I hooked broke off and I think it was a rainbow. I also saw a number of fish that had spooked before I saw them and others that just wouldn't have anything to do with my fly. As I write this the river is up again after rain but hopefully it will drop enough to allow a trip back up later in the week.

The May day trip to the Mataura didn't go ahead. Julie was keen but the river was just too high, much higher than I had found it a bit dirty a few days before so the trip was cancelled.

We still have a couple of things coming up before all the rivers are closed above the tidal reaches at the end of the month. We have a Lodge Trip planned for the weekend of May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and a mid-week trip planned for May 28<sup>th</sup>. If you want to go on either of these give me a call on 027 201 6722.

We also have a Fly Tying Day coming up on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

At our June meeting we will have our annual photo competition. This is early warning to give you a chance to sort out your photos from the season and get them printed.

Also a reminder that we have a fly tying day on August 9<sup>th</sup> and this will be followed by our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner that night.

## Fly Tying Day - June 15<sup>th</sup>

We have the first of our winter fly tying days on June 15<sup>th</sup> 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 some 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 some flies for the following months and will be able to demonstrate them.

## Cover Photo by Dave

Shepard's warning. April Lodge Trip, first morning at the Lodge. Turned out to be quite a good day in spite of the red sunrise.

## April Lodge Trip by Dave

Not a lot of interest in the April Lodge trip so I went on my own. Friday was ANZAC day so I did my shopping on Thursday evening and was ready to go Friday morning.

Once at the Lodge I had quite a mess of flies to clean up and once these were sorted, I headed up to the Upper Mataura. I went to a beat above Garston and much to my surprise there was no-one there. Once set up I headed to the beat sign I could see indicating the bottom of the beat. I expected to see fish on a drop off there but there was nothing to be seen. However, just around the corner I spotted a couple of fish. They were quite close together so I had to cast above the top one and let the nymph drift past both. After a few casts the back fish took the nymph and I was hooked up. However, the hook pulled and the fish was gone. The other fish had spooked so I moved on but not far as I soon spotted two more fish. They weren't keen on anything I offered them. I continued up the beat but there were not a lot of fish to be spotted and those that were either took off or ignored the fly. I was expecting to see an end of beat sign on the side of the river but didn't find one. Turns out I didn't actually fish the whole beat. There were some places on this beat that had been good in the past but there was no sign of fish there this trip.

Once back down to the car I decided to have a look at the river just downstream from Athol. Unfortunately, there were three anglers there just setting off so I headed back towards the Lodge. I decided to stop and have a look at the Irthing Stream. The light was starting to fade but I spotted a fish as soon as I got to the stream but it had already seen me and was gone in an instant. I didn't go far as the sun was getting pretty low in the sky and that made it impossible to see into the water. Had a few casts but decided to head back to the car and back to the Lodge for dinner.

Once back at the Lodge it was time to clean up the flies again. I did this three times during the evening but there seemed to be a lot less by the time I went to bed. I turned on the TV and got a message that there was a problem with the satellite dish. I went outside and found the cable had come out of the LNB so there was no signal getting to the receiver. Standing on a chair I could just reach up managed to push the cable back in to the connector on the LNB. I wasn't hopeful of it working but without a ladder that was the best I could do. Went back inside and the TV was going but some channels were not available. Next visit up there I will take a ladder and put a new connector on the cable. Not sure what I need to do to get the channels all working. I suspect it is something to do with a change of satellite for freeview.

*(Continued on page 4)*



Weather looking a bit threatening on the Upukero-ra on the Sunday of the April Lodge Trip.

## April Lodge Trip (cont)

*(Continued from page 3)*

Saturday morning I headed back to the Upper Mataura and I fished two different beats for the day but fish were hard to find and those I did find were not co-operative at all. There were still a lot of anglers around but at least there were some vacant beats.

Once back at the Lodge I had more flies to clean up but no where near as many as had been there on Friday.

After a tough day it was time to head to the Mossburn Pub for dinner. First person I spotted in the bar was Chris Dore so I joined him for a beer. Ronan Crean and his client also joined us. Chris said he had had a great day fishing (not guiding) below Cattle Flat, catching plenty of fish. He did say the water was quite coloured but still fishable. After Chris headed off, I joined Ronan and his client for dinner. We discussed where to go the next day over dinner. Ronan was taking his client to fish the Pomahaka the next day. They had the hut booked on Hukarere Station. He made some suggestions on where I should be able to find fish.

After a lot of thought on Saturday night I decided to head to the Upukerora River on Sunday to find some water that hadn't been hammered all season. There was no one there when I arrived so it looked pretty good. I decided to walk downstream and fish back up to the car. There were no fish in the first pool but it wasn't long before I spotted three browns in some shallow water. I suspect these were lake browns heading up the river to spawn. I managed to get my fly caught up in some vegetation before I had even cast and by the time I sorted that out there was no sign of the fish. A bit further up and I spotted a rainbow in some fast water. A couple of casts and it was on and after a tough fight it came to the net. After a couple of days of not catching anything it felt really good to land a fish. Not far up I spotted another rainbow in a shallow side stream just where it flowed into the main current. It was way too shallow for my nymph, so I cut that off and just cast my dry fly. The fish moved to the fly and looked to have taken it but there was nothing when I lifted. The fish was still there so I cast again. Once again it rose to the fly and this time I hooked up when I lifted. It ran a little way upstream and then out into the middle of the river and headed down. About level with me it came off. There were a number of deeper pools and I spotted fish in most of these but they weren't taking anything until I finally managed to land a brown from one. My final fish for the day was another rainbow that I spotted in a run.

As I was getting close to the car I spotted another angler. We had quite a long chat as he was an ex-Fish & Game Councillor from South Canterbury. It was his first time on the Upukerora but he hadn't seen anything. We walked back to our cars together and while we were talking three young lads came off the river and one was quite proud of the rainbow he had caught.

From here it was back to the Lodge to cleanup and head home.



10 years ago. Fishing the Greenstone with Les.

## 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 Zanda's big hair bugger 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.

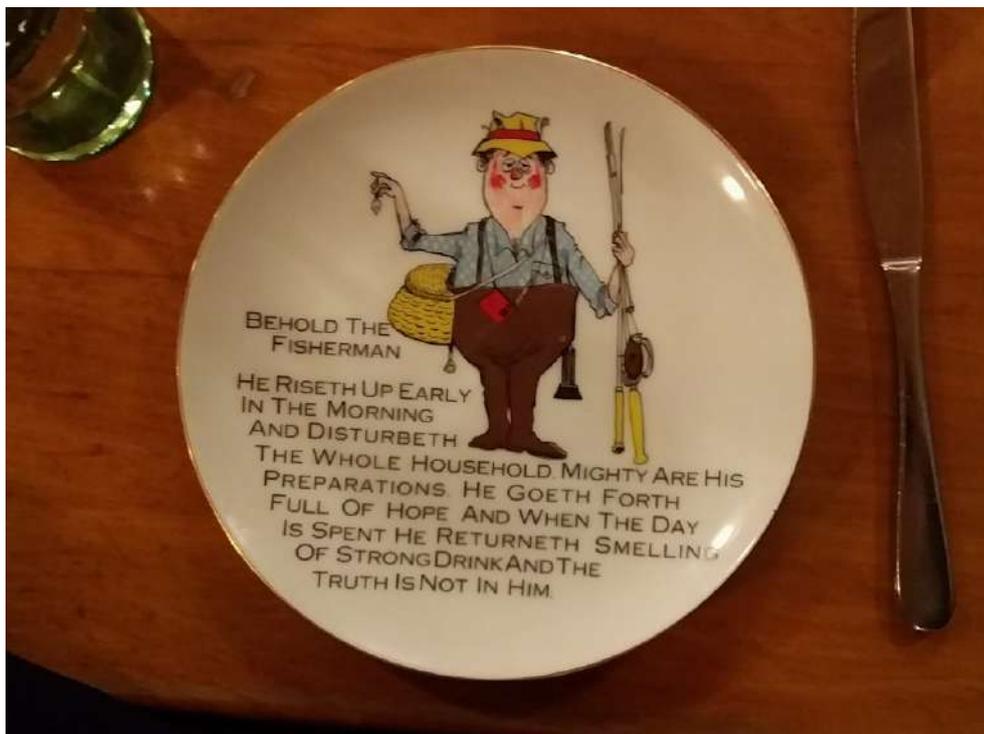
We are still sorting out the flies for this off season. If you have one you would like to see in the competition let me know even if you don't know how to tie it. The June fly will be Dave's dobsonfly nymph and instructions follow in this Ripples.

### Photo Competition

Our annual photo competition will be held at the June meeting. There are four categories - trophy, scenic, action and general. Members chose which category their photos are and can enter up to three photos in each category. Photos are to be from the past season (or at least from the past 12 months) and are to be as they come off the camera. **Prints are to be 5" x 7"**. Judging will be by member vote and there will be a Hunting & Fishing voucher for the winner of each category.

## 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.



# June Competition Fly by Dave

## Dobsonfly Nymph

The dobsonfly or toe biter is the largest of our aquatic insect larvae. It is big enough that it can actually be used a bait when fishing for trout. It lives in clean rocky streams and is generally available to trout all season.

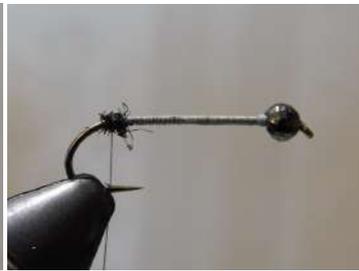
This pattern has not been tested. For deeper water you may wish to add some lead in the thorax to make it sink faster.

### Materials:

Hook	Kamasan B800 #10 (4x long hook)
Bead	3.5mm black tungsten
Thread	Unithread gray 6/0 and black 6/0
Tail	Black goose biots
Abdomen	Medium gray vinyl rib and grey ostrich herl
Dubbing	Black glister dub



Slide bead onto hook, put hook in vice and run gray thread from the bead to the bend of the hook.



Tie in a small ball of dubbing at the bend of the hook.



Tie in two goose biots, one sticking out each side.



Tie in the black thread out the back of the fly and hang bobbin over vice.



Take two ostrich herls and run your fingers down so the spines stick out sideways.



Tie in the ostrich herls, one on each side pointing out the back of the fly.



Tie in some gray vinyl rib on top of the fly so it sticks out the back. Tie with flat side up.



Wind the vinyl rib forward and tie off. Whip finish the gray thread.



Pull the herl forward along each side and tie in with the black thread running the thread between the turns of vinyl rib.



Dub the thorax.



Whip finish and apply cement.



Pluck out some of the dubbing to form legs.

24/25 <sup>th</sup> May	Fishing	Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge
27 <sup>th</sup> May	MM	
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
3 <sup>th</sup> June	CM	Fly Tying
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Fly tying	Fly Tying day
24 <sup>th</sup> June	MM	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
1 <sup>st</sup> July	CM	Fly tying
29 <sup>th</sup> July	AGM	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)
5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	CM	Arranging the calendar for the next season
9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Fly tying	Fly tying day – Fish and Game 9:00am
9 <sup>th</sup> Aug		50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

### 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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- Editor Dave Harris [daveharris823@gmail.com](mailto: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](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



#### **Disclaimer:**

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