

# “Ripples”

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

September 2025

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



Next Club Meeting - September 30th - 7:30pm    Fish & Game Office, 17 Eye Street



## Southland Fly Fishing Club

## President's Report by Dave

Well, the season is only a few days away now so if you aren't ready you need to get on with your preparations. I have bought my licence (same price as last year) as well a new line (much more expensive than the last one) and some new sun gloves but I still have some old lines to clean that I will still use. I have a reasonable supply of flies. I was getting short of royal wulffs but that was sorted by tying some during our fly tying demonstrations at Hunting & Fishing. I still need to check what tippet material I have and to make sure it is still in a good state. The only other thing is to decide where to go on opening day but I can't make that decision until I know the weather forecast and the river conditions.

We had two winter outings planned over the past month and the one in late August went ahead in good conditions but the one a couple of weeks ago didn't take place due to the weather conditions. It wasn't the only event that the weather stopped with Julie's International Women's Fly Fishing Day being a non-starter due to the weather.

The two fly tying days at Hunting & Fishing went ahead with Gerda and I tying flies. There wasn't as much interest as I had hoped but we did have some people who were interested in our upcoming casting day and next year's fly fishing course. There didn't seem to be as many customers in the shop as I expected and this could have been because of the weather but also could have been because of the tough economic times.

We also had a working bee at the Lodge. Isaac came up with me and David came up a little later. The main tasks were to get the TV working again, try and fix the overflowing (very slightly) water tank and a general clean up. The cable to the satellite dish had come off due to a broken connector and the receiver needed retuning due to the change of satellite earlier in the year. I had no issue sorting both the TV problems out but I don't think I was successful with the ball valve on the water tank. This may require a new washer so it is something to be looked at during the season. We did manage a pretty good clean up and even the black boot marks on the kitchen floor came off. David did not bring any weed killer up so killing the grass around the hut is still to be done but he will call in one day on his way to Arrowtown and take care of that. With our efforts the Lodge is ready for the first Lodge Trip of the season October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Isaac and David for coming up to help make sure the Lodge is ready for the season.

We have Cohen from Fish & Game coming along to speak at our September meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> after having to cancel last month. We have our Lodge Trip on the first weekend of October and then a Club Trip on October 12<sup>th</sup> and a midweek trip on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Club Trip we meet at Fish & Game out 7:00am and if you want to come on the midweek trip ring me on 027 201 6722.

## Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due. \$30 for adult members, \$10 for juniors and \$40 for family. Please pay into our bank account ANZ #06-0925-0947474-00. Payee is Southland Fly Fishing Club Inc. Use initial & surname as reference.

Under the new rules for incorporated societies you need to give approval to become a member. When paying your subscription please fill in the application for membership form that is on the main page of the web site and send it to Chris. You will only have to fill it in this year.

## Cover Photo

Gerda and Dave talking to two ladies during the fly tying demonstration at Hunting & Fishing on September 20<sup>th</sup>.



## August Club Trip by Dave

Well August is still winter so you expect it to be pretty cold and miserable when out fishing. However, this wasn't the case for the Club Trip on August 24<sup>th</sup>. The forecast I saw suggested some significant winds but as seems to be the case recently they were well off.

I headed down to Fish & Game to see who was coming. Only found Gerda there but Allan had rung to see where we were going and said he would be along later.

When we arrived at Te Waewae Lagoon the water level was low but incoming and the conditions were perfect. I left Gerda fishing by the car and headed east along the side of the lagoon. Not a lot of activity for a while then I saw a brown trout jump clean out of the water. It was at about my maximum casting range but I had some casts out that way with no luck. I tried wading a bit deeper but was soon into soft bottom and decided to go back before I was stuck in the silt. Shortly afterwards I had a hook up that felt like weed initially but then started to wriggle so was clearly a fish. It came to the surface and it wasn't very big, and then it was gone. I saw a couple of fish near the bank but one was already on its way and the other turned away from my fly and then it too scampered away. I had one more hit that didn't hook up before it was time to head back for lunch.

After lunch I headed down towards the water level gauge and spotted a couple of fish here. They didn't stick around and didn't take what I offered. About this time Allan arrived to see what he could catch.

It was quite surprising how quickly the incoming tide turned and there was a noticeable outward flow. This didn't improve the fishing although I did have another hit that didn't hook up. So back to talk to the others and have some casts with their rods. Allan was using a slow sinking line and this was a bit challenging initially compared to my floating line.

About 3:00pm we decided we had had enough and headed home without anything on the bank. Still it was good to get out and get some casting practice on a fine winter day.



Whichever way you looked, weather conditions were perfect at Te Waewae Lagoon.



## ES Web Cameras by Dave

I had an email from John asking about the Lumsden Cableway as mentioned on the Environment Southland website. He was actually asking about the cable and attached a photo. The photo clearly came from the ES website so I started looking for this on the site. It didn't take much finding and was one of several photos on the site showing some of the rivers and from these you could see the state of the water. The photos are updated hourly and some show the river well enough to determine if it is clear or dirty. The ones of most interest to us are the Oreti at the Lumsden Cableway (2km upstream from the Lumsden bridge) and at Three Kings and the Mataura at Gore. There are also cameras on the Otautau Stream, Makarewa River, Waikaka Stream and the Waihopai River at the flood control dam. More are promised.



ES webcam Oreti River at Lumsden - upstream . Not a day for fishing.

These photos can be found at <https://www.es.govt.nz/environment/web-cameras>

## Competitions by Gerda

### Fly Tying

Last month's fly was the coloburiscus nymph and Gerda's Fly was the winner.

This month sees the final round of the Fly Tying Competition. The fly is Gerda's dry as shown in the August Ripples. You need to be in to have a chance of winning the \$20 Hunting & Fishing gift card.



Gerda's winning nymph.

### 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 seven 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:  $\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight} \times 100000}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}}$ . Weight is in pounds and length is in inches. If you use metric instead of imperial measures it looks like this:  $\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight} \times 3612.8}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}}$ . 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.

There is a draw for a \$20 Hunting & Fishing gift voucher every month and you need to be in to win.



## October Lodge Trip by Dave

Our first Lodge Trip of the season will be held on the weekend of 4th & 5th 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. This will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November. More details next month.



## Casting Day - September 28th

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.

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.



## Photos



Spawning trout in Bullock Creek, Wanaka.  
Photo supplied by Mike Turner.



A couple of fish from opening day last year.



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

28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Sunday	Casting Day at Queens Park 1:00pm
30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	MM	Fish & Game speaker
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct		Opening Day (Wednesday)
4/5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Fishing	Lodge Trip [Weekend at the Lodge]
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	CM	Fishing Stories & Fly Tying
12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Fishing	<b>Club Day Trip</b> meet at Fish & Game – 7am
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Fishing	Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	MM	
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov		High Country Opening (Saturday)
1/2 <sup>nd</sup> 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](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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