

“Ripples”

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

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www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Next Club Meeting - January 27th - 7:30pm Fish & Game Office, 17 Eye Street



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

It feels like a long time since I had to write one of these and of course it has been two months. I hope you all had a good Christmas and that Santa brought you some new and interesting fishing gear.

It has been a reasonably busy period for me but I haven't managed as much fishing as I should have. A lot of this has been because of the weather conditions as well as river levels although things have settled a bit lately.

There hasn't been much Club activity although I did manage to go on the December day trip and the December mid-week trip (both reported elsewhere) but I missed the after work night on the river On January 13th as I was up at Mavora. It seems only Chris, Kim and her grandson made it to Coal Pit Road and only one small fish was landed in an above normal river.

Personally, I have been out a few times but not to my usual haunts. A few days after preparing the last Ripples I headed up to the Lodge for a few days but conditions were not great with wind, rain and lots of high rivers. Straight after Christmas I made trip to the Hamilton Burn with Cole. This is not a stream I normally fish but I have fished one beat on the stream several times this season. It wasn't anywhere near clear when we started and it become more discoloured as the day wore on. However, we caught fish. I also went out with John who is staying in Lumsden before his friends arrive and they head to the Lodge. With relatively strong winds forecast we headed to the Waikaia where we hoped the wind would be lighter. As it turned out there was virtually no wind. We spotted a rising fish immediately and John fished to it. It didn't seem to be interested in what he had on and he suggested I try my willow grub. The response was immediate and I was on the board. Not much further up John had a fish rise to his dry but failed to hook up. Initially we didn't spot many fish but as the day wore on, we found quite a few that were rising. John had two more rise to his dry but only hooked one. We were no where near right through the beat when it was time to head home. It had been a fun day but we still haven't figured out what they were rising to. Finally, I had my annual trip to North Mavora, with just Cole this year as Julie is out of the country. We found lots of cloud, a cold wind and lots of water plus a few fish.

We have the Club Fly Fishing Course this weekend (January 24th & 25th) and if you are able to help give Chris a ring (027 423 7016). We have a full course so will need people to help out especially on the river on the afternoon of the 25th. Julie has her Lake Alexandria Trip on the first weekend of February but I don't have any more details than were in the November Ripples. There is also a Club Trip scheduled for the 8th of February but I will be away so at this stage I don't know if that will go ahead. There is also the "On the Fly Festival" coming up in Gore on February 22nd and we will need a couple of people to do the fly tying demonstration. Once again I will be unavailable to help out.



John with a nice fish on the Waikaia

December Club Trip by Dave

When I arrived at Fish & Game to meet up for the December Club trip, Gerda was the only one there.

The forecast was for quite a bit of wind (as has been the case most of the season so far) so we decided not to go too far up country where the wind was forecast to be worst and headed for the middle Aparima, one of Gerda's favourite spots.

When we reached the river there were a couple of Australians who had obviously camped there overnight. After a quick discussion (and licence check) we headed up the track along the river to start further upstream. Conditions were pretty good although the river wasn't completely clear. The wind was downstream but not too bad. Fish were hard to spot but on the way up the river we spotted a couple of fish and fished any likely looking water. Only one fish came to the net.

On the way up we passed a black billed gull colony and they were not at all happy to see us. At one point when we were passing the colony we crossed a small side stream and Gerda was ahead of me. As I stepped out of the water I noticed an egg sitting in what could have been called a nest and right next to it was Gerda's wet foot print. She hadn't seen it and had missed it by a couple of inches. It looked like a black fronted tern's nest to me so there must have been a few of them nesting close to the gulls.

We decided quite early we had had enough and decided to head back down. The gulls were more upset with us passing on the other side of the colony and harassed us for a bit. Just clear of the colony I spotted a fish in a backwater. We watched it for quite a while and it was joined by another fish. I had a couple of casts to them but they were too busy chasing each other. They then headed back towards the main river but towards the bottom of the backwater I could see one now looking quite settled. A good cast and the dry fly landed delicately close to the fish. It was keen and rose to the fly. It was a 5lb brown so was my best fish of the season so far. No more fish were seen and we headed away home. Was good to be out for the day.

December Mid-week Trip by Hugo

After calling up Dave on the Tuesday afternoon inquiring about the mid week trip on Wednesday, plans were made to go fishing in the Hamilton Burn the next morning, even though Dave had completely forgot about it. After getting picked up at 9 am we made our way there and immediately saw mayflies when we got out of the car, which was a sign of what was to come. A few hundred metres up from the bridge I had spotted my first fish of the day, which I spotted rise multiple times in different parts of a ripple before it took my dry dropper combo. We quickly got it to the net and it was a nice conditioned 3¾ lb brown. Further up the burn we found a few nice slow stretches that had steady amounts of fish taking flies off the surface. Between Dave's cdc emerger and my royal wulff we landed multiple fish, some small, some medium, before the rising slowed off and I put the dry dropper back on. I picked up a few more fish on the nymph before Dave hooked one on a dry fly, which came off when the fish jumped and the nymph got caught in a tree. We eventually made it to the next bridge which was the turn around point, just as the wind was starting to pick up. We ended the day with 8 trout (6 to me, 2 to Dave), the biggest being the first 3¾lb one.

Fly Fishing Course - January 24th, 25th

We have our annual Fly Fishing Course on January 24th & 25th. There are 16 people registered for the course.

This means we need helpers on the Saturday afternoon for the casting and on the river on Sunday. If you are available give Chris a ring on 027 423 7016.

Cover Photo by Dave

Hugo on the December Mid-week trip

Annual November Trip by Dave

Every year since 1992 I have made a trip either in November or December to Te Anau for eight to ten days fishing. For the last few years I have been joined on this trip by Cole. After only fishing in the Te Anau basin on two days last year we decided to go to the Club Lodge at Castlerock this year instead of Te Anau. Plan was to stay for the last 11 days of November.

We headed up to the Lodge, unloaded and headed away to the Mataura. We fished one beat but spotting conditions were difficult and nothing was rising. The river had some colour. From here we headed to a spring creek where there were a few fish rising but we battled the wind without success.

The second day the weather was not suitable for fishing so we spent the day tying flies at the Lodge. At least we had some success with this.

Day three and we headed across to a Waikaia tributary. We fished this further up than either of us had been before. The river was in reasonable condition but fish were hard to find. We only spotted a few and the only one either of us hooked was when I was fishing blind in a pool that was too deep to see right into. Unfortunately it managed to make its way to the dead tree on the other side and broke me off.

Day four saw us on the Waikaia. We didn't see many fish initially and then when we did start to see them, they were very spooky. Part way up the beat we found a camper van parked beside the river and a bit further up a visiting angler who said he had permission to camp there but was not following the beat system. This explains the spooky fish as it looks like he had already fished the beat downstream of his camper. I was not happy and headed out to the road and back to the car without another cast.

Day five saw us going looking for a spring creek Cole had heard about near the top of the Mataura. We walked quite a way downstream looking for this creek and eventually found a small stream coming across farmland. It didn't look like a spring creek and didn't look to have any decent pools. Cole decided to walk out to the road and wait for me while I fished back up to the car. I only spotted one fish and it wasn't keen on anything I offered it. We then headed back down the Mataura a bit and fished one of the beats. Once again not many fish to be seen. Finally we headed to a spring creek where there was a good rise of mayflies but nothing was rising to them. There were a large number of black billed gulls on and just above the water and they may have been keeping the fish down. It was interesting to watch the mayflies hatching out, drifting down a bit and then flying into the streamside vegetation. I tried to photograph them without any success.

Day six and we headed to the Aparima. We walked down a bit from the car but there was a lot of wind and a bit of colour in the water so when we were level with the car we decided to try somewhere else. We headed to the Hamilton Burn and spent the rest of the day there but once again found fish hard to find and tempt with the fly.

Day seven and we headed over to Te Anau to fish the Upukerora. Once again conditions were difficult (wind and cloud) and fish were hard to find.

Day eight conditions were wet and windy again. I had to come to a meeting in Invercargill in the evening and after tying flies in the morning we spent the day exploring Northern Southland looking for new places to go before heading down to the meeting.

Day nine and there wasn't a lot of water that looked like it would be at a fishable level. In the end we headed down to the Otapiri, somewhere I hadn't fished for many years. It had some colour but we thought we would be able to spot fish. However it looked like it was going to rain so we sat in the car for while to see what happened. There was one heavy shower then it looked to clear up so we headed off. We spotted fish almost immediately but struggled to attract them to our flies. I eventually had a hook on my dry but it came off. Later in the day I was some distance above Cole so I sat down to wait for him. Almost immediately I spotted a fish near

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Annual November Trip (cont)

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the surface on the other side of the stream. I watched it for a while and it was rising occasionally. I had a few casts to it but it wasn't interested in either my nymph or parachute adams. I changed to a CDC emerger and had an immediate hook up. I was on a bank above what looked like deep water and had to find somewhere that I could see the bottom to land the fish, which I finally managed. Cole arrived shortly afterwards and just upstream spotted a fish. We watched it take his nymph and then I had to drop down the water level to net it for him. This was a worse spot than where I had landed mine but I finally netted it. Only problem from here getting back up the bank.

Once back to the road I walked back to the car but had a very sore toe on my left foot. When I was getting changed, I had a good look at my toe and it looked swollen and very red and there was clearly some infection. It was still very bad looking the next morning so we decided to head home. Once home I found some antiseptic cream and by the next morning the toe was much better.

It was a very tough period of fishing with wind, rain and high and coloured rivers. Hopefully it will be better next year.

Mavora Trip by Dave

For the last few years, I have managed a trip to North Mavora Lake, either late January or early February. Usually, Julie and Cole join me for this trip. This year, after looking at my busy schedule for February I decided that it would be best to go mid-January. This meant that Julie would not be able to join us as she was out of the country.

I always take my boat to Mavora and use it to access Careys Hut near the top of the lake and this means the boat motors need to be checked over and I always need to get a new warrant of fitness for the trailer. The main motor started straight away and was running fine but I couldn't get any action out of the auxiliary outboard. After much swearing and cursing I finally decided it was due to old fuel in the carburettor. This sorted I finally had it running. I checked it a couple of times over the next few days and it was starting. A few days before we planned to head away, I noticed the Waitomo had a really good price on petrol so filled the second boat tank, a 20 litre container and the car so I had plenty of petrol for the trip.

Unfortunately, the weather forecast for the four days wasn't looking great with some showers and a lot of cloud forecast. The wind looked likely to be light.

The night before we stocked up on food but couldn't get everything we needed and had to make another stop at the supermarket on the way out. On the way up I felt the wind was a bit stronger than expected and when we got to the lake it wasn't completely flat but was higher than I had seen it before. However, it looked okay so with put the boat in the water and headed up to the hut. There was nobody else there so we had a choice of beds.

While we were at the hut having lunch, we had two women arrive who had tramped from the car park and they planned to stay the night before heading on to the next hut. Then it was time to go fishing so over to the river mouth to see what we could find. With the lake so high we struggled to find somewhere that we could run the boat ashore but eventually found a suitable spot. The river flowing in was higher than I have seen it but looked reasonable. With no sun and windy conditions, it was going to be hard to spot fish especially as many up there are rainbows. We fished around the mouth and went a short distance up the river. A couple of fish were hooked but only one landed.

When we arrived back at the hut there was a tent outside and another four people in the hut. They were walking the Te Araroa trail and were from USA, France and Germany. All four were planning to sleep in the hut

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Mavora Trip (cont)

(Continued from page 5)

which meant two would have to sleep on the floor. I was a bit annoyed when they bedded down at 8:00pm as this is a bit early for me to go to bed and they would expect us to be quiet. Fortunately I had found a book to read.

Day 2 and the trampers were up early and away. We then had room for breakfast and to make lunches before heading out to go fishing. Once again we headed across to the river mouth and found somewhere closer to the mouth to pull ashore than the day before. Conditions were similar to the previous day, cool, cloudy and with and upstream breeze. We headed up the river and not long after we started I spotted a fish rising some distance up the river. It was rising steadily and I was soon in position to cast to it. I had a nymph and dry fly on and I expected it to rise to the dry. It took the nymph immediately and I had to find somewhere to land it. It was pulling pretty strongly and I was on a bank above fast flowing water. I had to take it a long way downstream before a nice 3½lb rainbow was in the net. I hooked a couple more fish just above where this one was but both took the nymph after I had let it drift downstream while I moved in the river. Both came off. When we reached the Windon Burn we decided to head up it rather than continue up the Mararoa. I hooked a fish in the first pool but it broke off when my reel handle snagged in my jacket sleeve. A bit further up I found a number of small fish that attacked the dry fly but it was too big for them to eat. One briefly took the nymph but came off. A little further up Cole had a fish take long look at his dry fly but didn't take it. We then headed back down to the boat and went across to the West Burn delta where there was an offshore breeze. Cole headed away from the boat but I didn't go far. Here we fished with a dry fly looking for cruising rainbows. I had already hooked and dropped one when I saw one rise about 20 feet from my fly. For a short time I wondered which way it was swimming but the answer came soon as it took the fly. Unfortunately, it too came off. Not long after I had a third take and this time it came to the net. I was getting a bit bored with this so decided to check the auxiliary outboard would fire up and it was happy to start. Cole returned to the boat and reported he had landed two rainbows. Back to the hut to find we had it to ourselves for the night.

Day 3 and we went back across to the river with a plan to walk a bit further up. We had the same conditions as the previous two days so didn't expect to see many fish. We didn't see anything until past the Windon Burn where I spotted a fish across the other side. It was pretty keen on my nymph and a nice rainbow came to the net. I did spot another a little further up and Cole said it took my nymph but I missed it so didn't strike. It was gone.

Day 4 and the wind had dropped but it was still cloudy. I dropped Cole on the hut side of the river and went to the other side. There was a really nice looking back water on the other side and I had checked it out the previous two days but found nothing. This time I spotted a rainbow stationary in the pool. It soon began to move and I wondered if I had spooked but it then rose to something on the surface. Shortly afterwards it rose to my dry and I finished up with a good rainbow in the net. Unfortunately about then Cole's rod broke just below the tip and he indicated to me it was time to go.



The trip home was good with the lake the flattest we had seen it all trip.

Tough conditions and challenging conditions but that makes it feel better to catch a few fish.

Mavora Rainbow

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

24/25 th Jan		Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel
27 th Jan	MM	
4 th Feb	(CM)	Fly Tying
5 - 10 th Feb	Fishing	Lake Alexandrina Trip*
8 th Feb	Fishing	Club Day Trip , meet at Fish & Game - 7am
22 nd Feb	Demo	On the Fly Festival – Gore
24 th Feb	[MM]	This meeting is “On the river” --- BBQ Tea about 6pm
25 th Feb	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722

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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- 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 Isaac Coburn, Marama Ave Nth, Invercargill 0204 1205 855
isaaccoburn72@gmail.com

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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