

“Ripples”

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

March 2026

www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Next Club Meeting - March 31st - 7:30pm Fish & Game Office, 17 Eye Street



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

Well not a lot for me to report this month. There have been a couple of events, the barbeque and the fly tying demonstration at the Gore "On the Fly Festival". The Club Trip was not held as the weather was far too wet to be out fishing. Hopefully within the next couple of days I will get the chance to head out as I need to catch a fish for March for the Club competitions. I do have a trip to the Lodge planned for early next month and hopefully there will still be enough petrol available to be able to get there and to get to the river.

I have also been too busy doing other things to get out fishing as well as being laid low by a cold for a week. I did have a few casts at the barbeque but there didn't look to be any activity.

I did manage to have a quick look at the Motueka River while driving around the Nelson/Tasman area but it was only from the driver's seat while driving so it had to be a very quick look. I did see one fish rise and the river looked pretty good and reasonably accessible where I was driving.

I have heard reports of some good evening rises on the lower Oreti and Mataura so these could well be worth a visit. Neither are too far away so the crazy price of petrol shouldn't stop you going out.

We still have a couple of Lodge Trips scheduled for the end of season, April 25-27th and May 30th/31st. This should be a good opportunity to get further up country with the chance to share costs with others.

I have just been filling in the coming events and suddenly realised that it is only about six weeks to the end of the season. This means we all need to get out and make the most of the time left before we are limited to fishing the lower rivers and lakes and to tying flies for next season.

Finally, I will apologise for this small version of Ripples but I have only just arrived back from an 11 day trip to Nelson in my vintage car and with the lack of activity there is not a lot to report.

Gore "On the Fly Festival" by Chris

This year's demonstration at the "On The Fly Festival" was a little different. It was in the afternoon only, the Gore District Council could only provide a two-sided tent which was on the east side of the road. There was a strong South West wind so our tent faced straight into it.

Gerda and I set up our vices and attempted to tie some flies. Not easy facing into the wind. If materials were not weighted down, they were blown off the table. If you wanted to use dubbing you had to get it out of the packet, put the packet away dub the fly and get the packet back out if you needed more (two weeks later I still had a packet of hares fur in my pocket.)

We soon had company as several youngsters enquired what we were tying and showed us some of the flies they had tied. Most were reluctant to take over and tie a fly for us but one brave lad tied a respectable size 14 hare and copper. It was about a fifth of the size of his other flies.

Throughout the afternoon we usually had someone to talk to but there was no interest in the Club. While there were more demonstrations and tuition than usual from Mike Weddell and a bunch of guides, we didn't get to see any of them as with just two of us it was difficult to have a break and look at what else was there.

The organisers were happy with the afternoon format and plan to use it again next year.

Cover Photo by Gerda

Isaac busy cooking at the Club BBQ.

Club Meeting on the River by Dave

We had our usual February meeting on the river and barbeque on February 23rd at the Coal Pit Road access to the Mataura River. Unfortunately, Chris was otherwise occupied so it fell on Isaac to bring along a barbeque and do all the cooking. I was tasked with buying all the supplies. Grocery shopping is not something I do very often and I don't have barbeques so it was a bit hit and miss, especially with quantities. Chris had supplied suggestions but quite a bit of what he suggested was not available. I took Barbara along with me to do the shopping and we had to make do with what was available.

There were just six of us at the barbeque. It was a beautiful evening and when I arrived Gerda and Taylor were trying their luck without success.

Isaac arrived and we got set up and a reasonable meal was cooked and consumed.

The river looked to be in good condition and was clearer than I have seen it there for a long time. It was quite shallow on the side we were on and it looked like you could have waded far enough across to cast right to the willows on the other side.

There was some bird activity especially upstream at the next bend in the river but the swallows were picking insects off the water rather than taking them in the air. Maybe they were spinners that had washed into a back water. There was virtually no sign of fish activity but I did have a couple of casts where I had seen a fish rise well out. I only cast from the shore, no wading involved.

With the lack of fish rising everyone was away early.

Photos from my Season by Dave



This is how it started. Snow on the ground at Piano Flat on opening day.

Photos from my Season (cont)



Black billed gulls on the water at Brightwater. Plenty of mayflies but no fish rising.

John with a Waikaia brown



A nice Mavora rainbow.

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

25 th Mar	Fishing	Mid-week Trip
31 st Mar	MM	
7 th April	CM	Fly Tying
12 th April	Fishing	Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game 8am
22 nd April	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
25-27 th April	Fishing	Lodge Trip (End of Season)
28 th April	MM	
5 th May	CM	Fly Tying
10 th May	Fishing	Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game 10am, to the lower Mataura

Club Contacts

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- Librarian Chris Cowie (027 236 9576)
- Lodge Custodian Isaac Coburn, Marama Ave Nth, Invercargill 0204 1205 855
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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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