

“Ripples”

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

May 2026

www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Next Club Meeting - May 26th - 7:30pm

Fish & Game Office, 17 Eye Street



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

Well, the season is pretty much over with the high country rivers due to close on May 31st. This leaves only the lakes and the lower rivers open. If you are fishing the lower rivers after this month make sure you are fishing the section of the river that is open. I have seen anglers on the Oreti above the Wallacetown bridge (SH99) when heading out to fish the Te Waewae lagoon. The Oreti is only open below the Wallacetown bridge.

In the past month, I had the April midweek trip to myself and the end of season Lodge Trip went ahead but there were only two of us on it. The May day trip didn't go ahead as the weather was very wet and the Mataura River was well above normal.

Coming up we have a mid-week trip on May 27th, our end of season Lodge Trip on May 30th and 31st and a fly tying day on June 14th. Details elsewhere in the Ripples.

I have had a three of trips out looking for fish. The first of these was to the Waikaia, fishing a beat I had not fished before. I spotted a few fish but they were pretty spooky although I landed a couple. I had an afternoon on the Mataura above Wyndham. The access I wanted to go to was no longer sign posted and as I know it was across public land I looked elsewhere. The first place I went it wasn't actually possible to fish the river due to willows blocking the way and deep water immediately below the bank. There was a fish rising well just out from the bank but just no way of casting to it. The second spot had good access to a reasonable length of river and there was the odd rise. I hooked a fish second cast on my emerger but it came off and I couldn't get anything else to take it. I went around to the other side of the river just downstream and got to the river via a pretty rough and muddy track. Plenty of access but by this time the rise was over so time to go home. I also had a trip up to the Upukerora River. Once again I hooked a fish almost straight away, fishing a likely looking bit of water. A 2lb rainbow came to the net. Fish were really hard to find and over about 4km of water I only spotted four fish and only managed to cast to two of these but neither took my fly. I did briefly spot a fin out of the water by a high bank and that brown came to the net. I managed one other brown in a very likely looking spot. Clearly the browns that were heading up to spawn were either still in the lake or somewhere else in the river.

April Mid-week Trip by Dave

I had the April mid-week trip to myself. Looking at the river levels the Waikaia looked to be the best place to go as some of the other rivers were up a bit. I got to the beat I wanted to fish and there was no-one there. The river looked good so I got changed and headed off up the river. Fish were pretty hard to find and most of those that I spotted were away without showing any interest in my fly. Finally just after lunch I spotted a fish moving on a dropoff (at least there was a pointy bit on the dark dropoff that disappeared and then came back). A couple of casts and I had a 3¼lb brown in the net. It was to be the only fish I landed all day.

At the end of the day there were some sheep on the other side of the river and somehow in their rush three had dropped down a steep bank and they were just above the water level. For some reason they decided the only way out was to jump into the river and swim. They had no problem swimming across the deep water at the bottom of the bank and were soon back on dry land.



Waikaia brown caught on the April mid-week trip.

Cover Photo by Dave

Rick with his Aparima brown on the April Lodge Trip.

April Lodge Trip by Dave

There were just two of us on the April Lodge Trip. I went up to the Lodge on Friday and Rick met me at the Mossburn Hotel for dinner on Saturday. He fished the Mataura on his way down from Wanaka.

I decided it was rainbow time on Saturday and headed to the Upukerora River for the day. Most of the day it was overcast making spotting a little challenging. The first fish I spotted was a brown sitting just below a drop off but not looking like it was feeding, more like it was resting. However, it was keen on my nymph and was soon in the net. I spotted a few more but the light conditions meant they had spotted you before you spotted them. About lunch time I saw another brown move across the river looking like it was spooked. It was in the current mid-water so I decided to cast to it. Much to my surprise it took the nymph. I was nearly back to the car not having spotted any rainbows in the pools you would expect to see them when I saw a rise under the bank on the other side of the river. I quickly cut off my nymph and tied on an emerger, leaving the royal wulff on. A couple of casts and a brown rises to the royal wulff. It came to the net as well. I walked a bit past the car and spotted one more fish but it wasn't keen on anything I offered it. Immediately after I turned back, I spotted two fish swimming up the pool towards me. They were browns that looked to be heading up to spawn but shot of downstream pretty quickly. I didn't see a rainbow all day. There were more footprints on the Upukerora that I have ever seen before so it looks like it had been very popular.

The weather forecast for Sunday was for rain on and off all day. We decided to head off to the Mataura, planning to fish a bit below Cattle Flat. However, there were others at the access point we planned to fish so we went a bit further upstream and fished a beat that you walk down and fish back up. The first thing I noticed was there was very little water in the river near where we parked the car when previously the whole river had flowed through here. We were later to discover a new channel had formed on the other side of the river bed. We walked to the bottom of the beat and immediately spotted a couple of fish rising. Quite quickly there were rises all along the pool and we spent a considerable time casting to them. We both had a number of takes and some came to the net while others were missed on the strike or came off. We only stopped fishing this first pool when we stopped for lunch. As we moved up the river we found more fish rising and a couple more came to the net. It was starting to get late so we moved pretty quickly up the river spotting the odd rise here and there. We followed the new channel for a way before cutting across to the car. It didn't look like great holding water, being quite fast with few pools although we did spot one fish. The forecast rain didn't really happen, just a few spots once in a while.

Monday we decided to head to the Aparima. It was another overcast day and once again spotting was difficult. That didn't concern me as normally there are plenty of fish and blind casting is usually successful. Not this day, with only Rick hooking up on one fish. We didn't go as far as I would normally have gone here as Rick wanted to get away to head back to Wanaka. I am not sure where the fish were.

Another Lodge trip over. The action on the Mataura made the trip well worth while.

May Lodge Trip by Dave

We have our May Lodge Trip scheduled for May 30th & 31st. Plan is to go to the Lodge Friday evening and fish for two days, returning Sunday evening. Saturday dinner will be at the Mossburn Hotel. We will have to travel a bit to find rivers we are able to fish. Rivers that are open are the Upukerora, the Eglinton, the Waiiau and the Von. The lakes are also open so if we are having trouble finding a suitable river. Mavora Lakes and the Von Lake are possibilities in this case.

If you are keen on coming let me know (027 201 6722). I will organise the food but any drinks you want are your responsibility. We will share cars as much as possible to save on petrol costs. If you haven't been to the Lodge before it has electricity, hot & cold water and a flush toilet. There is only one bunk room with nine bunks.

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 Dave's black beetle. 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, Dave or Chris know even if you don't know how to tie it. The June fly will be Dave's prince 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 choose 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 inches x 7 inches.** Judging will be by member vote and there will be a Hunting & Fishing voucher for the winner of each category.

Fly Tying Day - June 14th

We have the first of our winter fly tying days on June 14th 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 will have sorted out some flies are for the following months and will be able to demonstrate them.

Dave busy tying a fly at last year's June Fly Tying Day



June Competition Fly by Dave

Prince Nymph

This is not a fly that I have used or tied before but it is quite a popular fly. It is an attractor in that it does not represent any particular nymph, it just works. It can be tied with a bead head or without and I have chosen to tie it without a bead. It uses goose biots and these have a special way of being awkward so good luck with those.

Materials

Hook	Black magic C12 (or B12)
Thread	Unithread 6/0 black
Weight	.015 lead free or lead wire
Tail	Brown goose biots
Rib	Fine gold wire
Body	Peacock herl
Hackle	Brown hen hackle
Wings	White goose biots



Put hook in vice and run the thread to the bend of the hook



Tie in two brown goose biots to form tail. They should curve out and be about 2/3 length of body



Wind lead or lead free wire on hook



Run thread over wire. It doesn't need to cover it completely.



Tie in gold wire at the tail



Tie in four peacock herl at the tail



Wind the peacock herl forward to form body. Tie off and trim.



Wind the gold wire forward in the opposite direction to the peacock herl. Tie off and trim



Tie in hen hackle



Wind hen hackle around three times and tie off. Run thread back around to force the hackle fibres back



Tie in two white goose biots on top of head. They will tie in better if you cross them at the tie in



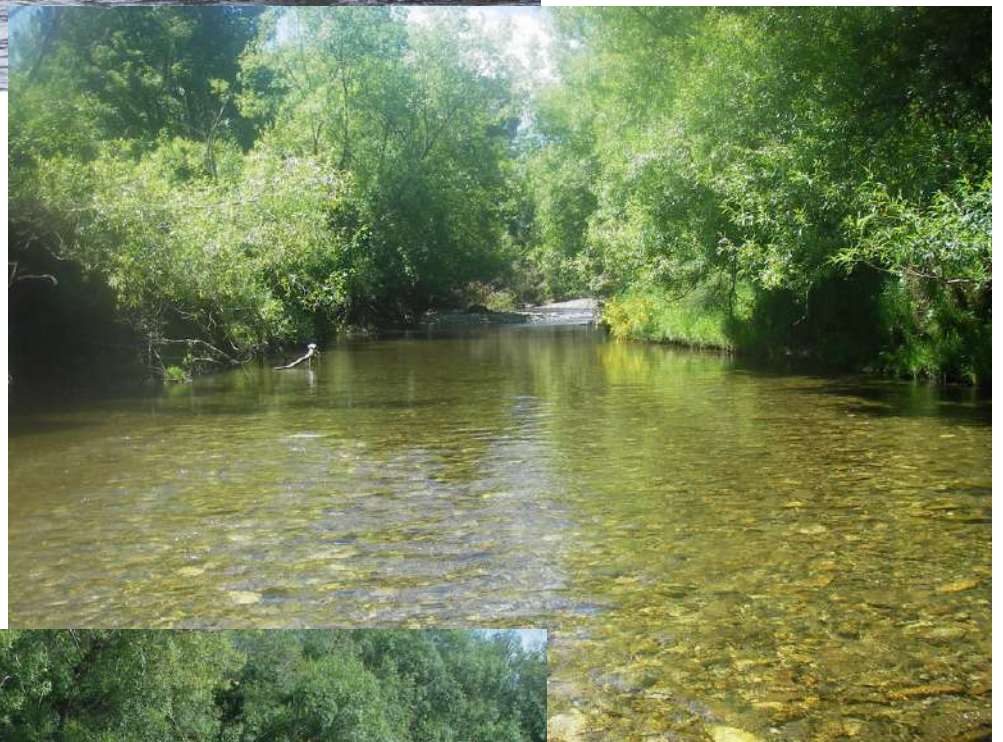
Trim biots and cover ends with thread. Finally whip finish and coat head with head cement.

Photos from my season by Dave



Cole fishing the Mararoa above North Mavora Lake

Small stream fishing



John stalking on the Waikaia River

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

26 th May	MM	
27 th May	Fishing	Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
30/31 st May	Fishing	Lodge Trip – End of high country season, close Lodge
2 nd June	CM	Fly Tying
14 th June		Fly Tying day
30 th June	MM	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
7 th July	CM	Fly tying
28 th July	AGM	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)

Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
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- 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
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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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