

“Ripples”

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

September 2026

www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Next Club Meeting - September 29th - 7:30pm Fish & Game Office, 17 Eye Street



Southland Fly Fishing Club

President's Report by Dave

Not much fishing activity for me as I am writing this from Narooma, NSW. I am over for a 2 week visit with the main purpose of the trip being attending a vintage car rally. I will be back in time to finish this Ripples and get it out at the normal time. Meantime I am enjoying some fine warm weather.

In spite of having what looked like a pretty full calendar for late August and September not a lot actually happened. Both trips to Te Waewae were off due to the weather. On the day the August trip was planned it was blowing a gale and raining heavily. The September day the weather was better but rain was still forecast and nobody made it out. Chris and I managed to make it to Hunting & Fishing for the fly tying demonstration on September 5th. We had a bit of interest in the Club and our course in January. Julie had an event at Hunting & Fishing for the International Women's Fly Fishing Day and it looks like she had some interest. The working bee at the Lodge went ahead with Isaac, David and Chris attending. Special thanks to them for that.

At the August Club Meeting we had an interesting presentation from Cohen from Fish & Game. He spoke on several topics and I have put a copy of his presentation on the Club website. He covered updates to the Fish & Game access maps that have more information, drift diving results, the new Fish & Game Fishing Knowledge Hub and the prediction that this year will be a mouse year. www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz/images/Docs/Fish_Game_pre-season_update_2026.pdf

Coming up we have another fly tying demonstration at Hunting & Fishing on September 26th and our casting day on September 27th. Of course, October 1st is opening day and hopefully we will finally get a good opening day with fine weather and clear rivers. A quick look at the next nine days doesn't look that good but we can only hope. There is a Lodge Trip scheduled for October 3rd and 4th. I have something else on that weekend but Chris is going up on Friday night. If your are keen to go contact Chris on 027 423 7016.

There is another Lodge Trip planned for November 7th and 8th and I should make that one. Put it in your diary now. Details will be in next month's Ripples.

Lodge Working Bee by Isaac

The Lodge working bee went well. We de-winterised the lodge, deep-cleaned the interior, vacuumed up thousands of flies, and mopped the floors. Most of the tall grass has been cut back and weed-killed around the Lodge, so it's now ready for the upcoming season. The first club lodge trip is from 3 to 4 October. There are no other bookings so far, so please get in touch if you're interested in staying at the lodge.



Cover Photo by Isaac

Chris and Dave tying flies at Hunting and Fishing on the first of two fly tying days.

Competitions by Gerda

Fly Tying

Last month's fly was the royal wulff and there were four flies entered. Gerda's fly was the winner.

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



August competition flies.

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. If you paid online see Chris for the cards. You can put more in but you will need to buy more cards from Chris 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:

Condition Factor = weight x 100000 divided by length x length x length. Weight is in pounds and length is in inches.

If you use metric instead of imperial measures it looks like this:

Condition Factor = weight x 3612.8 divided by length x length x 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. You can put in cards for previous months at any meeting and they will be in the draw. Last draw will be in April.

Casting Day - September 27th

We have our annual casting day at Queens Park Cricket ground on September 27th starting at 1:00pm. Come along and get your arm ready for the new season.

If you don't have gear come along and try one of the Club rods.

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.

Club Library Report by Kim

Librarian's Update

Following the last Ripples, I received an email from Rob informing me that he left some books at the Lodge as a form of thank you to the club. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Rob for his kind donations and I look forward to reading through the selection he has kindly donated to the club library.

While I have not yet had a chance to audit the library, time permitting I'd like to have this done by the time Ripples is released in October. If you have books outstanding that have not yet been returned, could you please ensure that these are returned as soon as possible so they can be logged back into the library during this audit.

The library collection has grown with the addition of *New Zealand's Best Trout Flies* by Peter Scott purchased by the club. Be sure to reserve or grab it at our next club meeting!

This Month's Report

Loan statistics	Book of the Month	Library focus
There were no new loans this past month.	New Zealand's Best Trout Flies (New to the SFFC Library)	Reviewing the current library list, checking the collection, and preparing a more streamlined borrowing record for members.

Book of the Month

This month's book is a new addition to the Southland Fly Fishing Club Library.

Title: New Zealand's Best Trout Flies **Author:** Peter Scott

Compiled by Peter Scott and edited by Peter Chan, *New Zealand's Best Trout Flies* brings together 30 top Kiwi anglers who each reveal six of their favourite go-to patterns. Packed with 180 fly recipes, strategic notes, and personal anecdotes, it offers a wealth of local knowledge. Each entry features a full material list, tips, and crisp photos of the completed fly.

While you won't find step-by-step guides, the detailed images make patterns appear manageable with a bit of practice, though sourcing niche materials might prove to be the toughest hurdle for beginners such as myself.

Whether you are looking for new inspiration for your fly box or simply enjoy reading about local angling lore, this book is well worth checking out for your next trip to the river now available in the club library.

Member Input Welcome

If members have borrowed books from the library in the past, have suggestions for titles we should highlight, or would like to recommend useful books for other members, I would be very pleased to hear from you. Member recommendations will help make future library reports more useful and relevant.

Library Notice

Members are encouraged to make use of the club library. If you are looking for a book, DVD, magazine, or VHS tape on a particular topic, please contact me on 027 723 2305 or email kim@xunil.co.nz before the next meeting, or speak to me on club night and I will check what is available. Suggestions and donations of useful fly fishing, fly tying, casting, entomology, conservation, and local waters books, DVDs, and magazines are also welcome. Please contact me before bringing donated items so I can check whether they are suitable for the library collection.

Library books are due back at the next monthly club meeting. Please help us keep resources circulating by returning your borrowed items on time.

October Lodge Trip

Our first Lodge Trip of the season will be held on the weekend of 3rd & 4th 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 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/dining room and the bunk room. The bunkroom has 9 bunks but it would be pretty crowded with 9 people. There is a 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 Chris a call on 027 423 7016.

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 7th and 8th November. More details next month.

The 7th International Women's Fly Fishing Day by Julie

This was celebrated globally on Saturday 12th September 2026, with women participants posting and connecting across social platforms at 11am local time.

In Invercargill the weather once again provided us with heavy rain, hail and flooded rivers on the Saturday and most unsuitable for fly fishing. Although my nephew had been out and caught a lovely big 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ pound brown the previous week (in hail) so you never know.

Hunting and Fishing Invercargill (the Southland Fly Fishing Club's major sponsor) hosted it this year and it took the form of running a training DVD on the Essence of Flycasting. This DVD was put on the shop's television and ran for 1 hour on all aspects of fly fishing from beginners and went through to the basic roll cast and on to some more advanced casting techniques.

I took along a laptop and was available for individual tuition or specifically looking at individual issues that anglers may have. I was also promoting the fly casting day and Mike Weddell's workshop in January 2027. Chocolate fish and marshmallows were available for the children while parent or older siblings were talking fly fishing.

It started slow but as the morning wore on more people braved the weather to turn out. I very quickly ran out of the brochures for the casting day on the 27th, 1-4pm at Queens Park cricket ground and never had even one left to copy. There was a lot of interest in club activities. Several women told me they would like to learn more but a bit nervous of the club scene. Contacts were made for follow up. A bush school wanting to get the school children out on the river and a women's group that would also be interested in a follow up. So locally a very positive morning. Very appreciative of the support I received from Gerald Macrae at Hunting and Fishing and all his staff.

Tom arranged for a special combo to be available at \$199 in size #5 and #6 for the day which was a tremendous bargain for anyone starting out. A special thanks to John and Sue Fenton and David Pay who assisted with set up.

On the international front we had 3 new countries joining in and posting for the first time, Sweden, Czechia and Luxembourg. This brought it to 29 countries joining in since we started in 2020. Was lovely to see so many of the younger generation joining in.

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

26 st Sept		Fly Tying demonstration @ Hunting & Fishing
27 th Sept		Casting Day at Queens Park 1:00pm
29 th Sept	MM	
1 st Oct		Opening Day (Thursday)
3/4 th Oct		Lodge Trip [Weekend at the Lodge]
6 th Oct	CM	Fishing Stories & Fly Tying
11 th Oct		Club Day Trip meet at Fish & Game – 8am
21 st Oct		Mid-week trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
27 th Oct	MM	
1 st Nov		High Country Opening (Sunday)
7/8 th Nov		Lodge 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
• President	Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (027 201 6722) daveharris823@gmail.com
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• Vice-President	Gerda De Bruyn, (022 166 1149) gerda.johnstone10@gmail.com
• Editor	Dave Harris daveharris823@gmail.com <i>Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month</i>
• Librarian	Kim Jansen (027 723 2305) kim@xunil.co.nz
• 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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