

Christchurch Fishing & Casting Club Inc.



(The Friendly Bunch)

www.cfcc.co.nz

President
Brendon Topp

Treasurer
Shirley Salisbury

Secretary
Della Collins



Next Meeting
Weds 6th March
7:30pm

**At Cotswold Preschool Hall,
37 Colesbury St,
Bishopdale**

This month's speaker is Richie Cosgrove from North Canterbury Fish & Game.

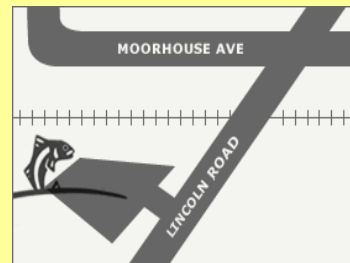
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Message from the Guest Editor



Kia ora everyone – nice to meet you! I followed up on Gavin's distress call for editorial support this month and if I haven't already met you, this is a great opportunity to introduce myself. I re-joined the Club following the trout festival last year, however, I first joined the Club a few years back, all enthused about getting into fishing but life kind of took over for a while and my aspirations went on ice. Now I've talked a couple of friends into joining me on this adventure and this time I want it to stick. I'm open to all kinds of fishing but mainly focused on freshwater fly and spin. I recently enjoyed the inaugural CFCC Women's Fishing Trip, and you can read

Shirley's report of the great weekend we had.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday and hearing your fishing stories. In the meantime, enjoy the newsletter – there are some great tips and stories from our members in here this month.

- Kaye

President's Report

Hello club members

I hope everyone is well and has been out enjoying the weather we have been having and enjoying a fishing trip or two. Unfortunately had to cancel the Kaikoura trip after hurting my back again and it was an easy decision to make as only me and Greg were going. So, needless to say, I haven't been out fishing. I'm hopeful I will be feeling better for the up-coming club trip to the Waitaki. And on that I have booked a cabin so have room if anyone is still thinking about coming on the trip.

Lastly, I would like to thank Kaye for offering to help out with the newsletter, and for Tracey offering to plan a mid-winter Xmas get together. The club is always looking for members keen to help out around the club or who maybe keen to join the committee members.

Brendon

Club Officials

President

Brendan Topp- toppa@hotmail.co.nz

Secretary

Della Collins – della@cotswoldpreschool.co.nz

Treasurer

Shirley Salisbury Shirley_salisbury@hotmail.com

Editors

Gavin Atkinson – gav_atkinson@hotmail.com

Kaye Gilhooley - kaye.gilhooley@outlook.com

Committee

Paul Anderson – pa_decorator@xtra.co.nz

Greg Gilbert – thefishingginga@hotmail.co.nz

Ben Frickleton – benfrickleton@live.com

CLUB EVENTS

Date	Event	Contact Details
March 15 th – 17 th	Waitaki	Brendon
April 19 th – 21 st	Twizel	Shirley
September 6 th – 8 th	Twizel	TBC
October - TBC	Temuka	TBC

DAY TRIPS - LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS

Alongside this there will be day trips planned either for a surf cast or into the high country and we are keen to discuss options and suggestions at the meeting.

Tip of the Month:

Salmon Spinners – The importance of Winding Speed when Salmon Fishing

How to fish for salmon with zed spinners

Though most South Island salmon anglers fish with zed spinners these are not the only spinner used. In general the longer spoons have a slower action. The shorter spoons have a faster action and vibrate more when pulled through the water. All the lures pictured here have an optimal speed at which they work best when retrieved. If you wind too slowly they have almost no action and flash at all. On the other hand if you wind your reel handle too fast they have a strong tendency to plane up to the surface where the salmon won't see them.

When casting for salmon it is important to get your spinner down near the bottom. Cast upstream towards the opposite bank and allow the lure to sink as it drifts along with the current. How long you wait before you start winding depends on the speed of the current and the depth of the river. At McIntoshes Rocks on the Waimakariri River near Christchurch, for example, the wide river is moving quite slowly. It is also as much as 8 metres deep. So you would wait at least ten seconds before placing your baitcaster into gear and begin winding the handle. In shallower water up-river you might have to wait only a second or two before winding.



Pictured here from the top are: Flamingo also known as a Salmon Special, Kilwell Kwiksilver 28g, Phill's Favorite, Black Tear Drop also called a Heavy Spoon, Zed Spinner 28g yellow, Zed Spinner 28g, large Zed Spinner 42g.

Again, the speed at which to retrieve your salmon spinners, or spoons, is determined by it's shape, water depth and speed of the current. Watch your spinner as it comes to your rod to get a good idea of how fast to wind. You will notice that if you wind too slowly the zed spinner will appear lifeless. Most new salmon anglers wind far too fast which causes the spinner to rise towards the surface away from the salmon which tend to "hug" the bottom.

As a rough guide to cranking speed using the above example of McIntoshes Rocks you should be turning the handle of your Abu Ambassador 6500C at the rate of around 40 revolutions per minute. That works out at ten revolutions of the handle every 15 seconds! You could even go a bit slower. Don't forget that the river's flow is also exerting force on your spinner. If it were a still lake you would need to wind a little faster!

At the same fishing spot mentioned above you often see new guys start winding flat-out the moment their spinner splashes on the surface of the water. The more frustrated they become at not catching a salmon the faster they wind. With this method their zed spinner is racing also just under the surface. Their chances of catching a fish are slim indeed.



There will be some anglers who catch most of the salmon. Watch what they are doing and try to copy their winding speed. Try to observe how long they wait before they start to wind the handle after their lure hits the water. The speed at which you retrieve your lure is one of the key factors for success as an angler. This applies not just when salmon fishing but for all fish species both fresh and salt water.

About the Author



[Allan Burgess](http://Fishingmag.co.nz) - Fishingmag.co.nz website editor.

A great catch!

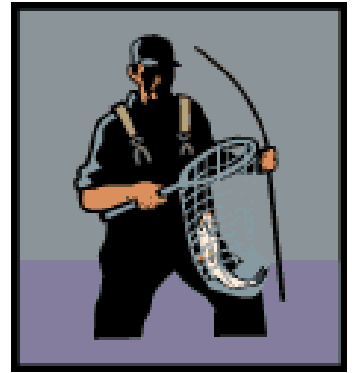


Sharon sent in this marvellous picture of a recent success which she calls "a very small 2.29kg" salmon. She now thinks she should have entered the Rakaia fishing comp after all but is feeling good about getting back fishing.

Catch of the Month

What's been your best catch this month? Give us the details so that we can share your success! Either fill in the form and give to Della or email with all the relevant details.

See below for information and cup categories.



Name

Date

Size

Length

Fish

Condition

Tackle used

Location

Which Category Entered

Novice - Anyone who has not been fishing long

Best Photograph - Can be any sort of photograph e.g. scenery

Best Junior Fish - Fish caught by a Junior Member

Mick Starkey Cup - Best Sea Fish - Sea Fishing

Club Trophy - Best Fish on a Club Weekend or Day Trip

NZ Farmers Co-operation Assn Ltd Cup - Largest Salmon

Ron Corney Trophy - Best Trout caught on self-made fly

Mason Struthers Challenge Cup - Largest Trout - Sea, River, Lake, Lagoon etc

Canal Fishing Cup - Biggest Fish - From the Canal

The buried fish and fishing in the paddock.

By Rex N. Gibson

Until a few years ago most of our family holiday time was spent at Wanaka, courtesy of my in-law's generosity and hospitality. Fly fishing was a key element of our quality time there. Sadly, the old house is in new hands now.

My Central Otago fishing continues intermittently these days. At the risk of sounding too old, the region's fishing is certainly not what it used to be, especially in the upper Clutha River and Lake Wanaka. I don't believe that it is the 3,000 boats that were reported on Wanaka at New Year that are to blame. I am sure that it is the Didymo, lake snot, and the political influence of the water skiers.

Some places however were less affected; notably Lake Dunstan.

I recall, in the first years of Didymo, seeing thousands of scraps of dead Didymo floating, at all levels, down Lake Dunstan. They looked like discarded sheets of toilet paper. Today it is not a major issue. This Lake is full of trout; in the Clutha Arm at least. The huge weed beds no doubt ensure this. The top end of the lake and the western edge have several access points leading to the extensive weed-covered shallows.

It is often a hopeless task here with a spinning rod, but it is ideal for a floating fly line or worm fishing. I have seen most of the evidence of worm fishing over on the eastern side of the lake. Some years ago, areas of weed were cleared near road access points there to give the worm and spin fishers "a fair go".

I visited the top end of the Clutha Arm twice a few years ago in early January. The lake was unusually low. The newly exposed weed beds made accessing the fish a little more tricky. When the weeds have at least a foot of water over them then all you have to do is drag a floating line over the top, or along the edge, and "wham".



(Weed Dwellers)

On this occasion it was necessary to ponderously wade through the inner weed beds (up to thigh deep) to get a cast beyond the edge. The fish were rising tantalizingly all along the drop off; just inside, or outside, the outermost line of weed.

The trout's 'special of the day' was 'freshly hatched damsel flies'. I used my own dragon fly nymph. The dragon fly's big cousin. When I got close enough it was very effective. One fish hit particularly hard. Playing it became a real challenge. My feet were embedded in six inches of silt, and I was in a thick 'jungle' of weeds.

After trying everything else to escape me the fish had a brain wave. He dived down into the carpet of weeds immediately below the area where I had hooked him.

This had not happened to me since last century!

This weed bed was only about half a metre deep but somehow, he was firmly buried in it. What should I do? If I broke him off the nylon may wrap around the weed and entomb the fish for a slow death. Gingerly I waded out, and with sideways actions of my boot attempted to dig up the weed where the fish appeared to be.

By this stage the lake water was lapping the top of my chest waders. I was balancing like a ballerina. One foot fixed in the mud and weeds, the other attempting to excavate the fish. One arm was raised with the rod extended like a lightning rod and the other holding up the upper lip of my waders. **It was male multi-tasking.**

The two bubble fishers nearby offered lots a well-meaning but impracticable advice from their deck chairs. I think that it was the highlight of their day.

After about fifteen attempts to free the fish with my boot I had success. The fight renewed and he again dived into the weed. This time it was, fortunately, short lived and I netted him.

The three pounds of energetic brown deserved his release and swam nonchalantly away. I, however, was almost ready for the proverbial “lie down with a cup of tea and biscuit”.

I did keep one of my Dunstan fish. A four-and-a-half-pound brown, although it probably had about half a pound of snails in it; enough to make it rattle. This is a common feature of the trout that I have kept from Lake Dunstan in recent years.



(Paddock Bay parking and stile area with upper Clutha Anglers and F&G signage)

The next day was ‘Paddock Bay day’. It is about a twenty-minute drive from Wanaka Township. It was early January, a fine day, and amazingly I had it to myself. There were water skiers on the eastern side but only one other fisherman appeared. He lasted 15 minutes and then shot through. This location once fished well in either light winds or a nor’ wester. The lower than normal level did not provide enough water over the weed beds by the willows (once a “hot spot” on a breezy day) so I fished the northern edge of the lake. Three browns and two rainbows, plus a few sharp “bites” entertained me for the afternoon. A good tally when the lake is this low. The absence of jet skis was crucial to my success.

Most of Paddock Bay sub-surface on the western side has been carpeted with huge hessian mats to suppress weed growth. Water skiers apparently found the weed a problem. The fact that the weed supplied the trout with snails and insect life crucial for their diet seems to have got lost somewhere.



(Hessian mats visible in Paddock Bay for suppression of Lagarosiphon weed)

Several years ago I fished this area when the water was right up in the paddocks. The lake level was also right up into the main street of the town at that time. I landed two trout in amongst the tussocks – inside the farm fence. I placed a Mrs Simpson in their path and twitched it as the trout rounded the tussock. The one I opened up had in excess of 50 earthworms in its stomach. It had clearly spent quite some time in between the clumps of grass. I guess you could call it trout farming. Its' own personal “worm farm”!



Ladies Hanmer Springs Trip 23rd – 25th February 2024



We all arrived within an hour of each other. We sorted ourselves out and decided to have a fish on the Waiau River for a couple of hours. We spread out, and Leonie and Frances saw a couple but the rest of us were not so lucky. We had dinner at the Indian Springs restaurant in Hanmer, which was great. There was also a classic car meeting in Hanmer while we were there. The afternoon when we arrived there were people lining the street watching the parade of cars which we became part of. Bit of a laugh. Saturday morning up early and set out for the Clarence River.

Once again, we didn't catch any fish. Even the ones I knew were there were elusive as I checked them out the week before. During the afternoon Leonie and Tracey decided to have a look at the Waiau River by the Waiau Intake. Frances, Sandra, Kaye and I tried a few more places along the Clarence. Sandra decided if not catching fish will go for a swim. Leonie and Tracey saw some nice big brown trout while looking at the Waiau. We decided to have a go at that on Sunday on the way home. We had a tasty potluck dinner, went for a walk, had a few laughs then went to bed. On the Sunday we packed up and on the road by 8am, but alas the Waiau River had flooded overnight. Still not to be beaten we headed to the Hurunui River which was clear and also saw some trout there. We all saw trout at various times during the weekend, we just didn't catch them.

Here are some of their thoughts from the weekend:

Fabulous weekend, shame about the fishing on Saturday. Attracted more bumble bees than fish, here's hoping tomorrow is better – Tracey

We were fishing on the Waiau River in perfect conditions before we'd even put our bags down on Friday evening. It was amazing to have two feet in the water and feel increasing confidence with each new cast, with a view of the bungy bridge on my left. No wind, warm sun on my back. Nothing to disturb a perfect evening – Frances

No fish? Time for a swim! Who needs ice baths when you have the Clarence. Brisk, breathtaking (literally) and beautiful – Sandra

A fabulous weekend exploring the fishing around Hanmer, ably guided by Shirley. An excellent first club trip and lots of great advice from Shirley, Leonie and Tracey. Looking forward to the next adventure – Kaye



Trip Co-ordinator: Shirley Salisbury

A new member's perspective

I am bound to share my experiences of fishing last weekend, Hanmer Springs Trip on 23rd -25th February 2024, and mindful that readers will surely be seeking some new local knowledge of conditions or tips but, as a novice angler, I've probably got nothing new to say sorry. I am nonetheless bound to share, because of

Shirley's generosity from start to finish. On Friday evening we fished at the confluence of the Hanmer and Waiau Uwha Rivers, in sight of the Bungy bridge. Excellent conditions, easy access to clear water and a warm windless evening. Moreover, there were fish, in the swimming hole at least but, alas, also swimmers. As an appetiser for our trip the evening was perfect. I was learning to read the water, to observe terrestrial insects and how to tactically approach the bank of the river. So much to learn!



On Saturday morning we headed up the Clarence Valley Road and Molesworth Road stopping to fish at a few choice spots on the Clarence River as far as the confluence with the Acheron. The weather held up all morning, allowing us a good three and a half hours of sport. Despite the scarcity of a bite, we were out there in the high country, courtesy of Shirley, having a great weekend. On Sunday, we rejected the now muddy, fast water on the Waiau at Leslie Hills Road. Instead, we explored the clean south bank of the Hurunui, where I got my very first bite, while casting knee deep in the water, as I repeatedly tried dropping my fly in the shadow of the willow. For a few moments I'd slipped into a different head space, instead of technically correct casting, I was thinking more intuitively, about how I might lure my trout. I started to feel like an

angler. Many thanks Shirley.

Frances Lawrence

The Fly Box

Hi members, welcome to the Fly Box our occasional look at what's hooking. I'm going to talk about the humble **woolly bugger**. This can be a great fly for fishers to have in the fly box and can be a great fly for beginners to use when starting out fly fishing and not sure what fly to pick at the start. It is also an easy fly to tie and can be used on the river - cast across the river and allow it to swing down and across then strip back up towards you. And can be good to fish around river mouths on lakes – allow it to sink then strip back in. The woolly bugger can also be fished on a spin rod behind a bubble float.

I hope this helps; you can look to fish these on the Waitaki trip.

Brendon

THREAD: Monocord
 HOOKS: Partridge D3ST or D4A Mustad 9671 or 3666
 TAIL: Marabou plumes (or similar plumage from turkey's backside) dyed
 BODY: Chenille
 HACKLE: Neck or saddle feather to match (or contracts with) tail or body colours

Tying Instructions

- 1] Bind hook shank with tying thread, tie in marabou same length as body
- 2] Tie in chenille
- 3] Select neck feather, strike hackles back towards the butt so they stick out at right angles to the stem
- 4] Tie in feather by tip, bind tying thread back up to shank eye
- 5] Wind chenille up to thread, tie in, trim surplus
- 6] Grasp hackles, fold back, wind feather up turns of chenille, tie in, trim surplus
- 7] Whip finish and cement

