

## *Wentworth Heights B&B and Fly Fish Matura Newsletter*



Thank you!!!!

We have to start by saying a huge thank you to all our guests and fishing clients for your continued support. This has been an incredible year and back in May we were delighted to receive a Certificate of Excellence 2012 from Trip Advisor, the world's biggest travel website. This only happened because many of you took time to post a review of your stay with us.

We were also very proud to be nominated for the Gore Civic Awards in the Customer Service section. While we didn't win (in fact we barely made it onto the stage before the award was given out because the M.C. who had "chatted" ALL night suddenly decided to speed things up), it was a wonderful night and we were honoured to be amongst the nominees...all of whom do Gore proud.

Wentworth Heights is having another record year...helped in no small part by Rob who was a long term guest over the winter months, breaking all records for our longest stay ever. Rob, it was a pleasure and we could never have asked for a nicer person to share our home with for 14 weeks.



Great Night With Cammo On Guitar

We have loved welcoming back many returning guests and in mid-November we had the pleasure of hosting 7 International Fly Fishing Assn Members who were following on from a conclave in Taupo. Some great nights were had by all, with Cammo being a legend on the guitar. I still find myself humming "The Wreck of The Edmund Fitzgerald" at random moments.

We have been really impressed this season by the number of non-fishing partners who have made the most of their time in Southland. The following is an account of a day that Alison from Coffs Harbour, Australia, spent while

her husband Bill was fishing with Barry. Thanks Alison for sending this report.

## Southland Road Trip

My husband **loves** trout fishing, and particularly enjoys travelling to beautiful locations to pursue this passion. I also enjoy travelling, but don't fish, so we are always on the lookout for places that offer me an alternative while he searches for browns or rainbow. In October, 2012, we found a place that met both our needs.

While Bill had his most successful day ever under the expert guidance of Barry Perkins, I set off in our hire car to explore Southland. I could have headed in any direction, or easily spent the day in the Art Galleries, Museums and Gardens of Gore, but armed with brochures and some local knowledge from Barry and his wife Diane, I headed south.

Invercargill is an easy and interesting hour's drive from Gore. The countryside looked luxuriant clothed in spring green, with dairy, sheep and deer farms spreading far and wide. After a warming coffee, and rugged up against the wind that told me I was not far from the Southern Ocean, I sought out Hayes Hardware Store, home of Bert Munro's "World's Fastest Indian" motor bike. While I found this interesting, I think my husband could have spent an entire day in the most amazing hardware store I have ever seen!



Stirling Point - Bluff

Southland Museum and Art Gallery is in the grounds of verdant Queens Park, quite a contrast to the industrial feel of the rest of Invercargill. I was there to spy on their collection of ancient tuatara lizards, but I was also intrigued by the Sub-Antarctic Garden display. Wandering through the tulips was tempting, but I had a mission further south.

Another half hour of driving takes you to Bluff, and I headed for its most southerly tip, Stirling Point. The location is

spectacular, just across the strait from Stewart Island, and the huge sculpture that celebrates a local Maori legend manages to be modern and ancient at the same time. I tackled the Glory Track which was a round trip up to the gun pits then through picturesque forest and back along the coast path to Stirling Point. It was an easy 45 minutes, but there are many other longer and more challenging walks in the area.

(<http://www.bluff.co.nz/tracks.html>)

Another hour's drive away (back through Invercargill, then heading west) is Riverton, a really pretty spot and well worth the drive. I was starving by this time, so headed straight for Beachhouse Café Bar which has views back over the estuary towards town.



Riverton Rocks

Lunch was delicious (Seafood Chowder chock full of local product) and the road that leads on from the café to Howell's Point Reserve hugs the coast and provides more amazing views. I never tire of having to wait for the sheep to meander off the road so I can keep going.

I could have spent a while exploring Riverton (the museum was enticing) but it was time to head back to Gore. I was there before 5, having left at 9.30 and I felt like I had a good taste of the region after a very pleasant day.

In spite of my husband's great day on the river, next visit he wants to do the road trip as well.

## The Fishing Season



The Road Into The Von River

It was a fantastic winter, the driest August for about 40 years. Things were looking great for October 1<sup>st</sup> the opening of the fishing season. And they were great (for 4 days!!!!)

First guiding was on 6<sup>th</sup> October and the unlucky fishermen were Barry and Aaron from LA & Seattle, who arrived in Gore the same time as a deluge of water from up-country which knocked out most of the rivers near-by. These guys were still keen to give it a shot so we headed to the Pomahaka which was the only fishable river, and during the afternoon had to take shelter in the truck 3 times to avoid the snow showers!! If you

guys can fish in that weather you will handle anything that nature will throw at you.

Ian and Caroline from Scotland also struck out with river conditions in mid- October but apart from that the Mataura River has mainly behaved itself although often running a little on the high side. During these times we have always found fish along the edges...FISH THE EDGES BERNIE...FISH THE EDGES. ( Sorry Bernie, just had to say it. ) The fish have generally been in terrific condition and although there hasn't been consistent dry fly action we have seen a small hatch of mayflies most days.



Von River

Some of the smaller streams have fished well early season, especially the Waikaka with some amazing catches on dries, #18 Adams doing the trick. The Hamilton Burn is also fishing well with dries, and several guests have headed there independently when the Mataura was out of action. None of them have come home without success.



Fish On

In early November we took a day off and headed up to fish the Von River. The scenery on the drive in is worth the trip alone, and the fishing's spectacular. The river was full of good sized rainbows many of which had perfected the art of using the current to their advantage. Some succeeded but we still got a few nice ones. I (Diane) came home with a HUGE bruise covering most of my leg from the knee down, sustained during a rather clumsy but spectacular attempt to climb down a bank to help net a fish. Managed to save the

camera....yell at Barry "land the fish I'm OK" (not quite that politely) and still get a photo!! I

did put a few holes in my waders though.

One of the highlights so far this season was guiding Georgi from Bulgaria. It was a great day out which included landing his first brown on a dry fly. An amazing hookup as we watched it turn and chase the #18 Dad's Favourite at least 2 metres downstream before slurping it in ...AWESOME.

It's time now to wish you and your families all the very best for the festive season. We hope 2013 treats you kindly

Tight lines and dry socks,

Diane and Barry.



Georgi's Dry Fly Brown



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