

Wentworth Heights B&B and Fly Fish Matura Newsletter



Fly Fish MATAURA

WWW.FLYFISHMATAURA.CO.NZ

Greetings from Gore



Waiting For The Fishermen To Come Home

14 days until Christmas and a perfect time to get in touch with family, friends and guests (who now qualify as friends anyway)

It's a great life in Gore and the town is looking so good with the colourful hanging baskets down the main street and the gardens putting on an awesome display. We are always getting such positive feedback from our guests about what a nice (and friendly) town Gore is and it makes us so proud to live here.

It has been a funny start to the fishing season with amazing dry fly action for the first week or two, followed by a big flood that blew the Matura River out for 3 weeks. After the water cleared we had several weeks of patchy fishing, one day of small hatches followed by several days where we never saw a bug. This week we have finally got the hatches that we were looking for, plenty of mayflies in the air and heaps of heads up. Hopefully it will stay that way for some time.



Brett With 1 Of 16 Landed On Dries For The Day

We are now supporters of an organization called "Future Rivers" <http://www.futureivers.co.nz/> We, like many others think it is essential to protect our rivers for future generations and are proud to be able to contribute towards this.

The following is an article that we wrote for the December issue of Trout Fisher <http://nztroutfisher.co.nz/> New Zealand's only dedicated trout fishing magazine. This is a quality magazine well worth subscribing to if you are interested in N.Z. trout fishing. Hope you enjoy reading the article.

SOUTHWARD BOUND



Fish On

After a great winter with very low water flows in the Mataura River during July /August....down to 25 cumecs for several weeks, things were looking pretty good only to have a 400 cumec flood come through in early September. Fortunately it dropped as quickly as it arrived and by the time 1st Oct came around all the local rivers were in great order for fishing.

The new season certainly started off with a hiss and a roar. Some decent Mayfly hatches and great dry fly action from day one made for a pretty good start.

Unfortunately this only lasted a week or so and then after several warm days in a row, snowmelt from further upstream started to make its presence felt, dropping the water temperatures and slowing up the hatches. We still managed some good fishing on most days but nymphing seemed to pick up the majority of the fish with only the occasional rise being seen.

As I write this in mid Oct, I'm looking out the office window at a swollen river again after the massive storm that ravaged most of NZ for the last few days. We seem to have missed the worst of it here with only an inch of rain and some strong winds. It looks like the smaller streams will be fishable again in a couple of days.

The prospects for the summer are looking good. All fish that we have landed so far have been hard fighting and in excellent condition. Being based in Gore gives us a large number of rivers and streams to choose from, how-ever most visitors to the area are of course looking to fish the Mataura River, famed for its dry fly fishing.

I have seen dozens of different flies take fish but personally don't use too many patterns, Dad's Favourite and Adams being the two that claim most fish off the top. If fish are taking Emergers, it's mostly Bob Wyatt's Deer Hare Emerger that I rely on. I still tie some CDC Emergers, although in the last few years I have used a bit of Snow Shoe Haremuch easier to dry. All these dries and emergers are #18 for most of the season, apart from maybe the first few months when a #16 will often do the trick. In most cases I use



John – UK – Dec '13

5x but if I'm fishing low and very slow water I will drop to 6x and add some length to the leader. I belong to the school of thought that presentation is everything. A good drag free drift is critical if dry fly fishing on the Mataura, these fish can be picky. Practice a Reach Cast, and brush up on your mending before venturing south.

The Mataura and tributaries also have very high numbers of Caddis. I often use a Goddard's Caddis #12 or #14 during the day to run under willow branches

and close to undercut banks to flush out fish. It's amazing how many times you can pick up some of the better fish that are hiding in shallow water just waiting to ambush anything that passes too close. There are not many times that they don't suddenly pay attention to your fly, usually with a savage chase and take.

When there are no rising fish my go- to nymphs are a Copper Bead-head Flashback Pheasant Tail and a Hares Ear or Hare and Copper, all in #14 for the first part of the season and usually dropping one size by the New Year. Once again I have seen all sorts of nymphs take fish and in fact while guiding sometimes get asked if clients can use their own, often to good effect. However over the years I have always come back to the basics quick and easy to tie and easy to get the materials. If buying shop H & C's remember to scuff them up a bit, the rougher they look the better they work. If tying your own add some darker fur and more guard hairs, most bugs in the water are darker than the shop bought variations.

I'm also a big fan of Glister, which I first came across while on a visit to the UK several years ago. I tie a 3mm Copper bead with a slim but scruffy brown Glister body on a # 16 grub hook , Mataura trout seem quite partial to this mix. My preference is for copper beads over gold on almost all of my nymphs, it seems like most fish have seen numerous gold beads by the middle of the season.

My number one tip for visiting anglers is to fish the edges. Mataura trout love to lie out in the shallows, often in only a few inches of water. I watch so many fishermen go charging down to the bank , wade into the river and cast away at mid-stream , while all the time there were fish right under their feet.



Resting Before Release

12 December 2013

If you are coming to Southland to fish the Mataura River, Gore makes a great base. It is big enough to have all facilities, especially for non- fishing partners, and small enough to still retain its country feel. There is a very strong Arts and Heritage Centre, great restaurants, a movie theatre for those wet and windy days, and enough interesting shopping to satisfy most people.

Fish and Game have an outstanding access map with good information for the Mataura River and tributaries, however if you are fishing around the Gore area this summer and need some advice on where to go and what flies are working , I'm always happy to help out , either by email or phone. Enjoy your time in Southland, fishing one of the world's great dry fly rivers.

Flyfish Mataura Facebook Competition - Post your favourite fishing photo to our Flyfish Mataura Facebook page and tag yourself in the photo to enter. Get your friends to like your photo AND our Facebook page – photo with the most likes by 5pm 28th February 2014 will receive a **voucher for a half days guided fishing with Barry**. Please Note: 'Likes' on your photo will only counted if you have also liked the Facebook page.

The winner of the voucher will be posted to our Facebook page on 1st March 2014 and we will make contact with you to send your voucher. Looking forward to seeing your photos!

Well that about wraps up 2013....not quite sure where it went!! Our very best wishes to you all for a Merry Christmas and fantastic festive season and we look forward to seeing you in 2014.

Tight lines
Diane and Barry



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