

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



Kia Ora. Greetings from Wentworth Heights B&B and Fly Fish Mataura.

It was a beautiful Southland day – blue skies, mayfly hatching and the Mataura River in perfect order when the car pulled up the driveway and a “gentleman” arrived on the door step.

“I want a room for two nights”

I explained we were fully booked with fishermen so unfortunately were unable to accommodate him.

“You don’t understand...I have come from Montana and I want to stay and fish with the guide”  
(Apologies to all our regular Montana guests)

I pointed out that we have many guests from Montana who often book up to 12 months in advance for accommodation and guided fishing during the busy Feb/ March period.

“Give me the guides number and I will call him and get him to cancel his booking and I will fish with him tomorrow”

This was never going to happen and when I politely explained that Barry didn’t take calls (unless urgent) while he was guiding , we had a very angry and unhappy man!! I then asked if he had already been to Gore town ship, with the intention of helping him find other accommodation and a fishing guide.

The reply.....”I came to go fishing not for a bloody geography lesson”

And with that he left, sending gravel flying as he roared off down the drive way.  
Fortunately we rarely experience people like this and you have to laugh (and hope like hell he caught no fish!!)

Despite our best intentions, the December newsletter never eventuated so I'm not sure if we should be wishing everyone belated season's greetings or getting in early with festive wishes for 2017.

It has been our busiest season to date and we sincerely thank our loyal guests and clients for their continuing support.



Jack – Oregon, USA – 80 Years Young

Two of the highlights for us over summer have been celebrating the “Scozzies” 40<sup>th</sup> birthdays (Greg and Dan, a Scottish/Aussie mix,) and also enjoying an early 80<sup>th</sup> party for Jack, a regular guest from Oregon who is as fit and active as most people half his age.

It has been a very good fishing season overall, especially as N.Z. has experienced one of the strongest El Nino's for a number of years. A large part of the country has suffered from severe drought resulting in rivers running exceptionally low. Fortunately Southland was one of the least affected areas with

just enough rainfall to keep things ticking along, although through March and April the Mataura and other local rivers were at the lowest they have run for some time. Low water is O.K, in fact good for wading to those areas that are often out of reach, as long as the water temperature stays down and fortunately it was only on a couple of occasions when this had much effect on fishing.

Every season we lose a few days guiding and fishing to bad weather with this past one being no different. Luckily there were no periods when the rivers were out of action for any length of time, causing nightmares for both guests and ourselves. Probably the main effect on fishing weather wise was the near constant E/NE winds, completely the opposite to usual, and mostly blowing straight down stream making life interesting at times. Fortunately we can usually find somewhere to put the wind behind us, especially helpful for those new to fly fishing.



Ian – Tasmania, Australia



Grayson – Georgia, USA

A large part of our business is returning fishermen and it is always good catching up. Some have been regulars for over a decade and in lots of cases we have now met and guided their families including kids and grandkids.....great to watch the next generation getting in to fishing.

It was also a real buzz to guide David (Wanaka N.Z.) who originated from this area but hadn't fly fished in over 60 years and now had the time to get back in to it. A memorable day David.

The latter part of the season looked like it should produce some fantastic dry fly fishing, low water, light ( or no ) winds and moderate temperatures with cool mornings. However it turned out to be quite patchy. Some guests struck it really lucky while others could barely find a rising fish the next day.

We enjoyed some of the best April/early May weather for several years until winter hit with a vengeance on the 12<sup>th</sup>. After a week of high water the Mataura was almost fishable when a big dump of rain hit the whole province and the river rose to a peak of 716 cumecs ( up from 14 cumecs on the 12<sup>th</sup>) The biggest flood for quite some time. A definite end to the season and it's now time for fly tying.



David – Wanaka, NZ



Lyall – Canberra, Australia

A big thanks for all the Tripadvisor reviews. For the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Wentworth Heights B&B has been recognized with a Certificate of Excellence, along with Fly Fish Mataura for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row.

We must be looking a bit old these days as several guests have asked us when we are retiring. The answer is the same as always.....when we stop enjoying it. (Although if THAT man from Montana arrives back it could be immediately!!)

1st June 2016



Mike – Melbourne, Australia

Forward bookings are strong so bring on next season.

Apart from a trip to the North Island in August there won't be much fishing for us until Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. To those of you still able to wet a line, keep the photos and reports coming. We always enjoy hearing from you.

Tight lines and dry socks  
Diane & Barry.



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