



NEW ZEALAND TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

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We are in the sixth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues, trip reports and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We want to help you match the right location with your fly fishing goals and objectives and properly prepare you to fully enjoy the experience. We've been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new sites. One of our services is to compare and contrast different lodges/outfitters. Whatever unbiased information on timing and locations we can provide comes at the same cost to you as booking direct – i.e., NO EXTRA COST.

EACH STAY - A DIFFERENT ADVENTURE

New Zealand offers a wide variety of options. An itinerary can include stays in luxury country inns, farm stays, world class fly fishing lodges, renowned golf resorts, eco-tour lodges, even guided camp outs in designated wilderness areas. One of the great attractions of touring New Zealand with a fly rod is that each stop will have a different personality and features meeting different budgets and desired levels of comfort.

A constant is the people....warm, gracious, eager to please and downright genuine. No matter where you travel, it always begins with the people (and sometimes ends with the people!) and in New Zealand, it's the number one attraction. The Kiwi's are as delightful and outdoors oriented people as can be found anywhere.



Generally, a first time itinerary for New Zealand travel will include different types of stays so that a new traveler can get a flavor of the different possibilities. Our New Zealand "slide tour" is the most meaningful way to develop an understanding of those possibilities.

Subsequent trips begin to narrow down the focus of what a particular traveler likes the best and centers on options to meet those interests. Just planning New Zealand travel is a wonderful adventure all by itself!

FULFILLED: DREAM OF THE 10+ POUND BROWN

The dream of taking a 10+ pound trout in New Zealand from a crystalline stream, while not as regular a happening as fifteen years ago, is still real. It's certainly not a daily occurrence, but happens often enough that the

possibility is always there. For instance, a small, personal lodge such as Murphy's has recorded 5 fish weighing over ten pounds this season, as of this writing.



Russell Schreck, on his second NZ visit, had already had, by almost any standards, a wonderful trip. He had released 7 fish weighed at over seven pounds and, overall, had an enjoyable stay at two very different NZ lodges as well as a few non-fishing stops (his trip report is referenced below). However, nothing tops this highlight while fishing with Frank Murphy. It's not just that he released a fish weighing over 10# - it's the classic NZ manner in which this fish was taken on a dry fly. Ten pound fish are, on rare occasion, caught in many places on the globe, but stalking big trout in skinny water NZ-style is unique.

Russell was stationed in crystal clear water less than knee deep. Twenty-five feet upstream from where he stood a giant, broad back swayed in the current, just under the surface. He watched as the fish moved a little to the left, his lips visible as he sipped from the surface. Next, he moved a little to the right, and again, rings disturbed the glassy surface. This sort of thing in close quarters can make your knees weak and Russell felt the pressure - a bad cast and he

would send this prize to an overhanging bank to sulk. And, all of us have made many of those bad casts in NZ - its part of the game.

However, Russell's Royal Wulff landed about four inches left of the trophy brown and just upstream. The fish moved left, his nose came up, and bingo, the hook was set and the fish exploded with resistance. About half an hour later, after many anxious moments involving logs and chases up and down stream, the fish was finally in the net. Thirty inches and 10 pounds, 3 ounces. Dream fulfilled! (photo at left).



John French



Barbara Renfrew



Wayne Badovinus

GET ACQUAINTED WITH NZ IN 10-12 DAYS

One of the most common questions that is asked regarding NZ travel is "how long do I need?" The answer is 'how ever much time you have, we can fill with delightful experiences and world class stalking and sight fishing.' If you have unlimited time available, three weeks makes for an excellent stay and allows you to visit both islands. Excellent communications are available making it easy to stay in touch with responsibilities at home.

However, for those still maintaining "real life" responsibilities, you can get acquainted with NZ in a meaningful way with a 10-12 day itinerary. In those cases, we usually just focus on the South Island and limit our number of stays to two or three different places.

Sample itineraries are available for almost any time frame or budget - just ask if you'd like to receive one.



TRIP REPORTS AND CLIENT COMMENTS

At the bottom of the New Zealand page on our website, www.flyfishingadventures.org, are many recaps and descriptions of the overall New Zealand experience. Many are in the form of client reports, people who have provided meaningful and, in some cases, detailed feedback on their trips.



Anne and Andy Baxter just returned from their first New Zealand trip. Andy joined that rare group that has been fortunate enough to take a 10 pound fish, his a rainbow (left). Their detailed report has been added to the site.

Russ Schreck (see above) has also done an excellent job of describing the two entirely different lodge experiences he encountered – the small, rural, family run operation as opposed to one of NZ's most renowned, traditional fly fishing lodges. His report is also up for review on the New Zealand page.

Probably the most outstanding day I have heard about this season took place while Don Nelson (right) was fishing with one of NZ's outstanding independent guides. Fishing on a small stream in a spectacular river valley with the Alps creating a glacier capped backdrop (a place featured several times in our book, **THE HUNT-**

www.ffhunt.com), Don really “hit it right.” Ten browns released, all except one taken on dry flies, with a total weight of over 65 pounds. The collection included six fish over seven pounds topped by a nine pounder.



ACCURATE EXPECTANCIES: While it's always fun to explore the top end possibilities, it must be pointed out that New Zealand, like most of the world's great fisheries, is “conditions sensitive.” When you hit the perfect conditions, amazing things are possible. However, I'll stick to my “average day” description of trophy fishing with a quality guide – i.e., on an “average day” in NZ, you'll stalk and fish to 15-17 fish, get 4 or 5 to eat, and land 1 to 3. Of course, casting and fishing skills can play a role in the percentages.

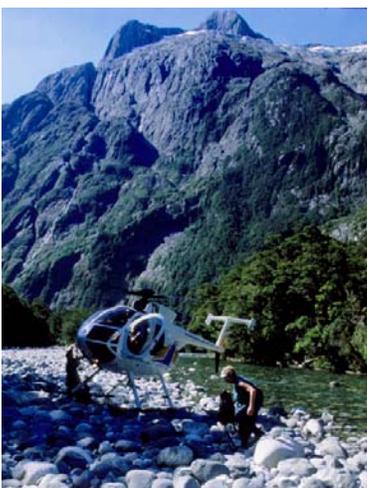
WHAT'S NEW IN NZ FOR 2007.....AND 2008

A potpourri of info about new options and possibilities in NZ:

Lake Rotoroa Lodge: This classic fly fishing lodge has added its own copter for fly outs. This has reduced the cost of copter fly outs, depending on destination, by 30-50%.

Grasmere: One of NZ's high end retreats near Arthurs Pass has negotiated access through a neighboring farm to a previously inaccessible portion of the lower Broken River. Grasmere's fly fishing is handled by one of NZ's finest group of independent guides.

Air New Zealand Business Class: The “2 for 1” program for full reclining (lay flat) business class seats through American Express Platinum Card has already been approved for next season – no waiting like we had to do this year.



Guided Camp Outs: There are many camp out and hut options, but one of the more spectacular may be a guided two or three night stay in the designated “Wilderness Area” of Fiordland – this is country that even helicopter access is not allowed so it's all yours (if you like a little roughing it).

Riverview Lodge: Will be adding its own lodge copter for the 2008 season making copter fly outs more reasonably priced and easily accessible.

Paul McLachlan: Paul is one of NZ's top independent guides and has converted part of their 4 acre Timaru parcel into accommodations with two private rooms for guests/fisherman. All meals can be included.

New copter programs: For those fond of using copters to drop into some of the more inaccessible waters, many pilots are offering up a new approach – have the copter stay with you for the entire day rather than just a drop off and pick-up. In some areas, this allows you to cherry pick pools near a rivers headwaters where the productive runs are very far apart. Or, fish two or more rivers in the same day in the same general area. Prices vary, but most are based on 2 hours running time for approx. \$2400-2800NZ.

Jack MacKenzie: Jack is one of the quality veteran guides in NZ. He has an excellent farm stay used by his clients for years. He has now added an upscale lodging, near some of his favorite waters, at Alpine Safaris for Dec and Jan clients.

TOUR OF NZ VIA SLIDE PRESENTATION IN BAY AREA

During the next month, our NZ slide tour will be presented several times throughout the Bay Area and in the Napa Valley at our fly fishing theater. If you'd like to discuss an appointment to have the slide tour visit your home or office (or visit us in the Napa Valley), hit "reply."

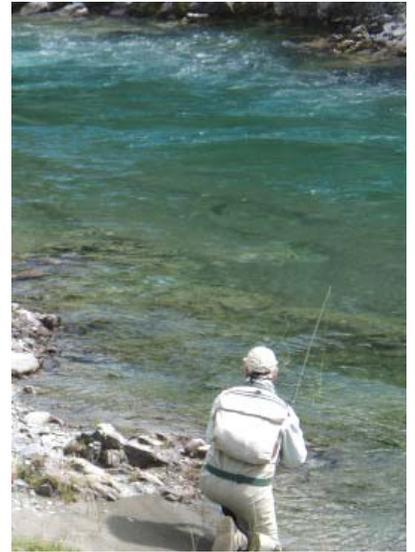
PHOTO CREDITS: Thanks for photo submissions from Frank Murphy (10# brown), Andy Baxter (rainbow), John French, and Kevin Payne for the photos of Barbara Renfrew, Wayne Badovinus, Don Nelson, and Sky Parsons. If you have photos that you feel are newsletter worthy, e-mail them to us for consideration.

Either phone or drop us an e-mail if you have questions or would like more information about any of our destinations.

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Sky Parsons -Stalking NZ Style