

## FLY ROD TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND FROM CHUCK AND POLLY LONGSWORTH

First off, the trip was a huge success and no small credit goes to your careful and thoughtful arrangements. Obviously, you know NZ and the guides and lodge operators, and they know you. It makes a big difference. Every detail was covered. There were no glitches.

Our weather was mixed, with heavy rains early spoiling the fishing, and some strong wind and clouds mid trip, but every day is not perfect, even in paradise. We never got wet, never were without spectacular views and nice people, and seldom without some kind of shots at fish.

David was our most successful fisherperson, landing a 10# rainbow and an 8# brown in the same day. He also had a couple of eight or ten fish days. Polly and I did less well although I had one day with thirteen takes, nine on the beach, all on dry flies. Polly, a less experienced angler, still caught eight or ten fish, at least one in the six pound range and several 4-6 pounders. She fished well and was helped a lot by the guides, all of whom, with one exception, we found to range from good to excellent, one outstanding.

We were captivated by the clear water, the absence of other fisherpeople (we ran in to one couple who were inexplicably trudging through the water downstream in the water we were about to fish). The paucity of fish, offset by their size, makes for challenging fishing. One or two unsuccessful casts, as we had been warned, and the biggest fish signed off and skulked as we moved on. That is not to say there were not plenty of fish. On the best days we saw twenty five or more; on the worst days a half dozen.

Probably our least success was in nymph fishing when the trout were not feeding enthusiastically. The timing of the "sip and spit" fishing is something we did not get and we failed a number of times from being too slow - or too fast.

We were charmed by Frank Murphy, the president of the New Zealand Fly Guides Association. When we met him he said, "I am Frank Murphy. What color line did you bring", followed by "Fishing should be fun. We will have some fun". And we really did, with Frank, and lots of others.

Our travel about by rental car - and we went several hundred miles - was easy, what with the good roads and considerate NZ drivers, even though we were on the "wrong side of the road".

We fished about half of our days in NZ and traveled about, enjoying the food, the people, and the scenery on the other days.

The lodges were all very hospitable and comfortable - Murphy's, Green Hill, Four Peaks, Riverview, Motueka, and Rotoroa.

All in all, a highly enjoyable trip. Thanks for all you did to make it so.  
Chuck Longworth

(editorial corrections below from Polly Longworth)

*Just to let you know that I caught 12 fish (not 8 or 10), two of which were 6-pounders, and this despite fishing two fewer days than the writer of another email from this establishment, and all but one day in tandem. I had a perfectly wonderful time, enjoying every minute we were in New Zealand. My favorite fish was the monster who immediately wrapped himself around a submerged log, so that even the most masterly acrobatics by the guide couldn't dislodge him. My favorite stays were at Frank Murphy's (I hope you heard the story of his teeth falling out when he witnessed the power of the famous Argentinian "Green Machine" fly) and at Motueka Lodge, which I would buy today if permitted to emigrate.*

*Thank you for all you did to set up our trip, and ensure that we would experience the best that New Zealand offers. Wonderful rugged people, incredibly beautiful landscapes, and a true workout in catching fish. Every step was an adventure.*

*All best, Polly*

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