

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT FRIDAY MAY 6TH 2022

by Ray French

ON THE WATER

Steady fishing early this week on the Northerly wind with the Trout well spread out. Once again last weekend the majority of the boat fleet was out and the occupants into fish, with the Any Method lads catching more in the sun and the Flyfishers doing better in the cloud. That is pretty much the norm here unless there is a big wind and then the flyboys are better off on the edge or out of it.

Fishing was still more productive within 80yds of the banks and again the area from Ferry Point to Dunstar's Bay was a favourite on the windy bank, as was Chingley Point down to the Chingley Corner of the Dam. Since the start of the season, the majority of Trout have favoured the waters of Bewl Strait, the Main Bowl and Hook Strait as far as 7lb Creek and still are.

On Wednesday I was out in the boat again with John T and the first thing we noticed was a change in wind direction over recent visits of almost 180° to SW and although it was barely a ripple it did increase during the day. Also, the sun was bright, but we were due some clouds later. Sun and wind change, not good usually but nevertheless we left the jetty with and anglers' usual mood of optimism...Short-lived however as we had no interest fish wise during the morning with just a couple of tugs being the total of our endeavour! But then how often have we found our fishing days to be a game of two halves which is exactly what Wednesday turned out to be.

With the afternoon, came the cloud and by this time we had done a few drifts in the Bowl and up Bewl Strait, including a few bays and eventually back to the Bowl again. Time for a rethink. Ok, the wind had changed during the night, Bewl fish at this time of year usually follow the wind so they could well be on the move and maybe out in open water. With that, we decided to do a long drift from Ferry Point to the Dam passing Chingley Wood Point. We had been on Slow and Fast Glass lines during the morning, I had the FG with long leader 3 small Blobs well spread out with 10 ft to top dropper.

I had a slight tug halfway across to Chingley but that was all. We moved out at Chingley towards the Lodge about 100m to avoid the anchored boats around the point and carried on towards the dam. I picked up our first fish then, on the point Blob almost as it hit the water and John had one also high in the water about 100yds further on. By then there were a few clouds building and the wind was a tad stronger. I had another at the Dam on figure 8 retrieve and saw another jump.

The fish had come up with the cloud so on went a small Booby and John changed to a Floating line. With about 25ft of leader and sitting in the bows, I didn't bother to change lines, the point fly stays up for ages on that setup and I have always found surface taken Boobies on sinking lines hook more fish than a floater! (Now that's another story 😞).

We repeated that drift for the next couple of hours, each time starting out level with Chingley Point and drifting down to the Dam and each time moving along towards the Lodge shore. We did catch six fish between us in the afternoon session and we both lost a few as they were just not sticking. There were no pods of fish about but there were sufficient to give regular action and it was good to catch fish out in open water.

A surprisingly difficult day but rewarded in the end although nearly all our takes occurred when the cloud passed over the sun. I also noticed that the Any Method rods who were catching were float fishing, with their bait at about 5ft. For the fly fisher, if you are struggling to catch it's always worth

keeping an eye on the anchored AM boys, the regulars rarely blank and offer a lot of clues to their fish success as to the depth and retrieve speed.

STOCKING

Bewl was stocked yesterday with another 2,000 Trout of mixed size. They should hopefully spread fairly quickly and provide a good bonus for the weekend!!

Part of Bewl's stocking strategy for 2022 is to stock regularly in Spring and Autumn and less in High Summer. This makes sense to take advantage of the current cool clear water and fish quality and get some action.

SUMMARY

So, the week has been difficult but rewarding for those that have moved about and read the conditions. There has been little rain but the major wind changes on Wednesday encouraged the fish to move out from the banks into open water. At the moment the wind has moved a bit to a Westerly (out from the Lodge bank) but apparently is going back to a Northerly (from the Dam down past the Lodge) over the weekend. Confusing? Yes, and probably is to the fish also. Best then that you continue in the favoured areas mentioned earlier in the report and include the open water as well as the banks.

In the boats...

Visibility is good so the fish will have no trouble seeing your fly, bait or spinners at anchor or on the drift. If you haven't had a fish or seen one caught near you in 30 minutes, move. You can always come back.

The three main points are:

- (a) Trout look up not down.
- (b) Trout will rise in the cloud
- (c) If in doubt, drift into or anchor near a bank that the wind is blowing onto.

Bank Anglers...

The three main bank areas are still from the Lodge to the Aqua Park, Monty's Seat to Dunstar's Bay and the Oaks and Two Seats at Rosemary Lane. The downside is though that they are at their best with the wind blowing into them.

Next week...

What with the increased stock and cool water the fishing should give great sport, especially with a bit of sun and cloud and.....
the water looks so inviting.

Tight lines, Ray F.