

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 4th November 2022.

by Ray French.

Following on from last week, the Any Method guys that braved the weekend weather did well with the regulars catching some quality fish. The water in places continues to be murky, affected by 'bank wash' during heavy rain. Inevitable, however, with Bewl currently only 41% full and a lot of banks on view. Having said that there is still plenty of water in the main basin and from Dunstars up Bewl Straight, and back down to 7lb Creek in Hook Straight (about 600yds past Hook House to the right of the lodge). And of course, around the corner opposite the lodge toward the nature reserve, an area called Copens Reach that has plenty.

The Fly-fishing boys have found the conditions more difficult of late with wind, sun and water colour not helping at all. After a couple of weeks, partner John T and I have at least found a method that is catching us fish and is suitable in bad weather. Last week I told how I caught on DI5 within four feet of the surface pulling two small Booby Minkies (White, about 3" long in total. Yes, that is small for Minkies in Winter 🐟) and that was after a morning twiddling. Well, this week we were out in a gusty wind, so I did the same. John stayed on the Hover line to cover the slower approach in areas that were sheltered, mostly Bewl Straight / Ferry Point.

We did a couple of hours of moving around with not a lot of action, but it was difficult on Wednesday to find clear water. Actually, we were the only boat out, so we had no reference to what others were doing than knowing that some of the AM guys had been getting results.

Two main problems here. One, I didn't think the fish could see the flies and two, we hadn't seen any fish at all.

Conclusion, after last week, go deeper.

Maybe the murky water only went so far, and if Any Method were catching it would have been likely from an anchored boats and they would have been at varying depths, maybe even on the bottom.

So on went my 'Booby Basher' Di8 ultra-fast sinker with my two Minky Boobies, again tied at 4ft and 8ft from the fly line.

Well, we got lucky, keeping away from the worst of the wind in the Chingley point area to Ferry Point, I managed to catch some nice Trout including a 'double up' (Photo). However, by lunchtime, conditions had become nasty, so we decided to call it a day at 1.30pm but not before John had switched the Di8 set up and caught a nice fish on the Minky B. at about 15ft deep drifting out from Beauman's Point in relative shelter.

### SUMMARY

We had caught our fish casting as far as we could and retrieving as slow as we could in a drifting boat lifting as we approached the flies, catching at about 15ft -18' with nothing in shallower water? I assume the fish were mostly on the bottom or that was the depth the water cleared. Or both?

However, much depends on the conditions on the day at Bewl at the moment, and as I have told we had to go to extreme lengths to catch this week. But if the water clears a tad, and it does quickly in a wind, it could all happen much higher in the water, especially in cloud.

One thing we do know is that there has been a good stocking of fish put in during the last month and the majority remain. Some are shoaled up but a lot have spread out in one's and two's.

I like to fish flies from a drifting boat but if you are new to Fly Fishing or prefer Any Method the most productive way to catch in bad weather is to anchor the boat or tie up to a buoy. This will allow you to vary your depth of presentation. We caught this week by going deeper, but not without trying high. Like I said earlier, every day is different, that is the challenge and what gives our sport such mystique!!

Tights lines. Ray F.

STOP PRESS. Bewl Water is beginning to fill at last!!



PHOTO: Double up on Wednesday. Not lumps but good quality and fought well.