

Oberon Field Trip Report

Pleasant, settled autumn weather greeted the four members who had followed the call to attend this trip, the last official field outing before the river season closes.

There had been little rain in the Oberon district for a few weeks, so the local streams were running low and clear. Due to frosty mornings, the fish didn't seem to do much before things warmed up around mid morning. Even then, there was only limited surface activity on both the streams and the dams we fished. Our main weapons were therefore nymphs and nymph type flies (like Clumsies).

We did not find many fish, but the ones we found were large, fat, and strong river fish.

These lovely waters yielded a total of 10 browns and rainbows during our stay. Nothing much below 2 pounds, and up to.... see below!!



One farm dam was brim-full with clear water. We fished there a lot, but "only" managed to extract two fat rainbows of about a pound each, and a 2 pound brown. The latter fish was spotted by yours truly patrolling the edge in shallow water (both the trout and me) in the bay mid afternoon on our first day.

It took the fly readily – my first polaroided fish from that dam!



More polaroiding joy followed the next day, when we visited other dams in the area at mid-day the following day. In one of the dams, a dark shape could be seen slowly cruising along within casting distance.

Two casts later, hook-up... and in a piece of water stocked by the Society exclusively with rainbows, a brown trout of 54 cm / almost 4 pounds was landed after a tough battle. How that fish got into this dam remains a mystery.

By Monday morning, the weather had turned feral, with strong gusty northwest winds and horizontal rain.

After an hours' heroic but fruitless casting in atrocious conditions, newish member Peter Johnson decided to try his luck in the river once more before departing. He had hooked and lost a big rainbow in a pool near the cottage the previous day on 4lb tippet.

He was keen to get his fly back. Whilst the rainbow seemed to have gone somewhere else, Peter found another fish rising and swirling nearby. He covered, hooked and landed what turned out by far the best fish of the trip – a male brown of close to six pounds, in magnificent condition!

And yes, he was still using 4 pound tippet, with a Hares Ear beadhead nymph on the business end.

An excellent effort indeed. And all of this action took place within view of the cottage.



Sadly, as this was our last day, Peter did not get the chance to sit at the head of the dinner table that night, as is usual for the Top Rod of the day.

This situation will of course be rectified next time around!!!

Cheers Gerhard.