

Final NSW Rodfishers' Society Field Trip for 2010

This was the last RFS field trip for calendar 2010 – another event full of highlights!

For starters, on Friday 26/11 the delivery truck from Triton Trout farm arrived from Tumut, 500 km to the south.

As arranged, we met the operator, Ewan Watkins, at the “Penarth” farm dam around lunchtime.

The three RFS members present at the time assisted Ewan in the day's stocking programme.

About 1,300 rainbow troutlings, each about 2 inches long, were merrily swimming around in the holding tank on the back of Ewan's truck.

The first bucket-load of 100 went into the Penarth farm dam.

Another 300 were delivered to the two dams on “Chatham Valley”, and the rest into three dams on “Lochgary”.



Following Ewan's instructions, we tossed 'em in rather unceremoniously – see attached photo! It was delightful to see how, after only about 5 minutes in the water of their new home, the little things were cruising around in small groups, sipping flies off the surface, as if it was just another day in the office for them.

Having emptied his tank, Ewan left around 2 pm for his trip home to Tumut – a 1,000 km round trip for him that day!

We then set off to commence some serious fishing in the nearby Duckmaloi River. Yours truly had a horrible afternoon, losing three Clumsy's in a row (together with assorted lengths of tippet) in some unstoppable bruiser browns and rainbows, who used the assorted obstacles in their home pools (submerged roots, weeds, and branches) to break off our acquaintance fully on their terms.

It was not till the end of our session that a 3-pound brown turned out a bit more docile, and was successfully landed and released. My two comrades, Chris Blyth and Shaun Wormald, did much better, both landing several nice browns and rainbows up to 3 pounds on Royal Wulffs and emerger patterns (see second photo of Chris with a nice rainbow).



Fishing the same stretch of the Duckmaloi the following day, Chris hooked and landed a 3 pound brown on one of Peter Leuver's emergers. On removing the fly, he noticed another fly embedded in the throat of the fish – it was one of the green/black Clumsy's I had lost in a fish the day before!! How's that for gullibility... and, importantly, an indication of how short a trout's memory can be.

All up, we “only” ended up with two full days of glorious fishing, as the rain set in on Sunday, forcing us to capitulate, completely drenched, at lunchtime. However, over these two days, we caught twenty-six fish between us, with each member of the party contributing to the total tally (the fourth attendee, John Barry, joined us on Friday evening). We caught mainly browns, and some rainbows, with the biggest browns between 3 and 4 pounds. All fish were in great condition, and all were released back into the water. Most came from various stretches of the Duckmaloi. We fished Fish River Creek on “Penarth” too, but there were noticeably fewer fish present there, and we caught only a handful up to a pound or so.

The big rainbows in the “Penarth” farm dam are still there – Chris Blyth was broken off by a beauty as we were waiting for the truck from Tumut – but none was landed this time.

It's goodbye from me for 2010

Hope to see you on a river somewhere next year
Season's greetings.

Gerhard.