

River Haven Lodge

Start of the 2011/2012 Fishing Season Highlights

By Leya & Scott Murray



River Haven started with a bang with all folks landing lots of fish throughout October. Ruhan Neethling broke the local record for number of fish landed in one day, a mighty thirty-one! He followed that up, with a twenty-seven fish day on a heli fly out! All these weighed between three and seven pounds! Most anglers had between one and ten fish per day. This is quite exceptional considering most anglers think October waters are too high.



Ruhan Neethling with fishing mate, Daniel showing their double hook-up, both around 5 lbs.!

John Part struck again! He just can't help himself! Pictured here with an eleven and three quarter pound brown trout. Two days later, he followed with an eleven and a quarter brown! He topped this off, with a very fine twenty-six fish day on a heli fly out!



John Part strikes again with his 11 3/4lb Brown! John has landed 40 two digit trout over his 12 years fishing with Scott "The Trout" Murray!

John's testament to the fishery around River Haven, is that he books three years in advance, to ensure he gets the dates he wants, and these figures show his judgment to be accurate!



Andrew McDermid lands this beauty weighing 10 lbs!



Anthony Hyde, Aussie Angler Extrodinaire!

Anthony Hyde, even with a mending foot from a horse accident, managed to land this beauty!



It was great to see Carol and Scott Heppell return to New Zealand's South Island and being the avid anglers they are, also had great catches, including a eight pounder!

Carter Family Celebrates Dad's Seventieth at River Haven Lodge!

What better way to celebrate your 70th birthday, than with all the men in your family?! Not only did they have some great fishing, but they also watched the All Blacks play the semi final against Australia (their home turf) in the Rugby World Cup. We at River Haven want to extend a big "thank you" to all of the Carter boys for helping us get into the final!

The guys caught several fish amongst them during the time they spent with us, the largest being an 8 pound brown trout by Mike, not far from the lodge....

Peter Carter's Son-in-laws, Simon (R) and Mike with his beauty of the day weighing in at 8 pounds!



Peter Carter, (far right), his son, Craig (on Pete's Left), and his two son-in-laws, Simon (next to Craig) and Mike (on the far left).

Whom Better to View the World Cup With, Than an Ex-Pro Player himself!

Left, Laurent LeFlanchec (former 1995 World Cup Rugby player for Argentina) visiting from France, comes to witness the large browns for himself after his film crew did a special on River Haven Lodge last season! The film was such a success, it's showing again this year in France!



49 Fish in Five Days!?!



Alec and Diane Keith, a lovely couple from Papua, pictured here with a fine eight and a quarter lb brown trout landed by Alec. The two of them managed to land **49** fish in just five days! One day they landed 23 fish, mainly on dry flies! Well Done Keiths!

Ken Holland Strikes Again!

Ken has been coming to New Zealand for nearly twenty years. In his six days of fishing this season, he landed 41 fish, topped off with a nine pounder and ten pounder on dry flies in the same day!



Ken Holland, 86 years young, pictured here with his 10 pound brown landed on a dry fly!

The London's Visit River Haven!

Bob and Heath London of North Carolina managed to land sixteen brown trout in only one and a half days, between three and six and a quarter pounds! "Wish we'd planned to stay here longer!", was all Heath could say....



Travis Keltner of Australia fished in very trying conditions, and still managed to land six fish each day! The first one on his first cast!

How The Murray's Spent Their 2011 Winter In America

To share a bit of our news with our clients, we'd like to introduce you to two amazing Lodges we were lucky enough to experience over the off season, during our holiday in America.

We first met up with Craig Fellin, Big Hole Montana's lodge owner and host, for over twenty years. Craig took us to the McCoy's River where Scotty landed a 23" brown among another fifteen ranging from 14" to 23"! Great fun with a great Guide! Craig's son, Wade, Head Guide and Co-host, took us down the Big Hole River, where Scotty landed twenty plus browns and rainbows, ranging from 12" – 19". These buggers love to give you a good fight! We even got to witness the salmon fly hatches! The Lodge itself, was cozy, comfortable and perfect for any tired angler after a big day!

Our three gourmet meals never left you wanting and sharing our daily angler stories around the dinner table was always special. Montana is a wonderful place that beckons and lives vividly in your imagination.

Our holiday was still only beginning as we visited Soaring Eagle Lodge, nestled in the banks of the San Juan River in north western New Mexico. Larry and Leslie Anderson were absolutely lovely hosts, never missing an opportunity to create lasting memories. We were boated down the San Juan River and over the week, landed so many fish, we stopped counting! The meals? Can we talk! The prime rib flowed over the sides of the large dinnerware! The aromatic smells, after a great day in the sun, encouraged you to eat it all!

Leslie took all the "girls" to town one day for a bit of beautifying, where we all laughed until we cried! To add to this amazing fishing holiday, Leslie gave us a personal guided tour of nearby Santa Fe, New Mexico. Their art, sculptures and amazing clothing were entertaining, not to mention the fabulous food and margaritas!

Both Craig Fellin's Big Hole Lodge and Larry Johnson's Soaring Eagle Lodge are extremely well run and very comfortable. The fishing is great, plus the Guides were all exceptional and personable. You all know what it's like with a grumpy guide all day!?! It's a loonngg day! Not at these lodges, both were so accommodating, we didn't even need to think much, it was done for us! If ever you have the chance to visit Big Hole Lodge in Montana, or Soaring Eagle Lodge in New Mexico, for goodness sakes, GO! You'll never regret it....



River Haven's Team Cannot Be Beat.....

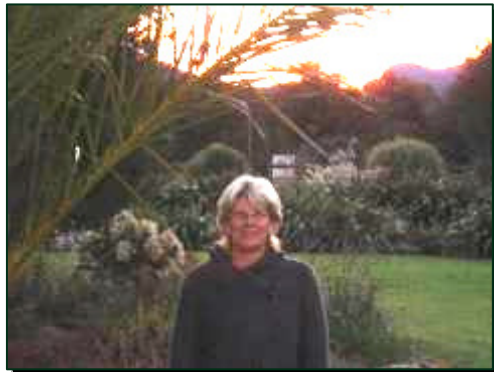
Liz Wanstall

Liz Wanstall is our latest addition to the River Haven family.

Liz does everything from cleaning to assisting the Chef. She has become indispensable assisting lodge owner, Leya Murray!

Liz has been in the Murchison area with her husband, Stu and daughter, Anne Liese, for nearly four years.

We are proud and fortunate to have Lizzy join our team.



Lizzy Wanstall, River Haven's newest gem!



Greg Chisnall (R) with RHL client, Ray Kirk.

Greg Chisnall

Greg Chisnall has been guiding for over twenty years in this region. He's a very honest, down to earth chap, that keeps you smiling all day on the river. He has many tales to tell, and his personality never lacks in friendliness, nor humour.

His partner, Ingrid, teaches in the Cook Islands. Greg has a winery business as well, allowing him the time to fish for River Haven, and still get away to the Islands each winter.

Greg Gardiner, is one of River Haven's Fishing Guides. He's worked with us for over a season now and has more than shown his expertise in the guiding field. Greg has been guiding in the Murchison Area for about fifteen years.

Greg's wife, Bernadette and two children have a home in Motueka.

Greg's easy going attitude and personality are quite infectious. He has proved himself beyond measure, with the numbers of brown trout, he's helped our clients to land.

Greg Gardiner



Greg Gardiner, one of the region's finest!