

November 2005

Winter has finally ended and our third season has begun and what a season it promises to be!

We have had one of the mildest winters on record – with no major floods and unusually warm days. This has meant the trout have been feeding well all winter and generally in fantastic condition.

Our off season was spent further developing the gardens, general maintenance and upgrading some of our facilities.

New Zealand tourism's official quality rating organisation is called Qualmark. They provide a "Star Rating" for accommodation providers and I decided that it would be worth while the lodge undergo their audit process. I'm proud to report that the result of their inspection is that we have been awarded with a Qualmark rating of 5 stars - "Exceptional - among the best available in New Zealand"

One of the great things about running a lodge is the wonderful people we meet. Howard & Marion from the United Kingdom spent a few days with us early in the season.



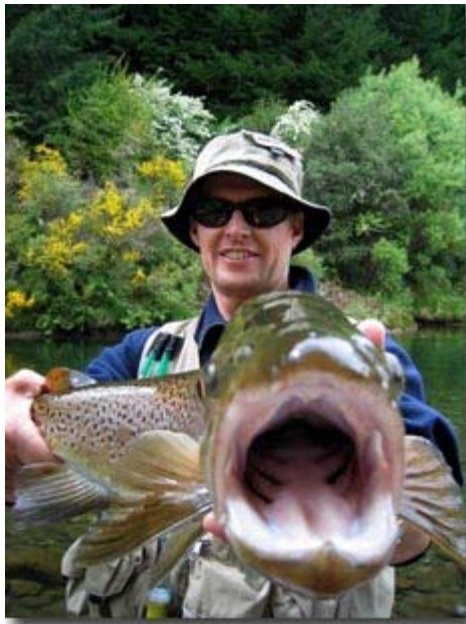
We would like to unveil Howard's unusual method of catching trout – Levitating!



Late October saw the lodge at full occupancy– and full of Australians!



It was delightful to welcome Joe & Jenny Signe for their third visit to the lodge. They were treated to a few magic days on the river – their last seeing them land 11 brownies between them !



Geoff Parker made it visit number 2, when he stayed with us over the Melbourne Cup weekend.



The past few weeks has seen the fishing really hotting up, with fantastic Mayfly hatches most afternoons.

I would like to welcome Natalie Strain, who has joined the team at Owen River Lodge. Natalie has just completed her first season at one of Alaska's leading fishing lodge. Here's a shot of Natalie along with Jude.



The team and I look forward to show you our little slice of heaven.

Felix