

2010 PUNIUI CLUB TRIP, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March

Plenty of spaces still available on this trip! Room still available in 'The Puniui Hut'.

This trip is being run as an alternative to the South Island trip.

For those of you who haven't fished this area, come along and experience this wonderful fishery close to Auckland. For those of you that have fished in this part of the country please come along – your experience will be most appreciated.

There is plenty of water in the area which we can all spread out and cover on this trip. We will pair everyone up and hit the rivers first thing Saturday morning.

#### Fishery Description:

The Puniui rises in the Pureora Forest in the central Waikato and flows over open farmland and bush country to join the Waipa River near the small town of Pirongia, near Te Awamutu.

In the upper and middle reaches the Puniui is a beautiful small river with many kilometres of fishable water flowing over a stone and shingle bed. It is an excellent river that offers much to the angler who enjoys stalking fish that can be challenging to catch.

The middle reaches flow over mostly open farmland allowing good fly fishing access but water clarity has been badly affected by farm run-off. There are good fish in the section but due to the poor water visibility, most of the fishing is done blind. After long dry spells the water becomes very clear and the fish more wary.

In the middle and upper reaches the angler is treated to prime fly water. During the day, fish respond well to a sunk nymph while there is often a very good evening rise in the summer months of **November to late March**. Fish are often spotted and can be targeted. A good method is to use a dry fly / nymph tandem with the dry fly acting as the indicator though fish will very often take the dry fly.

Good numbers of both rainbow and brown trout are present though rainbows are more common in the upper reaches and being a more aggressive fish and easier to catch, tend to make the bulk of the anglers bag. Average size is around 1kg though some **very big fish do move up the river from the Waikato and Waipa, especially during the warmer summer months**.

The major tributaries of the Puniui River are the:

- Owairaka Stream
- Mangatutu Stream
- Waipara River

Contact Sam Bourne ( [sam.bourne@boffamiskell.co.nz](mailto:sam.bourne@boffamiskell.co.nz) ) to confirm your booking for this BYO (low cost trip). Hut (\$5 per night) or camping (free) accommodation at the AFAC hut and surrounds or organise your own local accommodation for all the creature comforts.

Craig and Wendy (local Puniui AFAC members) have offered to have all the trip goers to their place for a BBQ on the Saturday night. This should be a great opportunity to all catch up and discuss the days fishing as well as get some local knowledge from Craig and Wendy.

We hope to see you there...