

## THE MAEREWHENUA RIVER FISHERY

The Maerewhenua River is the second largest tributary of the lower Waitaki River. Brown and Rainbow Trout are found in moderate numbers in the mid and upper reaches however from the confluence with the Waitaki River to a point approximately 5km upstream they are seldom observed.

The Maerewhenua River is a small trout stream and during the height of summer often suffers from low flows. As levels fall some trout descend to the cold waters of the Waitaki River, anglers intending to fish the Maerewhenua River should do so during the early part of the season. Despite its small size, the Maerewhenua River holds some large trout and it is not uncommon to see an occasional specimen of 2.5kg. In the upper reaches the river divides. In the North Branch, the larger of the two streams, trout are more numerous. If a good flow is evident in the South Branch it is worth inspection. Although access is more difficult, often large adults will stay after spawning presenting the angler with surprising opportunities. Nymph fishing is generally successful throughout the day, but at times mayfly hatches will occur and trout will feed with great enthusiasm precluding all other food items.

## ANGLING INFORMATION

The Maerewhenua River is a small clearwater fishery where fine tippets on a light floating line will provide access to most trout seen. There are however larger pools which may require a deep sunken nymph to tempt the more wary fish. In these locations a sinking line or a "nymph tip" may be necessary to take your artificial to the bottom.

The Maerewhenua River produces a diverse population of aquatic invertebrates with mayfly and caddis being the most prolific of the species.

Artificial dry flies and nymphs in smaller sizes which represent these are recommended. Nymph patterns which have been successful include: "Hare and Copper", "Pheasant Tail", and "Hares Ear". Gold or copper beadhead patterns are also used and early in the season larger Stonefly and Creeper nymphs will entice post spawning trout especially voracious "rainbows".

Dry flies used to deceive Maerewhenua trout include both feather and hairwing mayfly patterns such as: "Royal Wulff", "Adams Irresistible", "Red Tipped Governor", "Cochy-Bondhu", "March Brown", "Blue Dun", and "Humpty". Emerger patterns such as the "C.D.C." are often a good provider when a hatch is on.

## ANGLERS ACCESS

### Central South Island Region

32 Richard Pearse Drive, PO Box 150, Temuka, New Zealand  
Telephone (03) 615 8400, Facsimile (03) 615 8401

## PROTECTING THE RESOURCE

Clear flowing trout streams are an important part of the New Zealand environment. Recreationally they are enjoyed by anglers, hunters, naturalists, and they provide a landscape for which New Zealand is famous.

Today however, there are competing interests which can seriously affect these delicate ecosystems, and all flowing waters are under threat. Small rivers and coastal streams have become endangered habitats.

Anglers who have concerns regarding riparian damage, water abstraction or water quality should act immediately.

Regional Councils have staff who will deal with your complaints.

Environment Canterbury has a 24 hour "Pollution Hotline" call 688 3320.

For river and rainfall information call 08 322 5522

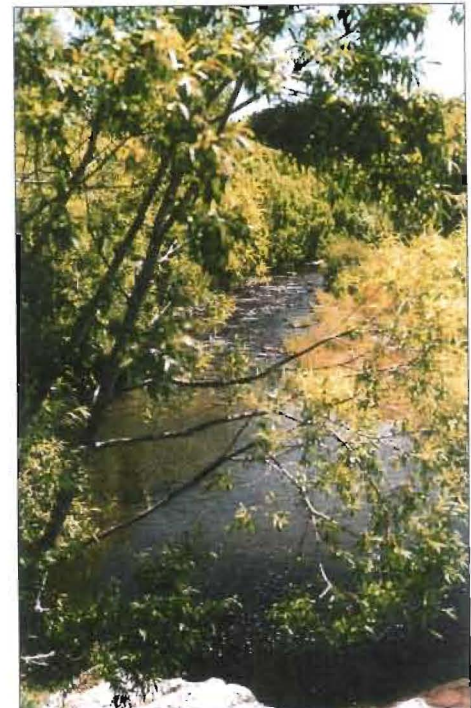
## ACCESS ETIQUETTE

- No dogs
- No guns
- No camping
- Leave gates as you find them
- Stay within the river margins
- Do not litter
- Respect private property
- Avoid disturbing stock or damaging crops
- Do not park vehicles in gateways
- Be courteous to local landowners and others

Remember the reputation of **ALL** anglers is reflected by your actions

## FISHING ETIQUETTE

- Respect other anglers already on the water
- Enquire politely about their fishing plans
- Start your angling in the opposite direction
- Refer to your current Sports Fishing Guide for fishing regulations and bag limits



Maerewhenua River  
Shaded pools, Tokarahi Pump house

Cover Photo:  
North Branch Maerewhenua River

## MAEREWHENUA RIVER ACCESS POINTS

- ① State Highway 83 Bridge
- ② Creek Road
- ③ Earthquakes Road Bridge
- ④ Ford
- ⑤ Pumping Station
- ⑥ Pringles Gulley Road Bridge
- ⑦ Roadside Access
- ⑧ Roadside Access
- ⑨ North Branch Access
- ⑩ South Branch Access
- ⑪ Danseys Pass Road Bridge

