

The rain in the past week was a welcome sight for the farmers and also should add a bit of activity in the river. A flush of water at this time of year (no matter how small) kicks the food chain into action, stimulating the top end predators such as cod and large lobsters to feed.

The river at the moment is crystal clear with the best visibility I have seen in some years. Whilst I haven't had time this week to sneak in a trip, in past seasons July has been one of the most consistent months for lure trolling cod in the 5-10kg size range. The clear water in July undoubtedly plays a big part in this.

Further afield, Tony Curtis and Wayne Connors have not long returned from fishing the Wentworth region and whilst they didn't get a big cod, the group they were with landed (and released) eight fish from 12-30kg. All but three of the fish were over a metre in length and all were taken on lures. Patrick (Patto) Martin from the Fishing Hole in Canberra and his brother took personal best cod of 108cm and 106cm on this same trip with both fish caught casting lures into relatively shallow water.

Patto has mastered the use of casting surface lures in the ACT. He fishes isolated parts of the Murrumbidgee, casting into pools between rapids, usually around the full moon. The number of cod pushing a metre in length coming through on email, has me thinking that this is more than a novel technique and can be the most effective way to catch cod from comparatively shallow water. I fished with Patto a few weeks ago and he was quite excited about the amount of water suitable for surface lures we have in our region. The time of year has passed where this technique is most effective however it's something that I will be doing more of next season.

Marty Asmus and myself have completed our book detailing the riverside reserves between Gundagai and Narrandera. The publisher is making the final round of changes and it should be printed in the next couple of weeks. Our book will allow you to find each reserve using written directions, a detailed map, GPS coordinates, or a combination of the above. We have rated a variety of features for each reserve from the condition of the tracks, to the boat launching options, to the amount of shade and firewood you will find on site. We have added enough detail so that there will be no surprises when you arrive at your chosen fishing/camping location.

We don't have the release date yet, but Rod Cockburn's Compleat Angler will have copies as soon as they are printed.

**Jamin Forbes**