

Early last week I received a phone call from Rob Paxevanos checking my availability to take his 'Fishing Australia' crew fishing on the Murrumbidgee near Gundagai. Needless to say the answer was 'yes'. (I would sort out the details with my wife later!).

Marty Asmus (co-author of Fishing and Camping Murrumbidgee River Gundagai to Narrandera) generously offered to bring his boat and assist with transporting Rob, the producer, the sound man and camera man, along with the mountain of gear a film crew needs to operate.

After an 11.00am start to the day, the fish finally started to hit our lures once the shadows lengthened on the water. The bites were timid and we worked hard landing six fish for the afternoon and dropping a few others in the process. The best fish for the day was a 55-60cm trout cod which Rob mistakenly picked for a 20-30lb cod whilst fighting it. They are a strong fish and deserve a true 'sport fish' profile.

Rob and his crew were impressed with the Murrumbidgee and despite the fish being hard to catch on the day, they liked the river-style of fishing and the changing scenery.

The short notice given to organise this trip was made more stressful by my new boat being in pieces. Craig and his team at Wagga Marine worked around the clock to get the boat ready in time and the quality of the final product was appreciated by Rob and his crew. The footage we shot is scheduled to appear on Channel Nine in July.

My new boat is a 4.1m Polycraft with a 40hp Honda and wireless Motorguide electric motor. This rig is central to my new venture *Riverina Sportfishing* which I plan to commence after Easter. I will be conducting guided freshwater fishing tours throughout the Riverina (and beyond) with a focus on fishing a 200km radius from Wagga Wagga.

Within this area we have some of the best inland fishing available. The river locally is full of cod and we are fortunate to have one of the strongest populations of the protected trout cod in Australia. Further downstream we have the Berembed, Yanco, Gogeldrie and Hay Weirs where slow deep water allows the cod to grow to monstrous sizes. Throw in Blowering & Burrinjuck and you have endless fishing opportunities.

I am flexible in the location and style of fishing and will adjust for each client's requirements.

The start date for tours is dependant on NSW Maritime inspections on my boat which should be completed mid April. For more information go to www.riverinasportfishing.com, contact Rod's Compleat Angler, or phone me on 0427 692522.

Jamin Forbes