

## Spring is in the Air

---

Jamin Forbes 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007

The weather has transitioned from freezing cold winter gloom to spectacular warm spring days. The countryside is looking good with spring colours and crops growing well in comparison to the hard drought years.

Our local waterways are starting to warm up with temperatures in the low to mid teens. At these temperatures the smaller fish start to wake from their winter hibernation and become active. It will take another couple of weeks before the water temperature starts to narrow the gap to the air temperature and this is when the fishing is exceptional.

The river has just risen a metre or so, which has pushed water through the Old Man Creek. The creek has been a series of waterholes for some months and with water flowing again, the fish will be feeding aggressively.

The increased flow through the river also gives the extra depth needed for simpler navigation over the sandbars and riffle beds (which is good news for our propellers). The water coming downstream is still a bit dirty, which isn't ideal for lure fishing, but as the river settles in the next week or two, lure fishing becomes the technique of choice.

Blowering and Burrinjuck Dams are starting to produce their annual spring runs of golden perch, with bait anglers accounting for the bulk of fish caught. Shrimps and small yabbies bobbed in the timber or worms fished from the shore at night are the standout techniques at this time of year.

News is also filtering through of a handful of large goldens taken in the shallows at Blowering. These fish are typically spooky and electric power or casting from the bank is less likely to see your quarry scoot into the deep water as you approach.

The new fishing legislation banning setlines came into effect this week. For some fisherman the transition from this style of fishing won't be easy as it's been a culture in inland rivers for generations. It's good to see that many 'old-style' fishermen are seeking to change their habits and learn how to use a rod and reel effectively.

For those looking to learn new fishing skills or improve their own systems, there is plenty of information available on websites such as Spooled, Sweetwater or Fishnet, but there is only so much you can learn from reading. Speak with the staff at your tackle shop or better still, organise a day on the water with an experienced fisherman or guide. You will pick up a few tricks that can save years of trial and error fishing.

The serenity of fishing and boating only goes so far. Catching fish really does make your trip so much more enjoyable.