

I don't normally stand on the soapbox to make a point, but with the summer holidays increasing the number of fisherman along the river, unfortunately there has also been a significant increase in the amount of rubbish left behind at reserves and dumped in the river.

Through my fishing guide business, I spend more time on our local waterways than most and take great pride in showcasing the river and its fish to both locals and visitors from interstate. The river is one of our greatest resources and when inconsiderate people drive away leaving a mess for others to clean up it wears very thin.

It's easy to pick up your own rubbish, use an existing fireplace (rather than create a new one), and perhaps pick up a bit of rubbish that may be lying about, so that we can all enjoy a pristine environment.

On a more positive note, the fish are really on the bite at the moment. The river downstream from Wagga is crawling with undersize cod, which are heaps of fun to catch on lures and bait. There are also a few bigger fish preying on the small cod, so it's worth running a bigger lure just in case.

Through the week I captured several fish which still had hooks in their gullet. The anglers who caught these fish in days previous did the right thing and snipped the hook off. The fish showed no ill effects and readily took quite large lures.

Fish usually de-hook themselves in a couple of days. One thing to remember is not to lift a deeply hooked fish out of the water using the line, as the hook will tear the gut lining or gills, and kill the fish. Use a net or your hand to lift the fish and to release pressure on the hook when you cut it off.

Aside from the river, Blowering continues to produce big cod. Large bardies fished from the bank through the night is becoming a very reliable way of catching the fish of a lifetime. Lure fishing continues to be difficult, but Yellowin Bay and Yolde seem to be fishing better than the wall.

The Hume Weir redfin are finally hungry and although the fish aren't huge, they are enthusiastic and easy to catch (a good day for the kids).

One tip for when you are lure fishing for murray cod, is that big fish hit a lure with blinding speed and power, clamping their jaws shut on the lure and turning back for cover. If your rod is in the holder when this strike occurs, you will struggle to release the rod from the holder and often the fish spits the lure before you have had a chance to set the hooks. If the rod is in your hand, a flick of the rod to set the hooks and you are free to fight the fish.

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