

Riverina Sportfishing Report

16th April 2008

Chilly mornings and clear warm days make this time of year a pleasure to be outdoors. Add in school holidays and you have the perfect excuse to take leave from work and go camping and fishing with the family (or a few mates as the case may be).

At the Compleat Angler we always get asked “Where do I go to catch a fish?” The answer in April is “just about anywhere.” April is the pick of the months for fishing the river, Old Man Creek and any of the dams for cod, goldens, trout, carp or whatever fish you like to catch.

Bait fishing in the river is accounting for good numbers of cod with a smattering of fish over 55cm. The cool water has also sparked the appetite of trout cod with some fish over 60cm being hooked when lure fishing (just make sure to return them unharmed as they are a protected species).

The dams are also returning rewards for the patient with Talbingo offering good redfin and a handful of trout. Don Wright of Wagga landed a monster 700mm (4.5kg) brown trout at Sioux City. Fish of this calibre are smart and become accustomed to the usual lures and bait thrown at them. In this instance, Don thought outside the square and changed to a small soft plastic which the fish hoovered immediately.

Whilst we often associate cold water with trout fishing, April usually heralds the start of big cod season. Despite what you may have heard, large cod are actually easier to target when both water and air temperatures are in single figures. Lure fishing is the best method to try for these giants, but be aware that it can be many, many hours between bites. I usually budget for a couple of bites per day in the depths of winter – any more than this is a good day. Where and how to fish also has a bearing on success. There are a few tricks to running your lures, but learning to read the river and identify where large fish live makes the job of teasing one into biting a lot simpler. Take the time to locate and then fish deep water filled with old red gum snags. Your sounder is a key asset in this regard.

Powerful colour and monochrome sounders are priced sensibly these days. The detail given by a class unit will allow you, at a glance, to identify the size, type and overall quality of structure under the boat. This information directly translates into better fishing, so don't skimp on this vital piece of equipment for your boat.

If your sounder is a bit complex, call into the Compleat Angler or Wagga Marine and we can unravel the mysteries for you.

Jamin Forbes