

Riverina Sport Fishing Report

11th February 2009

Have we seen the last of the extreme heat and wind that has caused much of Victoria to burn? We've been lucky in this region that the fires have largely been to the south, and as fisherman our biggest concern is that it has been too hot for fish and fisherman alike.

The cool change has reduced the fire threat and also allowed the river to cool to levels where the fish are getting hungrier. As is typical through summer the bait fisherman are catching plenty of smaller fish with cheese, grubs and shrimp doing plenty of damage, but for we lure fisherman we work very hard for each fish and hope that a large cod or golden perch makes a mistake and grabs a lure rather than one of the plagues of small fish that are busy in the warm water.



Further up in the hills, Blowering and Burrinjuck have both been producing good fish. I say this with care as most of the fish are being caught by experienced fisherman who really know how to work lures and bait. Blowering has fished well at night (and usually does year round) but Burrinjuck is showing some nice cod and goldens through the day and is probably a better option for a family day on the water.

Dave Harp of Mudguts Spinnerbaits and a few other crews from the Wagga Boat Club Anglers down-rigged and lead-lined Jindabyne recently and caught a plethora of trout. Harpy indicated that depth was the key, even adding snap weights to leadline to get the lures down to the cool water where the trout were holding.

I fished a day Mulwala last week landing eight nice cod casting both spinnerbaits and hard bodies around the lake edges. Casting along logs that had some shade was the preferred technique with the re-growth of weed starting to eliminate many locations.

To fill in a bit of time toward the end of the day, we also cast small suspending lures at the schools of carp that cruise through the weed. With a slow 'twitchy' retrieve the carp hit the lures well. Sight casting lures to any fish is exciting and adds another dimension to clear water fishing when the native species aren't biting. Don't laugh until you've tried it! Carp are a smart fish that fight very hard when hooked.

Burrinjuck is another ideal location to sight cast for carp. Pack a spin rod and a couple of small lures and give it a go.

Jamin Forbes