

From the Fisher's Mouth

21st December 2009

Fishing and camping. What a great combination. With the kids on school holidays it's the perfect time to pitch a tent and wet a line.

The Murrumbidgee's reserves, State Forest and public recreation areas are the ideal place to get away for a couple of days. Within an hours drive from Wagga, we have dozens of locations to camp where in many locations you will barely see another person.



Blowering is a very popular place at this time of year, but will no natural shade it can be harsh in the sun for the kids. The river however is lined with shady red gums that take the pressure off trying to prevent sunburn. The river does have the added hazard of flowing water, but if you choose your campsite to be on one of the Murrumbidgee's beaches, the gentle flow and shallow water are ideal for swimming.

The book *Fishing and Camping Murrumbidgee River Gundagai to Narrandera* and the second book in the series *Fishing and Camping Murrumbidgee River Narrandera to Balranald* are the best resource to plan your camping holiday. Detailed maps, pictures and directions allow you to plan your trip from the lounge room and know exactly what to expect on arrival. These books are available from Fishing World – Gumly, Wagga's Tourist Information Centre or online from the Australian Fishing Network (www.afn.com.au).

Now that you have chosen where to camp, the task of catching a fish for the kids becomes a priority. Children aren't fussy when fishing, as long as it has fins it's a momentous capture and worthy of a photo destined to be stuck on the fridge.

Bait fishing is the simplest way of catching fish from the river. The humble worm is always a reliable bait, as is cheese (Bega Tasty Bar-be-cubes are ideal), but if you want to get more serious use fresh bardi grubs and peeled yabby tails.

The rig used for bait fishing the river is as easy as threading on a sinker (pea to marble size ball sinkers are ideal) and tying on a hook (#2 to #2/0). This running sinker rig is simple, snag resistant and with only one knot to tie is quick and easy when you have a tribe of kids wanting to have their rods rigged up.

Fish bite best morning and evening, so through the day let the kids swim and as the shadows lengthen take them fishing, Cast your baits near snags and you will soon have a fish of some sort making your children happy campers.

If you want to learn more about fishing our local area, Dave Carter's *Introduction to Fishing* course (ph 0417 639 251) will provide decades of knowledge in one fun filled day.

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