

From the Fisher's Mouth

18th January 2010

As summer continues Lake Albert in Wagga Wagga is shrivelling into a puddle. Already we have carp starting to show up dead around the fringes and it won't be long before we have a hot spell which will evaporate the last of the water and kill all the fish remaining in the lake. If it does dry up, it will be a big clean-up as there are tonnes of fish remaining in the lake.

It's a sad sight to see Lake Albert dying, when merely six years ago, fishermen were travelling to Wagga to try and catch the huge cod that lived in the murky water. With a return to normal rainfall patterns the lake will recover, but I think it too late for the existing fish population.

On a brighter note, the Murrumbidgee has a strong flow at present, allowing access for boats of all sizes. The fish are also biting well, with small cod being very active on bait. Most cod caught from the river during summer are juveniles, but occasionally a big fish will make a mistake and eat a lure or bait. Lures are a better option when searching for bigger fish, but you will wait longer between bites in comparison to the bait fishermen.

Blowering Dam, Talbingo Dam, and Lake Hume are also worth a try for the redfin. These tasty morsels form large schools through the summer and once you find them, the fishing can be fast and furious. A quality fish finder will assist in tracking down the schools, where you can then use worms, small yabbies, jigs, or soft plastics to tempt these voracious fish.

Aside from the fishing, Harro from Wagga Marine reports that there have been several incidents recently with trailers losing wheels, breaking springs and other holiday wrecking problems. Bigger boats are especially prone to trailer breakdowns due to the extra weight, so if you're towing, get your trailer checked so at least you can get to your destination safely. Whilst your trailer is being checked out, you should also ensure that the boats battery is charged, the steering system works and that the engine runs as it should. A few simple things to make sure your holiday is not marred by mechanical issues.

Jamin Forbes