

From the Fisher's Mouth

25th January 2010

In the *Fishers Mouth* last week, I spoke about some basic maintenance checks before you go away that can save a boating holiday. I should have heeded my own advice as I dusted off the family fishing/ski boat, checked batteries, trailer etc, and drove to Blowering when we found that the steering was seized. Our only option was to drive back to Wagga and replace the steering. Wagga Marine was very helpful (as always) and six hours after we left we were able to relaunch the boat and continue skiing.

Snowy Hydro was releasing huge amounts of water through Jounama Pondage which raised the water level in Blowering a couple of metres. The icy water entering the top end of the lake was not ideal for swimming, and with a ten degree drop in water temperature, the native fish will move away from the cold water infusing seeking warmth in the bays and also migrating further down the lake where the temperature differential is not as great.



Despite not fishing at Blowering, my brother-in-law, Rhys, still managed to land a large brown trout with his bare hands. This fish was resting in the still water in front of our camp after travelling through the spillway at Jounama. Rhys pounced like a hungry bear, plucking the fish from the water and flicking it into the boat where it landed amongst a throng of screaming children.

Blowering fished well for anglers fishing from the shore at night last week. The boat traffic during the day makes the fish swim deep during the day, but at night they move about and are easier to catch. As this column goes to print, the moon will be full and there will be a lot of fisherman trolling lures at Blowering in search of big cod and golden perch. There are many locations to fish at night in Blowering, so it pays to avoid the crowds on the wall and look elsewhere. Also consider fishing the evening at Burrinjuck or at Mulwala. Both lakes have excellent night options.

The cooler weather has also dropped the water temperature in the Murrumbidgee which has sparked the hunger of the larger fish. Contrary to what most people believe, large fish in our rivers are easier to catch when the water temperature is between ten and twenty degrees. Above and below this temperature range the fish are more difficult to tempt.

Jamin Forbes