

## From the Fisher's Mouth

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18<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Earlier this week I spent a day travelling to each of the reserves, public recreation areas and State Forests listed in the book *Fishing and Camping Murrumbidgee River Gundagai to Narrandera*. The reason for this was to gather new information for the upcoming reprint of this popular reference.



One thing that stood out on my data gathering was the amount of rubbish dumped in the reserves. Rubbish, commercial waste, fires left burning and a myriad of other destructive influences were evident at most sites.

By far the worst was Pipers Reserve at Berembed Weir. The group of people that camped on the weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April at the upstream end of the reserve left a staggering amount of rubbish behind. Piles of smashed glass, broken chairs, and refuse everywhere make the place unpleasant for the next people who plan to camp there.

Piper's is a very popular place to visit with fishermen, campers, and travellers coming from across Australia to visit. It's a disgrace that users should leave it in such a state. We are all taught to clean up after ourselves at a very young age, and it's a simple matter of carrying out what you carry in.

On a more positive note, some of our reserves are immaculate with council staff, local residents and reserve users in certain areas contributing to keep our river access points neat and tidy.

Sandy Beach at Wantabadgery and Oura Beach certainly have the best facilities and are well maintained, however the spectacular forests at Berry Jerry & Narrandera certainly make for secluded and peaceful camping (as long as the motorbikes aren't too thick).

With winter approaching now is the time to fish the rivers. The water temperature is down to the mid teens and the fish are feeding up before the water chills down into single figures. The cod are particularly active in the morning and afternoon whilst the period between 11am and 2pm is often fruitless.

During the midday doldrums I usually have lunch, or spend a couple of hours trolling, but make sure that around mid afternoon that I am fishing a productive section of river.

It can be easy to lose interest after three or more hours without a bite, however if you prepare for the fact that nothing is likely to happen during the middle of the day and any fish caught is a bonus, you will be able to refocus your attention to fish well at the prime time of day.

Jamin Forbes