

From the Fisher's Mouth

27th April 2010

Autumn is the best time of year for camping along our rivers, lakes and streams. The nights are crisp requiring a fire to keep you warm, there are no flies and the cold night air keeps the mosquitoes at bay. The water is still warm enough to keep the fish active and by midday you are down to single layers of clothing.

To make the most of your camping weekend there are a few things you need to prepare. A simple list will ensure that you don't forget too much. NB: You will always forget



something so best to accept it and move on! Start with the essentials such as boat (if you don't have a boat, consider buying one for the occasion), rods, lures, bait, and fuel before moving to the less essential items such as bedding, tent, food, drinks and a BBQ. To make things more comfortable you can add fold up chairs, a table, and a lamp/torch.

I have progressed further and take a small Honda generator. This way I can boil a jug, run lights and charge the batteries in the boat (and you thought the generator was for camping!).

Many easily accessible camping locations are devoid of wood worth collecting for a campfire. You can scrape enough together to start the fire, but you are better off carting in your own logs. If you are limited for space to bring wood from home, the best option is to set up camp, put the boat in the water and then use the boat trailer or boot of your vehicle to carry logs back to your campsite.

Remember that in some travelling stock reserves, public recreation areas and state forests permission is required to collect wood and/or start a fire, so check with the appropriate authority beforehand.

Fishing in autumn is excellent. The fish are feeding in anticipation of winter and they bite very well on lures at this time of year. Bait fishing becomes more difficult at the water gets colder, but lure fishing improves. If you are shore based and have a tribe of kids to entertain the usual baits, such as shrimp, worms and cheese will work, but you won't get the numbers of fish as through the summer.

My favourite way to fish the Murrumbidgee in April/May is casting spinnerbaits. This lure type is very versatile and with practice, is very effective on our native fish. To get the best out of fishing spinners you need to cast very accurately, so spend time in the backyard before you go out.

We have a few spinnerbait manufacturers in Wagga so if you want a few pointers, ask the people that make them (Dave from Mudguts Spinnerbaits is always happy to chat) or spend time fishing with someone who regularly catches fish using this lure type.