

NSW Rod Fishers' Society Jindabyne Field Trip November 2010

For starters, the four RFS Musketeers got upgraded to a 4 bedroom / 3 bathroom / 2 fridge / spa bath / billiard room mansion at 11 McLure Circuit in Jindabyne for the annual mid November fishing week!

The reason being that the old digs, Platypus Lodge, had suffered extensive water damage allegedly due to a possum committing suicide in a downpipe, thus flooding the place and making it uninhabitable for several months. Most unfortunate for the possum (and the owners of Platypus Lodge) but we ended up in the Ersatz accommodation with a bedroom each and enjoyed that luxury, even though the views out the back were over the Jindy Caravan Park, rather than the lake, as at Platypus.

On our first days fishing (Saturday 13th November) it poured with rain all day, we got drenched, caught nothing, and were thus off to a bad start.

The **Thredbo River** rose about a foot following the rain, and was a fast flowing torrent of clear water for most of our stay. We found late spawning rainbows in the usual spots (Apple Tree Flat, Sand Islands, Iron Bridge), but only managed to catch three of them, as with most of our casts, our flies were drifting way too fast over the fish's heads. It was hard going too, wading against the strong current. In addition to vigorous regrowth along the banks, lots of driftwood had lodged amongst the bankside scrub, a legacy of a prior and even larger flood.

All in all, not an inviting place to fish during our stay this year!

The **Moonbah River** was in even larger flood, brown and unfishable. So we retreated after a 30 second inspection.

For the first time in many years, **Wollondibby Creek** was flowing nicely and relatively clear, but an expedition from the mouth up to the Perisher roadbridge showed no signs of trout even in the deepest pools.

Lake Jindabyne was at 80 percent capacity – lots of water between the fish!

We visited many times, fishing mainly around Hatchery Bay and Hayshed Bay.

At all times of day there were zillions of midges about, with midge-balls forming everywhere, drifting along in the breeze in shallow water. However the rises to those were few and far between. Only one large brown was spotted close to shore over submerged grass, chasing midge-balls, and that fish was successfully spooked by yours truly, never to be seen again.

However three “exotics” were taken in Lake Jindy, being two twelve inch brook trout and an Atlantic Salmon of about a pound. They were also midge-ball feeders, but took the trusty Black Clumsy for no good reason at all.

A half day excursion to Braemar Bay / **Lake Eucumbene** proved a bit more successful than our many Lake Jindy visits, in that two largish rainbows of about 3 pounds each were hooked and landed. However both fish were long and lean, and should have weighed quite a bit more. So they went back in the water with a stern instruction to work on their condition.

In an effort to find somewhat friendlier river fishing than what the Thredbo Beast had to offer, two of us went to the **Gungarlin River** one day, ending up on the lowermost stretch, having followed the Island Bend Fire Trail to where it crosses the river (locked gate there).

An absolutely idyllic spot, maintained immaculately as a camping / picnic spot by the NPWS. We had the place all to ourselves that day!

The river was flowing fast and strong, but crystal clear. However, as during previous visits, only small rainbows and one suicidal brown up to 12 inches were to be had, even though some of the pools in that stretch are absolutely enormous! We had great fun chasing those little fish on dry flies (shaving brushes) all day long in this truly exquisite environment.

The mandatory excursion to **Rainbow Lake** was somewhat marred by the appearance of another group of three fishing types who were not overly friendly towards us two first-comers.

In particular as we managed to make a few browns jump at the end of our lines almost in their faces!

It turned out later that this group consisted of new RFS member David Mozina who was guiding a fisherman and his non-fishing partner that day. We found that out on finding David's car, plastered with ads for his guiding business, on our return to the Rainbow Lake car park.

All in all, another most enjoyable outing. Food and drink was of the usual five star standard, and the billiard comp on our last evening was convincingly won by Team PJ!

Cheers Gerhard