



Oberon District Fishing Report – November 2011

Gents, before we even left, the Oberon district had over 60 mm of rain over the preceding days. On arrival at Billabong Cottage, we checked Fish River Creek below the cottage. It was running high and brown, unfishable even for my lowly standards!! Overnight, guess what, we had another 40 mm of rain, which brought the creek (and all other streams in the district) up by another foot or two – not only unfishable, but also un-crossable on foot!

Luckily we could fall back on Plan B: no river fishing (that was Plan A), but we could still fish the stocked farm dams on two properties in the Fish River and Duckmaloi valley, and of course, Oberon Dam itself.

To my consternation, even the spring-fed farm dams were significantly discoloured after Friday nights extra rain! I had never seen that happening before.

Curiously, two of the three dams we visited showed no signs of life (including the Hammond's dam on Penarth). The third and smallest one had fish rising and swirling recklessly throughout the day, first in clear, then in discoloured water.

Over our stay, we caught five nice fat rainbows and browns there, all of them strong fish of up to 3 pounds. The fruits of the RFS stocking programme! One of the reasons we embarked on this programme was to provide an alternative fishing venue for times when streams were unfishable (too low, too high). It worked for us last weekend!

Oberon Dam is filling nicely and must by now be over 60% full. The peninsula jutting out from the end of Kelly's Lane is about to become an island, it'll only take another foot of water to do the trick.

However whilst looking clear and fishy, its waters yielded nothing to us. Other bait and spin fisher-folk we met reported catching redfin only. Same old story!

I guess we made the best out of atrocious conditions. In addition, during the weekend we investigated dams on other properties in the Oberon district, owned by friendly landholders, and found two dams which appear suitable for inclusion in the Society's stocking programme. To be continued in March 2012...

Cheers Gerhard.