



Winter Fishing at Lake Narambulla ...June 2010

Since the last Society field trip to this venue in September 2009, Lake Narambulla has filled up to overflowing, following good autumn rains in the Goulburn district. It was therefore interesting to find out what the extra water had done to the fishing. Well, for starters, it put a lot more water between the fish, making the fish-finding and catching even more of a challenge!



Five RFS members attended the mid June 2010 trip, the first of a series of bookings during the winter months (two more trips are scheduled for mid July and mid August 2010 respectively).



After checking into the comfortable Flyfisher Cottage overlooking the lake, we went on an initial reconnaissance along the eastern shoreline.

Water temperature 10.5 degrees, water clarity slightly affected by the recent rise in water level. Our main

problem during our 3-day stay was wind – or rather, lack thereof! A high pressure system over the continent meant reasonably comfortable daytime temperatures, but there were only occasional light puffs of wind in the middle of the day resulting in a bit of a ripple to fish in. Mornings and afternoons, the lake was like a mirror, which in my experience is the most difficult condition for lake fishing.

Even so, we found some feeding fish – mostly rainbows chasing baitfish (crucian carp the size of a ten cent piece) within casting distance from the shore. Casts to surface swirls brought the best results, a much more exciting way to fish than simply blind casting. All up, we managed to land seven fish between us – one brown, six rainbows, all in great condition and the usual Narambulla “football” shape. Given the prevailing conditions (too much water, not enough wind), a very pleasing result overall!



Wollongong member Lou Gaetani caught the biggest fish – a 58 cm rainbow which fell just short of the magic 5-pound mark. Having landed the first fish for the trip fishing from shore (an acrobatic 3 pound rainbow), Bob Beamish launched his Port-a-Bote for a bit of loch-style fishing, but did not have any success with that

technique in the prevailing calm conditions.



Flyfisher Cottage is the perfect retreat after a long days fishing, offering a warm welcome courtesy of its efficient slow combustion stove and pleasant interior.

The next scheduled field trip to Lake Narambulla in mid July is fully booked. There are still 3 spots available for the August trip (Monday and Tuesday night 16th and 17th August). Please ring the organiser, Gerhard Benz, on 9387-6641 ASAP if you are interested in attending.

Members are also encouraged to use Flyfisher Cottage outside of the official field programme to help support the ongoing viability of this operation. For direct bookings, please call the operator,

Mark Tickner on 0458-662-359.

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