



This smaller cod was caught by Matt, casting a 90mm Wilson Slick Back at Copeton Dam.



An average sized river cod that fell victim to a black and red Codman with double silver blades; a great combination in clear waters.

# First frost signals Murray cod action

## ■ Testing gear on an iconic fish



Trevor "Ferret" Day got straight into the action recently with this nice 5kg river cod falling victim to a Bassman Spinnerbait in the first few casts of a session.



Matt with a 25kg winter cod taken last season in less than 4ft of water while casting a Bassman Spinnerbait in a local impoundment.

As water temperatures drop across the region and the willows shed their foliage for another year, Murray cod fishing comes into its own.

Now is the time to concentrate on fishing rivers and impoundments all through the day, as we welcome our first frosts.

And there is no better way to explore any Murray cod waterway than with the Bassman Spinnerbait and Wilson Slick Back ranges.

Whether it is using the Bassman Codman Series, Mumbler, Buzz baits or the 80mm and 90mm Wilson Slick Backs, they will provide anglers with fantastic catches of Murray cod throughout our systems.

Glen and Sue Casey of Bassman Spinnerbaits continue to take the Australian fishing scene by storm with their durable, innovative and technical designs, shown in their very impressive range.

Bassman are built with extra strong and hard-wearing stainless steel wire, some of the world's



Northern NSW Freshwater  
by MATT & NICK WELLS



strongest ball bearing swivels and dressed with a strong silicone skirt to make sure when connected to an unforgiving Murray cod that the fish always comes off second best.

The red-hot lures for casting and trolling the rivers and impoundments this season are the 80mm and 90mm Wilson Slick Backs.

These lures have the best action for a cod lure that we have ever used and they have been taking some nice fish.

These lures are designed in Australia and built with Murray cod in mind and are made durable to sustain a battle with a hefty green fish.

Fishing through the day from around 9am to 5pm in our rivers and dams is a very productive time frame when winter sets in.

We don't see the purpose of being frost bitten and freezing cold to catch fish and it is not always required, but most anglers don't appear to see it that way.

So many times we see anglers come for an early morning session, freeze their balls off, ice up their reels and rod guides and then pack up shop and head home around 10am.

They are unaware that they have put themselves through those uncomfortable conditions and left potentially at the best time.

The majority of our winter cod fishing is done through the day but don't get us wrong; when a good moon is high in the sky on a crystal clear night we don the thermals and rug up for the night.

When targeting cod during the day in winter, you will find they usually hold very close to the shallower waters in which they patrol in the twilight hours.

When fishing dams, target edges of riverbeds or gullies near shallow rocky outcrops or near a bank where you think it's likely you will find the fish of an evening.

If you are fishing both rivers and impoundments, be sure to place your casts hard up against log jams, willow trees and similar.

Be sure if using spinnerbaits to always allow them to helicopter, sinking all the way to the bottom before retrieval.

This method increases your chances of a hook-up by over 50 percent.

With cod, especially if they aren't too switched on, they most likely won't strike the lure unless annoyed or enticed by it from close by.

Such as on the drop, which hopefully lands your offering right in front of the fish's mouth or above its head.

This is especially so with Murray cod as their eyes are positioned closer to the top of their head for this purpose.

A lot of the time Murray cod lie on the bottom in the shallows in winter, so don't overlook areas that are knee deep and full of logs or rocks because there is plenty of room to house these fish.

If fishing with hard-bodied lures make sure they dive fairly fast to get down into that strike zone.

In a lot of cases, a cast in advance of structure followed by dragging the lure back across it is an-

other one of our preferred methods.

When trolling, concentrate on the same areas where you would be casting.

Keep your lures about 60-90cm up off the bottom, and a few bumps of structure here and there will indicate you are on the right track.

When trolling be prepared to spend many hours on the water.

The best approach is to concentrate on an area of bank around 400m and troll up and down this section, making sure to vary your lures occasionally and trolling speeds until you reach a happy medium.

For previous articles or any further information, tips, info about gear or fishing locations please don't hesitate to contact us via our website at [www.wellsbros.net](http://www.wellsbros.net) where you can drop us a line via the 'Contact Us' section. ↴



A handful of the huge range of Bassman Spinnerbaits that the authors use throughout the northern rivers and impoundments.



An angler's must-have lure. Some of the 80mm Wilson Slick Back range that will be sure to put a bend in your rod.