



A late afternoon 53cm Windamere yella that smacked Matt's Sebile Rogue Craw 66mm Flatt Shad on the rip through the top of a sunken tree.



Nick with a 55cm Windamere yella that smashed a Sebile 66mm Flatt Shad fished around the grassy edges.

Wells boys welcome Sebile fishing lures

■ Chasing golden perch at Lake Windamere

FIRST we would just like to say how disappointed we are with some of the indiscriminate fishing practices still occurring in our local rivers.

It continues to amaze us even though illegal fishing attracts heavy fines and penalties.

A recent outing to one of our river locations revealed a couple of anglers who appeared to be keen with their rods dangling over the side of their tinnie and spinnerbaits and Jackalls rigged up.

But when firing up their clapped out, smoke-bellowing rattletrap 2-stroke it revealed to us that these anglers were definitely not there for finesse fishing.

A lovely peaceful afternoon session was soon to be spoiled.

Not far from their campsite was revealed white and pink dots sprayed on almost every good snag along both sides of the river and the usual six inch nails belted into the logs holding tyre tubes tied to nylon cord which could have been used in the local 4x4 winch challenge.

These anglers are the type that would be able to write all of their fishing knowledge on the back of a postage stamp with a crayon and still have enough room for their big fish story and they are major contribu-



Northern NSW Freshwater

by MATT & NICK WELLS



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tors to the overfishing and decline of fishing in our waterways.

On a more positive note we have been lucky enough to be able to pair up with Sebile Fishing Lures which are imported by Nomad Sport Fishing in Queensland.

Lipless crank baits and diving lures are its specialty and we have recently been putting some of the great gear through its paces on golden perch and Murray cod.

We have been trialing the Flatt Shad 54 and 66mm SKs, A-Cast Minnow MLs, Crankster MRs and Magic Swimmers just to name a few, and are enjoying the success rate of these new lures.

The lures come equipped with extra strong hardware including trebles that are needle sharp, leaving no second chances for fish.

After loading our tackle boxes with the Sebile

gear we decided to venture to notorious Lake Windamere situated on the Cudgegong River 35km south of the NSW town of Mudgee and known for its massive colonies of thumping golden perch.

On arrival at the caravan park we were greeted by several anglers and disappointingly they were on their way home due to a fishless week.

After fishing the dam for several hours we discovered that the fish were slightly shut down and a change of technique was required to entice them.

As with many fishing situations, trying to find the method that works best with new gear isn't always an easy task and also doesn't come easy when you are trying for fish that don't want to play the game.

Finding out the best and most efficient way of working the lures was our first priority.

We were using Sebile Flatt Shad SKs (Sinking) in the 54mm and 66mm sizes.

After several hours of mixing up techniques we eventually came up with one we now like to call the Rip 'n' Roll.

This technique involves pinpointing the area of bank over a point or even in the timber where the fish are holding and peppering the area with nu-

merous casts.

This is the major contributor to the overall success of the technique.

First make a cast to your desired area and start the retrieve depending on the depth.

In the shallows let the lure sink almost to the bottom and in the deeper water estimate your sink rate and when the lure reaches the required depth make a quick retrieve of four or five winds then begin the technique.

It can be a good idea to count to yourself as this can help you get the right depth.

Always remember to keep up with the slack in your line as this will give you a better chance when a strike occurs to initially set the hooks.

After clicking your reel into gear and giving it a few quick winds, rip your rod slightly, raising it to around the 11 o'clock position and making sure your reel fast enough to catch up with the slack in your line.

Keep repeating these steps every 5-10 winds of your reel, varying your retrieval speeds.

Remember these fish are shut down and bringing attention to them with something different can be the turning point in your sessions.

When in close to the boat, slow your retrieve



Nick displays two beautiful yellowbelly taken on Flatt Shads. These fish were holding over a shallow point near a patch of sunken blackberry bushes.



The perfect outfit! Wilson LCS ultra light bream 7ft spin rod matched with a D.A.M 1000 reel spooled with 8lb Platypus Super Braid and using a Sebile 66mm Flatt Shad.

Wells boys welcome Sebile fishing lures



Another solid yellowbelly tricked by the Rip 'N' Roll method using a Sebile Sea Chrome 54mm Flatt Shad early morning out deep in the tree tops.



As the overcast weather set in, the fish went into shutdown mode at Windamere. Nick pulled this stocky yella off a rocky bank on a Flatt Shad using a slow Rip 'N' Roll retrieve.



As the fish continued to go off the chew Matt pulled out the bright colours and nailed this nice yellowbelly on a Craw Perch 54mm Flatt Shad.

from P1

down slightly.

We have found a lot of fish make a last-minute decision and a change of retrieval speed gives the fish a chance to ambush and attack your offering.

Rod position is vital, especially when using light gear.

When a fish connects to your lure you want to make sure that the force is primarily taken by the reel's drag and not by the rod tip.

This can be achieved by keeping your rod tip at around the 8 o'clock position when on the 'roll' in between the 'rip' when retrieving the lure.

This technique is a lot easier said than done but once you've landed a few you will begin to see the importance of using different methods instead of the plain old cast out and retrieve methods, which do work but only when the fish are switched on.

When targeting golden perch in impoundments such as Windamere, a good sounder is vital.

It is not uncommon to find a stretch of bank that looks like a superb fish-holding area but then be surprised when no fish appear on your sounder anywhere within the vicinity.

In a lot of cases, casting to the bank or structure isn't always the best option.

Golden perch will sit in their comfort zone in the water column and can be found many metres off the bank in the same depth of water.

To mix up our casting patterns we throw several blind casts 360 degrees around the boat using the same technique.

Another option for initially finding fish is to run a couple of trolls over the area you have

selected.

Try to concentrate on around 200m of bank and run lures to the depth of where the fish appear to be holding.

A couple of strikes or a hook-up will often determine the exact area where the fish are holding.

Gearing up for impoundment goldens

The most obvious mistake anglers make is going way over the top when it comes to gear selection.

On this particular weekend at Windamere we witnessed several vessels being launched at the ramp and to our surprise they were decked out with rods similar if not bulkier than the kind we employ when fishing for barramundi in the southern Queensland freshwater impoundments.

Some preferred rods, reels, lines

- Wilson Lure Casting Special Ultra Light Bream 7ft spin rod matched with a D.A.M 1000 reel spooled with 8lb Platypus Super Braid.

- Wilson Live Fibre Blade 'N' Tails Medium 7ft spin rod matched with a SureCatch Remy Custom RCF525 spin reel spooled with 10lb Platypus Super Braid.

- Wilson Lure Casting Special Rack Attack 7ft spin rod matched with a SureCatch Cinza 3000 spooled with 20lb Bionic Braid used for a little bit more stick in the timber and for heavier lures.

Knot tying

Another main topic when creating your proper outfit is how to tie your leader and main knots.

These are perhaps the most important connections between you and the fish.

When tying leaders we try to use a leader line that has a similar diameter to the braid.

We tie a knot that we have developed called a five wrap double to attach our leader line to our braid and it is a very quick and efficient knot.

A bimini matched with a Tony Jones leader knot is another great knot to use.

Also take into consideration when tying leaders that the tags are trimmed

Why tie a knot to a snap swivel and then rely on the snap to hold a fish?

To us this is a very lazy way of quickly changing lures and provides two weak points instead of one in your connection.

We simply tie a loop knot directly to the towing point on most of our lures and in other cases a half blood knot is the best option.

For more information on gear and articles or fishing in our region,



Matt with a 5kg Murray cod taken in the river on a Crankster MR65 in the Natural Golden Shiner colour.

relatively close to the knot.

This may seem pedantic but when finesse fishing (we have learnt this from shut down bass and barra), try to keep the knot small and not too bulky as fish are to some point not stupid and this is enough to deter them from the lure.

Another topic is snap swivels!

drop us a line at www.wellsbros.net via the 'Contact Us' section.

We will be more than happy to help you get connected and stay connected. ⚡