

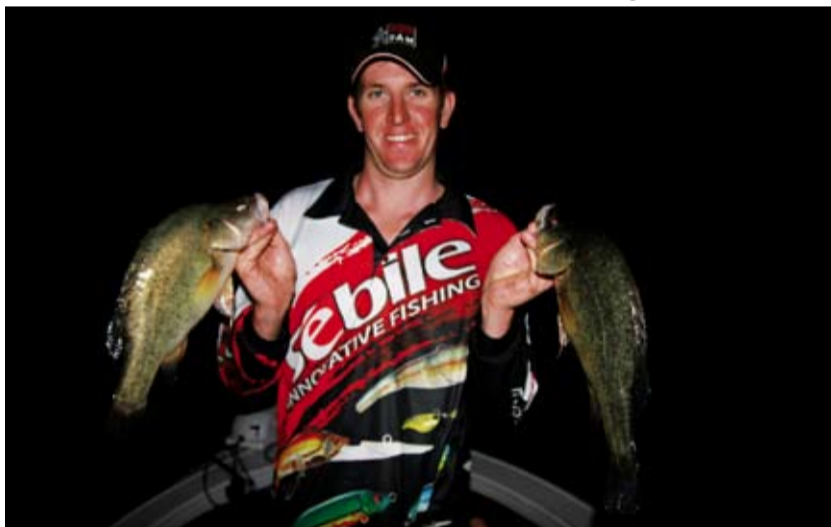
Rewarding freshwater trips



Pete Blundell and son Nate with his first Murray cod at Lake Keepit which was taken on a 100mm Wilson Slick Back.



Nate shows off another of Pete's cod also taken trolling Slick Backs.



Matt with two Chaffey yellas that took a liking to the new Sebile 66mm SK Flatt Shads. These lures caught six fish on their first run at the dam. Look out for the fantastic Sebile range in tackle stores.



An average sized Chaffey yella taken by Nick on a Priscilla Pink Bassman Codman with big silver blades. When fish are on the chew at the dam, size doesn't always matter.

HOOKS are setting, drags are peeling and once again the waters of Northern NSW are producing anglers with rewarding catches of fish.

Most anglers are reaping the benefits of fishing the much replenished rivers and impoundments but still, as fishing goes, some are having a difficult time trying to find and catch any fish.

Lake Keepit

The recent Australian Yellowbelly Championship held at Lake Keepit over the weekend of January 29-30 saw 60 teams enter with only 70 yellowbelly being returned to the brag mat.

For Lake Keepit this is a poor performance.

But the yellowbelly action should heat up over the coming months as the fish will take this opportunity to feed and increase fat deposits as normal leading up to winter when their metabolic rate traditionally slows down.

Recently Pete Blundell and son Nate on their first fishing trip to Keepit for that elusive green fish, managed to troll up four Murray cod in under an hour on 100mm Wilson Slick Backs in the quarry area.

The boys were stoked with the fishing and will be sure to return very soon.

These lures dive around 25ft and were trolled close to the bottom.

In the extreme heat of the day, cod will frequently lie on the bottom and usually find a gravel or sandy area to rub their bellies on.

This is believed to relax them from the stress caused by the heat and pressure of angling.

Chaffey still firing

At Chaffey Dam the fishing has been somewhat unbelievable with the majority of anglers having double figure sessions while trolling lures.

Not an uncommon occurrence at all for the dam, but reports of the numbers being landed prove that Chaffey is rapidly becoming one of the North West's premier golden perch impoundments.

It has also been producing some nice Murray cod catches.

When the dam fires at this time of year it's not long before word of mouth spreads and every angler between the dam and the black stump flocks to the impoundment in search of success.

This is a brilliant time for anglers to bag out but it also has a huge effect on the fish.

It is not in a negative way, but rather in over education of the fish.

This is where the dedicated anglers who cast and pinpoint the fish, as opposed to the type who troll



Northern NSW Freshwater
by THE WELLS BROTHERS



until the fat lady sings, need to employ finesse tactics.

It may be as simple as lowering your leader line to a smaller diameter (for those who run a leader line) or maybe even lowering the diameter of the main line.

For finesse on days when fishing is slow, we run SureCatch and D.A.M. spin reels around 1000-2000 size, spooled with either 12lb Bionic Braid or 8-10lb Platypus Super Braid.

We tie small diameter fluorocarbon leaders while finesse fishing and prefer to use co-polymer for our larger species.

The majority of our smaller leaders are in the 10-15lb range.

It is no doubt that 99.9 percent of anglers are throwing the notorious Jackalls and other replicated lipless crank baits these days, and don't get us wrong, they have all been a marvellous introduction to Australian waters.

But let it be said that fish to some extent aren't dumb and are beginning to recognise the consistent use of these lures.

Mixing up different techniques of casting soft plastics, spinnerbaits and also hard-bodied lures will

months, the water has returned to its magnificent green texture and reports from anglers landing cod in double figures have come from different areas along the river.

Spinnerbaits, hard-bodies and surface lures have all been takers of fish.

Namoi River

A recent trip to the Namoi saw us land a few nice smaller cod on Bassman spinnerbaits but the river has definitely received a massive shake up and re-structure and we believe



Matt with a couple more yellas caught at Chaffey while casting the banks.



Mick Walker with a 43cm yellowbelly taken on a 80mm Wilson Slick Back.

often put you in the hot seat.

Peel River

The Peel River, stretching from Chaffey Dam down through Tamworth, has been providing anglers with numerous Murray cod captures.

Most of these fish have all been under or just on legal, but providing endless fun for any angler.

After the massive amounts of water that have passed through the town over the last nine

it could possibly take up until winter before Namoi cod flick the switch and turn the heat back on.

For further information on the fishing in our area and updates, be sure to visit our website at www.wellsbros.net where you can drop us a line through the 'contact us' section and we will be more than happy to get you connected.

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