

Riverina Sportfishing Report

5th May 2010

Riverina Sport Fishing is expanding with the additional of David Carter to guide under the RSF banner. Regular readers of my website and newspaper articles will have noticed Dave's pic bobbing up here and there attached to a fish of some sort.

Dave comes to RSF with a wealth of experience and knowledge across a wide variety of fields including mechanical, carpentry and hunting, but like me, he has a penchant for cod and followed this fishing niche to the point where he also wants to teach people how to catch them. Dave is also an excellent redfin and golden perch fisherman and enjoys the finesse of catching these fish.



Together we have worked through our new boat project and now have a twin pair of 5.8m Actioncraft boats in NSW survey ready for action. Both boats are approved to carry five adults and one crew, but whilst they are a big boat, fishing five may be a squeeze, with three or four on each boat ideal.

As mentioned in my last report, the addition of these new boats enables RSF to offer a whole range of new services, namely:

- **Corporate Fishing Trips** – we can cater for up to ten people on our two vessels. Spend a morning fishing Blowering, Mulwala or Berembed Weir, have a BBQ lunch, a few beverages in the afternoon and then let us drive you back to Wagga. We can also do two day trips with a night's accommodation.
- **Night tours to Blowering Dam** – Whilst not a new service, night tours are certainly more comfortable with the new boats. They are set up with 'trolling lights' that illuminate the bank for trolling in the dark. The consoles in these boats also allow for more protection from the elements as we drive around and they are very stable platform to fish from.
- **On Water Depth Sounder Course to Blowering Dam** - Take the mystique out of using your sounder by spending the morning learning the theory and practice of using sounders and how they can assist your fishing. Our Actioncraft boats are fitted with two sounders in each craft (including side imaging). \$100 per head for groups of up to ten people (minimum of four people). Includes a BBQ lunch.
- **Cooks Tour of the Lake** - Spend the best part of a day travelling about our local lakes with Dave or myself (or both) showing you each of the hot spots and why, when and how to fish each location. \$100 per head for groups of up to ten people (minimum of four people). Includes a BBQ lunch.
- **Fishing Schools** - Dave Carter's fishing schools involve detailed instruction on knots, rigs, locations, fish species, tackle and are ideal for new fisherman.

Includes morning tea and lunch. (NB: Fishing schools are classroom instruction). \$90 per head for groups of up to fifteen.

In addition to the new services offered, RSF now has the capability to take groups of up to six anglers on extended tours (2-5+ days). Dave and myself can take two vehicles and two boats with three fishermen in each boat to the remote areas of Hay/Maude or if you want that giant cod, we can take your crew down the lower Murray to fish Robinvale, Mildura, Wentworth and a few other spots we have up our sleeve. We have just got back from a 'fact finding' trip of the lower Murray looking at how the Darling River flood waters have impacted, and also mapping some new waters so that we have plenty of options when we take your trip.



Locally, the river has been fishing well with the odd day being tough, but through April, I averaged over ten fish per tour. The bigger fish are yet to really hit their straps but with some cold mornings the big cod will be getting hungry and make a few more mistakes and could grab your lure on that next cast.....

Mulwala has been consistent, but nothing exceptional in the size of the fish. I have been fishing mainly the vertical structure toward the middle of the lake with spinnerbaits and this has proven itself to be a winner most days.

Blowering has been good for those braving the cold nights in the mountains with Dave landing seventeen fish up there with a group a few nights ago. Nothing huge, but plenty of action throughout the evening.



Details on our 'Top-End' tours, including location, prices, itinerary, dates for our first trip in April 2011, we hope to have available in early August. The delay is so that we can complete our research, sort out the logistics, and offer a seamless service.

We have plenty of availability through May, and the river locally will be a great option for another month at least. Mulwala and the lower Murrumbidgee fish well right through winter, so now is the time to book.

Jamin Forbes