

# Murray cod and trout are what it's all about

**EILDON**  
**Peter**  
**Burtchell**

The dates are official – the Lake Eildon Fishing Challenge will be held on 15-17 May at Jerusalem Creek Marina and Holiday Park.

The organisers have been chipping away over the past nine months to ensure the 2020 family friendly competition is another successful one. Registration will be announced in the near future. The charity event is now in its fourth year with last year's entry raffle being a boat, motor and railer package. It will be great to see some returning familiar faces, but the big question is whether a fresh bait or a lure will catch the largest Murray cod!

Rod Cousins had a great time fishing the Goulburn River while staying at the



Paul caught this 92cm Murray cod.



Last year's winner of the 2019 Lake Eildon Fishing Challenge boat package.

Eildon Pondage Caravan Park. He had landed some rainbow and brown trout with two of his best specimens weighing in at a combined 4.5kg. Trout in the pondage are caught all year round and take PowerBait, spinners, worms and flies just to name a few. If you are fishing the pondage at Eildon, drop into Eildon Bait and Tackle. Craig can update you on the latest news when it comes to when and where the best spots for fishing the pondage and rivers around Eildon.

The Mansfield Hunting and Fishing Zone gave us the heads up that yellowbelly were running up the Mansfield end of the lake but were being landed in deeper water. The numbers of tourists visiting the area are down, as many of the tracks and roads to the headwaters of the King, Howqua and Jamieson rivers have been



Paul with a hefty 84cm model.

closed since bushfires passed through the area. Hopefully fishing tourists will return soon and we'll hear more reports of trophy catches as the fish are still there.

Murray cod have been caught in good numbers in the deepest parts of Lake Eildon. Lucky fisher Paul landed and released two nice Murray cod from the wall while flicking a purple spinnerbait during his morning session. During early March, a large mob of cormorants began to return to the Jerusalem Creek Arm like clockwork to hunt the many schools of baitfish held up against the shallow western points. There will be quite a few large Murray cod caught around these points during April and May as fishers target Murray cod during the start of their midday feeding, similar to

what the cormorants do by arriving just after the feeding to pick off the baitfish that have schooled on the banks as a result of the hungry Murray cod.

Towards the end of May, the banks on the eastern side of the Jerusalem Creek Arm will fish well as the larger baitfish take cover in the many laydowns within that

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Rod Cousins scored this 4.5kg rainbow and brown trout haul.

area. One of the best places to launch an attack on the marauding midday feeding Murray cod is from one of the boatels right on top of and next to the action that are available for short or long term rent in the Jerusalem Creek Arm.

A big year is planned for Lake Eildon with a multitude of fishing events in store. To keep up to date, you can

Fish Challenge; Victorian Fisheries Authority for the Goulburn Fishing Festival; Boating Industry Association of Victoria for the Lake Eildon Boating and Fishing Show; Jerusalem Creek Marina & Holiday Park for the school holiday fishing programs; Northern Waters Boat Hire for the Fly Fishing for Natives Competition.



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