

# Blue skies ahead for lake fishing

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

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the firefighters, emergency service personnel and volunteers who put their lives at risk and volunteered their time during this summer's unprecedented

major fires, Leo and his mum Jen decided to stick with their plan to take a chartered fishing tour with Northern Waters Boat Hire and it paid off, with Leo catching and releasing two Murray cod during the 4-hour charter. The fish were caught close to the banks in 7m of water using a 15' yellow and black Old



Barry Goodall had a great day bait fishing for yellowbelly and trolling for trout.

bushfires. For the rest of the summer and into autumn, visitors to Lake Eildon will be reminded of the fires as they view the 1" black smoke residue rings that remain on the trees within the lake. The ash rings were deposited

Mate Lure. Mid-January we witnessed a caddis fly hatching event, which lasted for several days along the rocky beginnings of Big River where it feeds into the lake. Multiple rises of large brown trout were seen



Andrew Cramond cracked the Murray cod code.

as the abominable smoke haze found its way to the water's surface. It will be interesting to see if this winter will bring enough rain to submerge the rings and if they will remain after being submerged, as the lake rises and falls with the demands of water use.

With the smoke haze backdrop last month, the lake fished well for all species. With Lake Eildon not being affected by any

as they fed on the hatch. Unfortunately we had no fly fishing gear with us but next time we visit the area we will be armed appropriately.

Barry Goodall had the right tackle and caught some nice lake trout last month. He was also able to find some yellowbelly on his fishing trip. Yellowbelly are prevalent in all parts of the lake and can be caught trolling hardbody lures, flicking spinnerbaits,



Barry Goodall caught a lovely 53cm lake trout on the troll.

crankbaits and soft plastics as well as bait fishing. My preferred bait is small yabbies.

Adam Loch braved the bad weather to catch his first ever Lake Eildon Murray cod measuring 74cm. Adam has fished the lake regularly for years without a Murray cod catch. He scored his first in the Main Arm near the Delatite River mouth trolling a size 1 StumpJumper in the colour 100 bull frog around the trees in 13m of water.

Andrew Cramond moved to Alexandra to further enhance his native fishing skills. A short trip with one of Northern Waters Boat Hire's fishing guides helped him gain an insight into the native fishing of Lake Eildon. The resulting 80cm model he caught put up quite a fight, wetting all on board as it dove to avoid the landing net in a depth of 7m. He recommends fishing the banks within a water depth of anywhere from 5-15m and then hang on!

John Garai, a regular fishing tourist, caught a 75cm model bait fishing in late January. The skies are

clearer again and the hope is that fishing tourists will return to fish the lake and assist the local businesses that were affected by the multitude of tourism cancellations during the normally busy weeks of the summer holiday period.



An elated Adam Loch with his first ever Lake Eildon Murray cod.



John Garai landed a solid Eildon cod.

• A big year is planned for Lake Eildon with a multitude of fishing events in store. To keep up to date, you can join the following Facebook pages: Lake Eildon Fishing Challenge for the Lake Eildon Fishing Challenge; Lake Eildon Cod Masters for the Lake Eildon Cod Masters; Central Vic Lure Casters Super Series for the Lake Eildon Round; Lake Eildon Big Fish Challenge for the Lake Eildon Big 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.



Leo caught his second Murray cod and released it after this photo.



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