

The challenge of 2020

EILDON
Peter Burtchell

Anglers who brave the cold and target their fish well this month will reap the rewards, as the larger Murray cod remain active. In most arms of the lake you can easily sound up large schools of bait fish, which are kept under surveillance by the many Murray cod.

finally got ticked off on the last cast of the day. A Wilson Venom 8kg baitcaster and a Kingfisher 3-piece paddler was the big girl's undoing.

Paul Cramond landed his very first Murray cod while trolling around the main arm with his brother Andrew in late June. It is always good to hear the reports of novice Murray cod anglers landing their first cod.

Hayden Ryan tried his luck from the bank early

lining a pink Tassie Devil. The fish was a bright silver colour, masking its normal brown trout colouration.

This month we give a big shout-out to MRB Metal Works who have been designing and donating unique trophies for many of the Lake Eildon Fishing Competitions. If you are looking for something unique for your competitions, contact Matt on his MRB Facebook Page.



Dylan Anderson caught this 95cm cod on a Megabass Garuda without chin weights.

Spinnerbaits. One of the keys to this competition will be to try to not lose any of the lures before posting a catch with it, as with each lost lure your catch register and/or catch upgrade size options reduce by 20%.

To keep up to date with the winning action you can look up Lure Challenge on Facebook. With so many options to catch large Lake Eildon Murray cod during winter, we expect that some of the competitors will regularly fish here over the two months of the Challenge. The original Challenge conducted annually at the Jerusalem Creek Marina pre-COVID-19 adapted quickly due to COVID-19 restrictions covering events.

With many other fishing and boating events cancelled, Jerusalem Creek has shifted its focus to online events such as the Melbourne Virtual Boat and Fishing Show to showcase the marina and holiday park. Catering for small conferences and/or groups of up to 20 people, the venue offers a grand view of the lake, on-water accommodation with moorings, fishing vessel hire, fishing guides, houseboat hire, tackle store, in-house photographer/short movie producer, and a café, bar and grill. You can find out more at jerusalemcreek.com.au.

LURE CASTERS SUPER SERIES

At this stage the first of the resurrected fishing competitions, the Central Vic Lure Casters Super Series event at Jerusalem Creek, will be forging ahead on November 16 and 17. Keep up to date by following the social media pages below.

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.



Andrew Cramond with a silvery brown trout.



Hayden Ryan caught this Murray cod fishing from the bank.

Dylan, who prefers to fish early in the morning, spent the pre-dawn flicking swimbaits around the Jerusalem Creek Arm in 4m of water. Just on light he switched to an 8" Magdraft, and four casts along the bank later he was rewarded with a 109cm Murray cod. It was the first metery for him landed at Lake Eildon.

Other catches included a 95cm fish caught during a pause in retrieve on a Megabass Garuda without chin weights, and an 80cm fish.

Paul Thomas landed his first 1m Murray cod on a surface lure. Paul said it had taken "a gazillion casts", but the bucket-list metery off the top from Lake Eildon

in the morning, flicking spinnerbaits around the Jerusalem Creek arm, and was rewarded with a great looking fish. With over 500km of lakefront there sure are a lot of great spots to cast from.

Trout fishing too has many a bank-based spot for the keen trout angler. Simon North from Pieca Lures frequently fishes the banks of both the lake and the Eildon Pondage whilst testing his lures, and is often rewarded with some great catches. His last effort in June was landing a nice rainbow on his Black Fish Patten lure.

Andrew Cramond was a little unsure of the fish he landed in Collier Bay flat-

LURE CHALLENGE

During July and August, 110 keen anglers from around Australia (where Murray cod reside), will battle it out for top place in the inaugural Lure Challenge.

Five Australian lure manufacturers have joined forces to create a unique Murray cod fishing competition where the winner's photographed and released largest Murray cod from each lure will be combined in length to determine the winner. Each competitor receives one unique coloured lure from each of the organising manufacturers that include Kuttafurra, JD/Eddy, Bespoke, Australian Crafted and Bridgewater

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hit Wendouree up casting lures out of a boat, and said it's hard going with limited opportunities but it's still worth putting in the hard yards. On one of Tom's recent trips he managed to snag a ripper of a brown trout (7lb and 62cm) on a Bent Minnow lure. After a few happy snaps the brown was released to fight another day.

At Lake Wendouree the fishing will start to improve as the trout will have spawned and they will start to once again focus on feeding. Smelt/small baitfish will be on the menu once again until the weather warms up.



Tom Kulczynski with a ripper Wendouree brown trout that weighed around 7lb and measured 62cm. Image courtesy of Tom Kulczynski.



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