

# THE FOCUS POINT

PRESENTED BY IN DEPTH ANGLER



# HELLO & WELCOME

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Well where to start! Hello and welcome to the first edition of *The Focus Point*.

Your probably expecting me to say that its been a long and arduous journey to get to this point, with numerous roadblocks, sleepless nights and headaches but in reality is been quite the opposite.

While there has been an extensive amount of time and effort put into our first edition, I have to say that its been a pleasure to work with all our contributors, many of which I had no prior contact with.

Everyone I approached has been extremely helpful in getting this project off the ground with regards to article/pictorial submissions, ideas and suggestions and just a general positive vibe which makes working on this such a pleasure.

### SO WHAT IS THE FOCUS POINT?

The Focus Point is a new style of fishing magazine which brings together two of my great loves, fishing & photography. There are so many talented photographers and fishing journalists out there each with their own special niche and the aim of this mag is to bring them together to create a visually stimulating and informative work which I hope will inspire others, not only to get out and go fishing but to also capture their adventures along the way.

I also hope that we will help you discover new authors/photographers/blogs and websites that you may not have known about. So if you like the work of ourselves or any of our contributors, show your support by giving them a like on facebook, a following them on instagram or perhaps a gleaming e-mail of support.

Fishing magazines these days are almost like a shopping mall with the amount of ads distributed throughout the pages. As our magazine is distributed digitally we have been able to keep production costs to a minimum, allowing for more content and less ads, the way a good fishing mag should be.

The Focus Point will be published bi annually, expect the next edition to pop up somewhere in the middle of the year. We chose to do this to allow us plenty of time to perfect each edition, to ensure you readers have the best quality content available,

We are always on the lookout for new contributors who have an eye for the finer details in fishing and photography. If you think your work is up to the task we would love to hear from you.

Anyway that's enough from me. I hope you enjoy our first edition and thanks for reading!



JOSH CHEONG  
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We are always on the lookout for new contributors who have an eye for the finer details in fishing and photography. If you think your work is up to the task we would love to hear from you. Please send through samples and ideas to [josh@indepthangler.com.au](mailto:josh@indepthangler.com.au)

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Check out our website for heaps more IDA goodness! Reports, videos, product reviews, tips & tricks and a whole lot more. Get in touch and let us know what you think and what you would like to see both online and in future editions of *The Focus Point*.



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# THE FOCUS POINT

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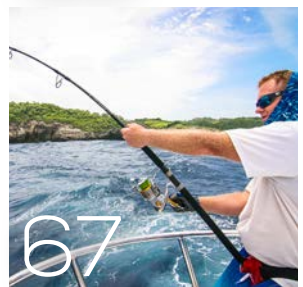
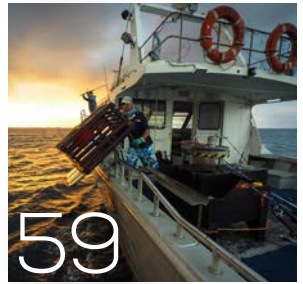
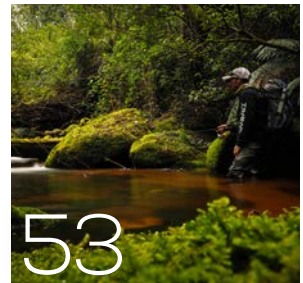
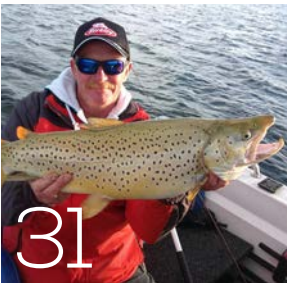
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## → CONTRIBUTORS ←

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EBB TIDE ADVENTURES: Andrew Smith & John Cahill







# A WEEK AT WINDAMERE

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STORY: JOSH CHEONG PHOTOS: ASH FOXWELL & JOSH CHEONG

QUALITY AND QUANTITY. THIS PICTURESQUE DAM  
IS THE PERFECT WEEK AWAY FOR THE TRAVELING  
ANGLER

# A WEEK AT WINDAMERE

ASH WAS HOPPING A MASK VIBE AROUND A WEED BED, AND CAME UP TIGHT, TO SAY WE WERE BOTH SURPRISED WITH WHAT SURFACED WAS A BIT OF AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

This trip to Windamere had been on my mind for a while. After seeing countless photos of monster golden perch being posted on Facebook and Instagram in years past, I wanted in on the action this year, so a date was set and trip preparations were put in place. Along for the ride was my good mate Ash Foxwell.

We set off from Melbourne at 4am Sunday morning and pulled into the campground some 12hrs later & a couple hundred dollars lighter after stopping in at a couple of tackle shops along the way for a few last minute supplies.

We quickly setup camp and with the bonus hour of light from the start of daylight savings decided to hit the water for a afternoon fish, we quickly rigged up a couple of rods and set off to explore the lake.

Fishing a new waterway is always both an exciting and daunting task. With next to no information as to where to go or which areas to fish, we set off looking for an area which would somewhat resemble what we target in our home water of Lake Eildon. After a short run across the lake we came across a moderately sloping bank with a series of rocky points, a few brush piles and some standing timber and began casting the area. It wasn't long before we got our first inquiry. Ash was hopping a Mask Vibe around a weed bed, and came up tight, to say we were both surprised with what surfaced was a bit of an understatement.



*A rather smug looking Long Neck Turtle after munching on a Jackall Mask Vib.*



First fish for the trip after only 30mins fishing – 58cms of Windamere Yellowbelly!



It was my turn next, also working a Mask Vibe across the bottom, I was approaching the end of my retrieve when I received a small tap right under the boat, after a brief but nervous fight we had the first Yella in the boat and solid specimen to open our account.

Over the course of the next 5 days we learned a great deal about both the fish and the lake.

Spending an extended time at a new location really allows you to key in on crucial factors such as daily bite windows, technique & retrieve styles and what type of areas are holding fish.

We found unsurprisingly the most productive fishing to be around dawn and dusk, when the fish were most active and in larger concentrations, even hooking a couple of fish well into darkness.

Fishing larger lures such a Jackall Mask Vibes and noisy baits like TN60s were more effective in these periods of low light, I believed this was because of the larger displacement & vibration these lures create, allowing fish to locate them a lot easier. That was the theory I worked on anyways and it seemed to work.

# A WEEK AT WINDAMERE

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Windamere has got to be one of the premier Yellowbelly fisheries in the country, for sheer numbers, size and weight of the fish, not many locations come close. Our final tally for the trip was 77 Yellowbelly, 2 Catfish, 1 Silver Perch, and that greedy little turtle! Although this was our first trip to the lake we will definitely be back.

## THE FACTS

### LOCATION:

Lake Windamere is located approximately 19kms south-west of Rylstone NSW.

### TRAVEL TIME:

Ex Sydney – 3hrs

Ex Melbourne – 11hrs

### WHERE WE STAYED:

Cudgong Waters Park – (02) 6358 8462. Needing to charge the boat we chose to stay on a powered site, which works out to be \$12AUD per person. Powered sites are roomy and offer plenty of parking for both boat and vehicle. The park also offers both cabins and un-powered campsites. Lakeside camping is also available.

Park entry is \$6.00 which gives access to the dual lane boat ramp. Both day visitors as well as those staying at the park are required to pay the entry fee each time they want to enter the park.

### MOBILE RECEPTION:

Telstra: Partial Coverage Optus: Full Coverage

### TARGET SPECIES:

Golden Perch, Silver Perch, Murray Cod & Eel Tail Catfish

### EQUIPMENT & LURES:

We used predominantly light gear to target the Golden.

Rods – 1-3kg-2-4kg Spin rods for throwing light lures, 2-5 & 3-5kg spin rods for throwing heavier lures Reels – 2000-2500 sizes reels Line – 4- 16lb Leader – 4-8lb Lures: Soft and Hard Sinking Vibration Lures 50mm – 60mm, Blades 35-40mm, Medium/Deep Diving Crankbaits, Jerkbaits

### TECHNIQUES:

Casting – Slow hopping sinking vibration style lures

### TARGETED AREAS:

Medium to Steep banks with structure in the form of standing timber, weed beds and or brush piles.

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# BOAT RAMP ETIQUETTE

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STORY & PHOTOS BY: DARREN WEDA

THE BOAT RAMP CAN BE A SCARY PLACE FOR THE UNINITIATED. HERES SOME TIPS THAT WILL KEEP EVERYONE HAPPY.



I think everyone has experienced an annoying time waster at a boat ramp before, that guy who loads his boat on the ramp or reverses a trailer like a drunk L plater.

Boat ramps can be a highly stressful situation for some, especially beginners, with on-lookers watching you every move. Stressing out and rushing usually only makes things worse. Trust me I've been there.

With some basic tips and a little practice your boat launching can become a quick and efficient process, getting in & out and leaving the boat ramp free for others waiting in line.

Here is a list of tips to try and think about next time at the boat ramp.

## 1 PREPARATION

Prepare your boat for launching before parking in the ramp reversing area. i.e load all your gear into boat, take off all straps etc. Not doing this is one of the biggest things which can annoy other boaters who are waiting and ready to use the ramp. This is why they have the "get ready" parking areas, where you can organise your boat, allow others who are ready to launch before you, and then launch when you are ready.

## 2 CONSIDERATION

Park your car in a way or location that allows people to get past easily, before and after you launch and retrieve your boat. There is normally room at all ramps to park out of the way when readying your boat, and also when packing it up.



## 3 USE THE FACILITIES

If boating solo, after launching the boat try and tie the boat up out of the way for other ramp users so as to not hold them up, I know at some ramps this is not possible, but at most ramps with floating pontoons it is. Then proceed to clear the ramp and park your car.

A lot of ramps are now 2 lane ramps, so two boats can comfortably fit side by side. Ensure that you reverse your boat onto the ramp and leave room for others to launch or retrieve at the same time on these 2 lane ramps.

## 4 TEAM WORK

Team work – most of the time we fish with at least one other person, so we can use this to our advantage when launching and retrieving. Having someone in the boat ready to drive off the trailer and move the boat out of the way of the ramp, while you can park the car makes life much easier and quicker.



## 6 TEAM WORK

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If you see someone struggling to launch or retrieve always try and offer a hand. If your the one struggling, and someone offers to lend a hand, dont be afraid to let them assist or take over.

## 7 SAFETY

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When reversing at a boat ramp, its essential to pay extra attention to ensure that the ramp and your reversing run is clear from other cars, boats, trailers and pedestrians.

Boat ramps can be very busy places at certain times of the year and the last thing you want at the end of your days fishing is to be exchanging details with someone you have just reversed into as you rushed to get the boat on the trailer.

When retrieving the boat, drive or winch boat onto the trailer, secure it with the safety chain etc and then drive off the ramp and finish packing up and fully securing the boat away from the ramp.



I know it can be hard, but try and be patient with beginners at the ramp as boat ramp efficiency only comes with practice.

Hopefully these tips will help make your and everyone else's boat launching a more enjoyable and less stressful experience from now on. ■





**YOU LIKE  
THE RODS.  
YOU LIKE  
THE REELS.  
YOU'LL LOVE  
THE LURES!**



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# TROUT EXPOSED

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PICTORIAL BY : KRISTINA & ADAM ROYTER

PRESENTED BY

—She—  
*Loves it*  
**OUTDOORS**

TROUT FISHING FANATICS KRISTINA & ADAM ROYTER  
PUT DOWN THE FLY RODS AND PICK UP THE SPIN  
GEAR FOR SOME hardcore LURE TIME IN NEW  
ZEALAND. IT'S NOT ALWAYS ABOUT THE FUR &  
FEATHER!









← TROUT IN CLEAR WATER CAN SEE FOR MILES SO FINDING A 70MM WALKING STICK WITH CUSTOM 'SPOTTED DOG' SPOTS WAS A PIECE OF CAKE FOR THIS BROWN.

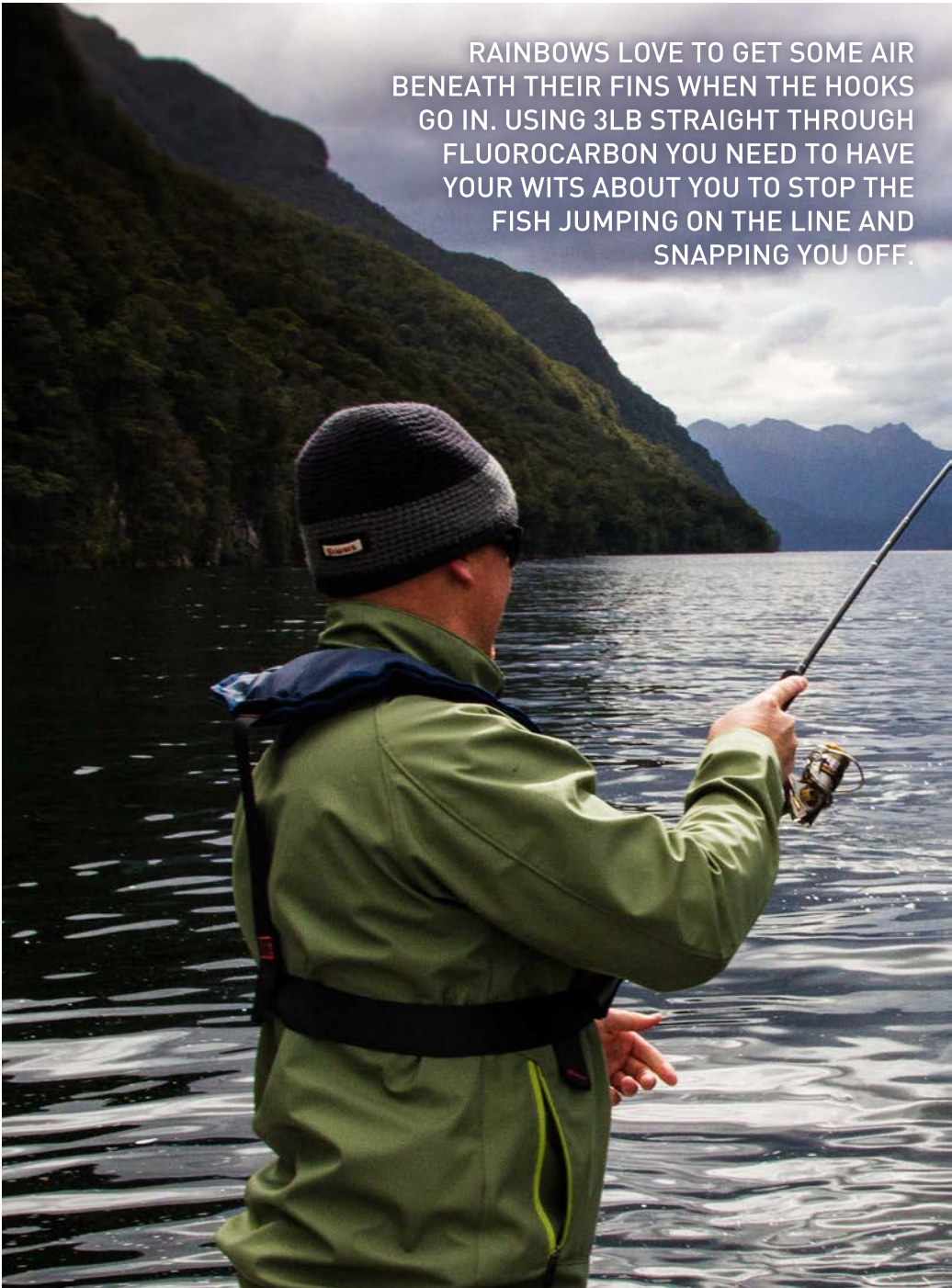
TOP LEFT The average size trout in NZ is pretty good so expect to do some running when you put the hooks in!

ABOVE: They're not all big but they are all pretty.


RIGHT Julie Horrell is a master of luring big trout and shows us how it's done at Lake Poolburn.



RAINBOWS LOVE TO GET SOME AIR BENEATH THEIR FINS WHEN THE HOOKS GO IN. USING 3LB STRAIGHT THROUGH FLUOROCARBON YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU TO STOP THE FISH JUMPING ON THE LINE AND SNAPPING YOU OFF.





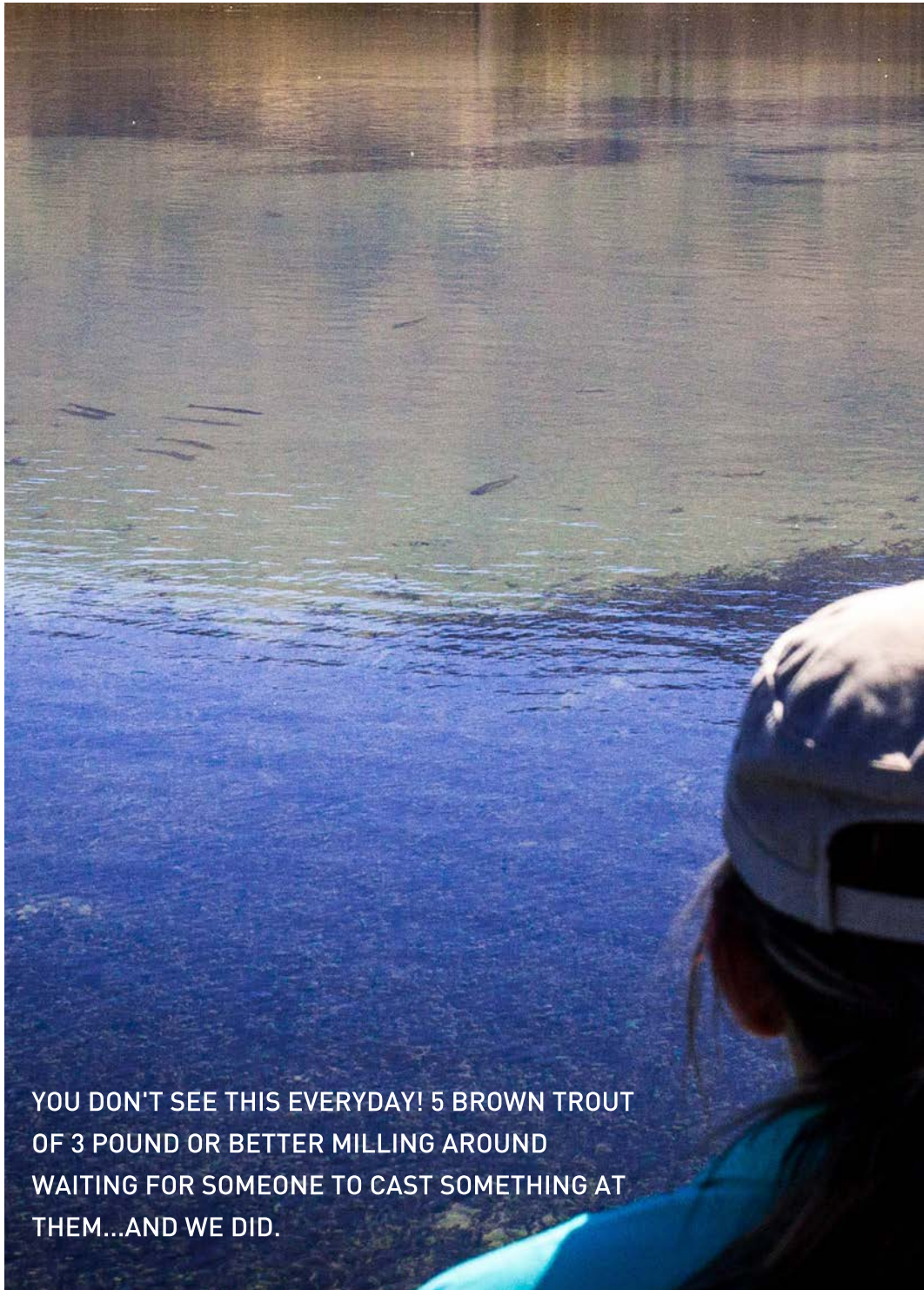


**ON CLOSER INSPECTION  
THIS CHUNKY RAINBOW HAD  
MANAGED TO SLIGHTLY  
OPEN MORE THAN ONE OF  
THE OWNER ST36 TREBLES.**

TOP RIGHT Angry buck rainbows are something else to try to land on light spin gear. When you get to hold them up at the end of the battle, the real reward is to see them swim away.

BOTTOM RIGHT Aaron Horrell putting the finishing touches on a Hawea rainbow.



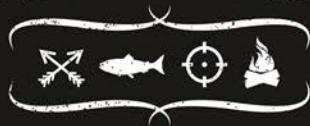


YOU DON'T SEE THIS EVERYDAY! 5 BROWN TROUT  
OF 3 POUND OR BETTER MILLING AROUND  
WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO CAST SOMETHING AT  
THEM...AND WE DID.





—She—  
*Loves it*  
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# STARTING TO GET A HANDLE ON BROOME

STORY & PHOTOS: CAL THOMAS

PRESENTED BY FAR  WAYFISHING

IF YOU'RE WILLING TO PARDON THE PUNN THERE IS  
A PLENTY OF STORIES TO COME OUT OF THE BROOME  
CLOSET.





## STARTING TO GET A HANDLE ON BROOME

Broome is located on the North Western shoulder of Australia. Around 600 k's north east of Port Headland and 1850 k's south-west of Darwin.

Whilst there is still a very real and present danger from oversized handbags, after spending the past 3 months in the north, I was thrilled to be in an area that finally moved us away from and lowers the risk of saltwater crocodile encounters, though, it does put you smack bang in the middle of shark territory.

My first impressions of Broome were that it is a beautiful coastal town that offers everything that major centres can offer such as hospitals and schools through to major supermarkets and fishing tackle stores. Though, don't be fooled into thinking that Broome is a full blown city. A short 20 minute drive north of Broome had us travelling on the Beagle bay-Broome road up the Dampier Peninsula.

Hardly any effort is required to find the red dirt roads that this part of the world is famous for. Though, my world sets on fire once those roads end and turn into pure white sand and turkey water.

As we journeyed north we said goodbye to any trees larger than the average person and said hello to huge tides, crystal clear water, snorkelling and unadulterated sunshine backed with blue skies and for the first time in a long time-seagulls.

We had planned our trip through the North West of Western Australia in the Winter months/dry season. Forgetting the roads, a combination of vicious heat and lathering humidity that the build up delivers in this part of the world can really be enough to sap you of energy.

Once we made it to the peninsula, we chose a campground and I started exploring.

A rocky outcrop lie at the bottom of a surfy beach with the smell of sea air a reuniting pleasure. At night the sheer amount of hermit crabs was quite amazing. Come day break, the soft red sands were entirely covered in tracks where these industrious and curious crustaceans had taken their calcified caravans all across the roads in search of food.



The Dampier Peninsular along with the Buccaneer Archipelago is the stuff Aussie postcards are made of. Clear blue skies with piercing sunshine that streams down in a transparent golden haze all day long, feather soft bleach white sand, earthy red dirt cliffs and the sound of the ocean repeating at your doorstep.

If you don't have a boat, strap on some rock boots and start walking. I chose to explore the areas around Middle Lagoon almost entirely on foot even though we had Lady Kay in the water.

The land based game in this area is best fished on a making/full tide. When the tide pours across the rocks it creates huge upwelling's of turbulence. I knew that predatory fish love these conditions and on a red letter day like I was lucky enough to have, I felt like every cast was a potential hook up.

**I KNEW THAT PREDATORY FISH LOVE THESE CONDITIONS AND ON A RED LETTER DAY LIKE I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE, I FELT LIKE EVERY CAST WAS A POTENTIAL HOOK UP.**

I loaded up my Generation black-black sniper with 40lbs sun line fluorocarbon trace and put on the new Departure+co Outbound 110. These are a sinking stick bait with a hard shimmy on the drop.

I made my way toward the outer most point of the rocks I could reach and with a 30 knot morning breeze at my back, launching these aerodynamic stick baits 100 yards out to sea was no problem.

I witnessed one of the most spectacular takes I have ever to date. As my stick bait landed I viciously worked it across the top of a submerged tidal rock that I could see an upwelling on with my binoculars. All be it, the fish was a Barracuda (not exactly the most prestigious or hard fighting of pelagic fishes) this fish put on a show. Leaping 6 feet clear of the azure depths to engulf my lure, it grinned its canine like teeth at me as it descended back toward the white wash.

We spotted Tuna (Longtails, Yellowfin and Mac Tuna all hooked), Queenfish in droves, Barracuda, Giant, Golden, Tea-leaf and Big eye trevally as well as Spanish Mackerel and even Anak Permit off the rocks on the sandy sections of the reef.





## STARTING TO GET A HANDLE ON BROOME

Our all of our fish sightings would lead you to believe that it was all beer and skittles. We weren't to know that our biggest issue was stopping the taxman from claiming every prize we thought we had won.

It seemed an almost impossible task. Everytime we would look to each other, lean back on our rods and scream "yep!" we would soon feel a shudder through the graphite that only evokes a chill and disappointment throughout the shattered confidence that every cradle to grave fisherman knows.

As I said earlier, this was a red letter day. Only problem being that after being able to land a Barracuda, Queenfish, a few varieties of trevally and a mixed bag of dimersals with the occasional and ever present Long-tom thrown in, we decided it was time to unleash the beast...

We put Lady Kay in the water and took off out to sea hoping that the cobalt blue abyss awaiting would allow us to move away from the sharks and actually boat a solid table fish.

Tim with his 8000 size stradic in hand was ready to do battle and it took hardly anytime before his outbound 110 was scooped by a hungry Yellowfin tuna feeding amongst some Bonito.

When these fish hit- you strap yourself in and feel the cheese. We got a quick glimpse at this fish before we again angered the gods. "Thud, thud, thud" was all that seemed to keep happening as we both pleaded for the end to this bizarre form of abuse that was the local shark population.

OUR ALL OF OUR FISH SIGHTINGS WOULD LEAD YOU TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS ALL BEER AND SKITTLES. WE WEREN'T TO KNOW THAT OUR BIGGEST ISSUE WAS STOPPING THE TAXMAN FROM CLAIMING EVERY PRIZE WE THOUGHT WE HAD WON.

We returned to the shore, full of character building funny stories though less lures, less flies, less energy and less fish for dinner. All in all we needed a cold beer to go with those lentils for tea. Bless that camp fridge.

I have heard a very prominent trout fisherman from Tasmania lament that every tropical island is just like the next. I heartily disagree. I have spent my whole life fishing the tropical salt water of Australia's east coast and Broome was a different experience for me.

Go and fish the area. You're senses will run a muck with the pleasure of it all.



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THE  
FOCUS POINT

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# TREVOR HOLMES

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FULL TIME FISHING GUIDE AND PART TIME ENVIRONMENTALIST, TREVOR HOLMES HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE SAVE TOOLONDO CAMPAIGN

## **Who is Trevor Holmes?**

Born and bred in the Geelong area we shifted from a farm close to Geelong when I was aged 7, having 4 older sisters and being wiped out by wildfire in 1969 my parents decided on full time city life much to my disappointment. Having many relations in the Wimmera all my holidays were spent up here and from a very early age I realised that one day I would return and most likely retire back to country life.

## **How did you get to where you are today ?**

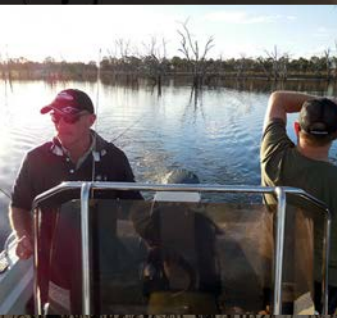
I was schooled until 16 and took on several jobs until I was offered an apprenticeship as a plumber at 17. Finishing my time as a roof plumber and then going on to be a sub contractor until taking up supervision roles with a couple of larger companies. Tired of being pinned down to set hours I started my own roofing company which I ran until 3 years ago. Upon starting a guiding business I soon realised fishing and guiding were going to be my future and invested in a charter vessel and obtained my coxswains accreditation.

## **Can you remember what age you got into fishing and what your first fish was ?**

I'm unsure of my exact age but recall fishing the Barwon River at Pollocksford Bridge with my dad for Redfin. As this was close to our farm we spent hours along the banks of the Barwon mainly using Baltic Bobbers or Devon's and Celtas chasing reddies. We also would fish on occasions at night for eels as dad enjoyed a feed of these things I was terrified of reminding me of snakes !

## **Tell us a bit about your business, Victorian Inland Charters**

V.I.C. Was evolved almost 2 years ago now and slowly developed and thrived on a market that seemed to have a void in it. As the only freshwater charter available throughout western Victoria and the Wimmera there appeared to be many people who were not fortunate enough to own a boat and access better areas to fish. I for one was becoming frustrated with limited bank angling opportunities due to receding water levels and being denied access to past fisheries. With interest increasing and results speaking for themselves we developed a nice little niche market. During early days we operated on the 2 crater lakes of Camperdown in Purrembete and Bullen Merri but also had Lake Tooliorook at Lismore producing some fine brown and rainbow trout to 3.5 kg. With dropping water levels throughout western Victoria we decided on expanding in to the Wimmera and especially the iconic Lake Toolondo. With several other lakes also viable propositions nearby and having spent many days and hours from my youth to pre drought on most of these lakes it wasn't long before people flocked here to enjoy the spoils of generous restocking by DEPI. We now have trips available on Lakes Fyans, Wartook, Lonsdale and Bellfield chasing trout, redfin and chinook salmon, all these lakes within a short drive of Halls Gap. Further afield at Toolondo we have landed many trophy trout this year for clients from all around Australia and a few international visitors. Other lakes in the region also produce very well, with Taylor's and Green Lakes producing cod, yellowbelly, silver perch and redfin. With day, weekend and extended trips available it is possible to target many species.



# TREVOR HOLMES

## *What can someone expect if they book a charter?*

With all fishing we know there is no givens ! Best option to maximise your fishing trip is to make contact with me prior and usually I can work out prime times based on weather, moon phases, barometric pressure and local habits to get best results. One thing I do guarantee is that 100 % is put into making the trip pleasant and trouble free, full of laughs and value for money. Whilst we have a great strike rate on the trout of 95 % success due to local knowledge there are days when it is tough going. Fortunately in this area one day can be a massive improvement on the previous and fortunes can change in a hurry. Hard work and versatility are the key whilst some days it all happens with little effort....but that's fishing !

## *What's your favourite part of guiding ?*

Well what an easy one to answer this is.....without doubt the thrill of seeing people catch a personal best trout. I've been very fortunate to put many onto PB,s this year and hope to continue that trend as to me the excitement and looks on their faces is priceless ! From seasoned fishos to the younger generation I will never tire of the delight on their faces and the smiles, reliving the hit, take, leaps, capture it all is a memory etched in their (and my) minds forever. Priceless.

## *Least favourite part of guiding ?*

Well I must be honest and say not producing a fish on rare occasions has been a massive let down for me. The cold winter mornings are also not my favourite but when you know what's on offer on those days it's not hard to push through them as they more often than not produce the better fish.



**Whats your funniest/most memorable experience out guiding?**

Whilst the charters are always full of laughs, jokes and upbeat moments probably the funniest moment was a day on Toolondo when Adrian Hurring was angling a very nice brown trout and Ben Young netting it for him. Upon landing the fish my Jack Russell terrier, Milo, who often comes on the boat, appeared in the water beside us after falling in with all the excitement of landing a fish. The 3 of us laughed for most of the day about it, Milo didn't see the funny side.

The most memorable moment would have to be Darryl Luttrell landing one of the best looking brown trout bucks I have ever seen with a massive hook jaw in Toolondo.

**What is your favourite waterway?**

Without doubt Toolondo holds a special place for me with it producing so well and many fantastic catches of both trophy trout and monster Redfin. Lake Tooliorook at Lismore runs a close second with consistency and magnificent specimens of both rainbows and browns.

**For those that haven't been there before what makes Toolondo such a special and unique place ?**

With a perfectly balanced ecosystem and magnificent scenery with views to both the Grampians and Black Range, Toolondo just delights so many fisherman. With unprecedented growth rates never before seen in the world the quality and beauty of these fish is something to behold. The variance of methods also never fails to remind you that versatility is the key. One method or colour that worked today may not work the next but the ever reliable mudeye prevails on most days.

**We have seen you at the forefront of the save Toolondo campaign, how have you found the support of fellow anglers and the general public ?**

Whilst support has been fantastic by fellow anglers and some members of the general public through our Facebook campaign I was probably disappointed with the lack of support by local business people who are the ones that would benefit most from a re-generated Toolondo. Anglers are a very resilient bunch and are more than willing to throw their weight behind a good cause. Toolondo with it's worldwide recognition has attracted public and media attention for all the wrong reasons.



# TREVOR HOLMES

## *How important is Toolondo to the local and surrounding communities ?*

Whilst several years of drought saw the district flounder and go without a central hub being the lake in 2010/2011 it was granted water and has thrived since. Not only is Toolondo a fishing destination it also provides locals with a waterski, sailing, hunting and relaxation area. With no school, shop or other infrastructure at Toolondo the lake is our only recreational outlet so the importance of it is paramount.

## *Is it too late for Toolondo or is there still time for action ?*

It's not too late at this point to save the whole lake from disaster. Allow we are asking for is 5000 mega litres to be put into the lake via the channel that is currently running at the lakes doorstep. It's a very simple operation involving a switch being flicked to lift the inlet gates but we are told water isn't available in the system to inject into the lake. That same amount of water is available for the lake at a price of around \$450,000 ! Sad that the survival of the iconic lake comes down to money.

## *What can the "average joe" do to help ?*

Anyone who is on Facebook is welcome to join the TOOLONDO RESERVOIR page and get behind us or keep abreast of our progress. All support is welcomed and any new ideas or assistance can only reinforce our cause.

## *Is there hope/plans on the horizon ?*

We are hoping that the newly elected government can make a difference here and use their powers to direct some much needed water onto the lake as the economic and social impact of a dry lake would be devastating for the Wimmera, Horsham and Toolondo districts.

## *What's next for Trevor Holmes ?*

A very exciting year coming up for us with my fiancé Nat and myself getting married in September in Fiji. A break over Xmas in Canberra with Nats family and the first week of February off chasing marlin at Port Stephens with Red Hot Charters crew of Simon Rinaldi and Matty Harris. Hopefully have our second charter boat on the water in the new year based at Halls Gap. Still continuing our hire/drive boats and kayaks in the Grampians Lakes, Fyans, Wartook and Bellfield. Hoping to see developments at Toolondo water wise and to eventually establish a massive yearly trout competition here as well as a Toolondo Angling Club. Nat and myself have plans for the area down the track when water security is secured including a general store/tackle shop like the old days and a fishing lodge for visiting anglers.

## **To book a charter with Victorian Inland Charters visit:**

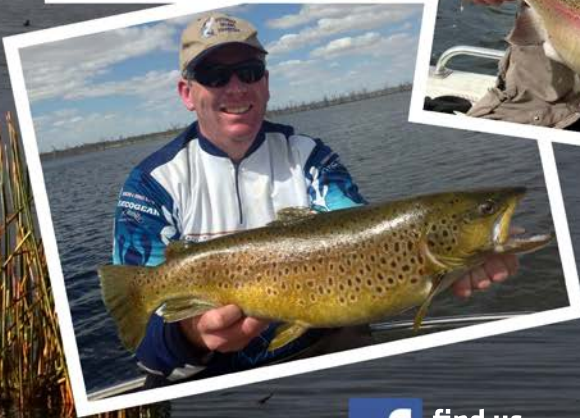
**[www.victorianinlandcharters.com.au](http://www.victorianinlandcharters.com.au)  
or contact Trev on 0438 132 130**

\*Since our interview with Trev, Lake Toolondo has received a much needed 5000ML of water which should see it through the summer.



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# PEACOCK PARADISE

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PHOTOS BY: AARON HILL

PRESENTED BY

*team*  
**Goodang**

TEAM GOODANG'S AARON HILL FINDS OUT THERE'S  
MORE TO HAWAII THAN BIG WAVES AND WHITE  
SANDY BEACHES





# PEACOCK PARADISE

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For the last few years Peacock Bass have been on my fishing bucket list. This obsession was further amplified after watching the web series GEOBASS, the boys from GEOFISH who are chasing bass in all corners of the globe, tangled with some massive peacocks in the jungles of Columbia. Their hard fighting and surface busting nature makes them the perfect sports fish for any freshwater angler.

When I locked in a family trip to Hawaii I quickly found out that this was one of the few places you could actually chase Peacock Bass. After some nifty work on the keys I quickly came across the 'Hawaii Bass Fishing' Facebook page and made contact. Stan Wright, well known for his 11-years presenting on the long-running fishing program 'Lets Go Fishing Hawaii', was quick to respond. Stan the man instantly filled me in with all the information I would need to know and his son, Chris, who was recently runner up of reality fishing show 'Top Hooker' was locked in as my guide for the day.

As the day drew closer my excitement was becoming hard to contain. I kept a close eye of the Hawaii Bass Fishing FB page where Chris would post pictures of recent captures with clients with titles like 'Crazy Topwater Action' and 'Fish Still Schooling'.

## IT'S GO TIME!

Arriving in Hawaii to picture perfect conditions, it wasn't long before my family vacation would turn into a peacock paradise.

On our way to Lake Wilson, Chris told me there were two main techniques we would use. Firstly, the peacocks had been busting bait on the surface when there was cloud cover. It would simply be a case of looking for fish busting the surface and

casting our lures, in this case a tiny little gold spoon with a single G-stinger style hook hanging off the back, and winding it quickly in along the surface to imitate a scurrying baitfish. This sounded to fun to actually work.

Once the sun came up we would work the edges trying to provoke a reaction strike, teasing the peacocks out of their cover, similar to our Aussie Bass. The one thing Chris told me was to keep the lure moving at all times, and fast. This was not something I was used to as with many of our native species respond to a slower cadence on the retrieve.

As we arrived at our first spot I couldn't believe my eyes, large patches of calm water and ever 10 - 20 seconds the surface would be broken by an almighty boof, as the Peacock Bass would smash the bait fish before disappearing back to the depths.

It wasn't long before an eruption took place in casting distance of the boat. Game on! I quickly cast into the middle of the swirls and boils and started retrieving my hybrid lure. Within half a turn of the handle two peacocks were surging towards the lure but before I had time to process what was happening I had instinctively slowed down my retrieve, the lure dipped beneath the surface and the fish disappeared. This happened a few times before I finally got used to maintaining a high speed retrieve, even when a fish was in pursuit.

Finally after about 15-minutes and a bit of cloud cover everything feel into place as a school of bass started busting up near the boat. I quickly flicked my lure in the middle of the school and after three swift cranks a feisty little Peacock Bass smashed my spoon and took off to the depths. This action lasted for another hour-and-a-half as the sun had risen high in the sky and the passing cloud had all but disappeared. It was a surface session I will not forget any time soon.



PEACOCK  
PARADISE

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**IT WAS NOT UNCOMMON TO SEE TWO OR THREE PEACOCKS BASS FOLLOWING YOUR LURE AT THE SAME TIME. THIS WAS SOME OF THE MOST VISUALLY EXPLOSIVE FISHING I HAVE EVER WITNESSED - WHAT AN AMAZING RUSH!**

With the sun shining in our eyes, It was time to massage the bank side structure - a technique I was more familiar with. Chris let me try a few lures I used back home but in the back of his mind he must have been laughing, as I quickly dropped a small largemouth bass and a Red Devil on a TN60 Norbs Jackall.

After about an hour of casting Chris politely suggested I try his method and rigged up my spin stick with a weedless presentation that included a 5cm white soft plastic tube and a bead of a neckless from Wall Mart. This bait could be cast right up onto the grassy banks or hard up into timber. The idea was to cast as close to the bank as possible and commence retrieving the plastic immediately, using the rod to impart the action.

Second cast of the new lure and from hard up on the bank the unmistakable marking of a peacock bass emerge from the depths and start following the lure. Naturally I panicked, stopping the retrieve which, again, saw the fish disappear. However, to see this happen second cast filled me with confidence.

The next few hours were filled with countless follows and misses on this weedless presentation. It was not uncommon to see two or three peacocks bass following your lure at the same time. This was some of the most visually explosive fishing I have ever witnessed - way an amazing rush!

To say I had an enjoyable day is a massive understatement. I was well looked after, learnt a heap and finally had the chance to tangle with one of the most revered freshwater fish on the planet.

All in all it was an awesome experience and I am already planning my next trip to upgrade my PB PB. A big thanks to Chris from Hawaii Bass Fishing for the day and if you ever head over to Hawaii be sure to look him up and book a day on the water.

***Hawaii Bass Fishing***

<http://www.hawaiibassfishing.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/hawaiibass.fishing>



Team  
**Goodang**





TOP 5

# VICTORIAN SUMMER GETAWAYS

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A GUIDE BY IN DEPTH ANGLER

WARM WEATHER, ENDLESS HOURS OF SUNSHINE,  
GOOD TIMES AND HOT FISHING. HERE IS OUR TOP 5  
SUMMER DESTINATIONS.



# 1

## EAST GIPPSLAND

The East Gippsland region offers boundless opportunities for anglers of all skill levels, Try your hand at some bait fishing off one of the numerous piers and jetties at Lakes Entrance or take a short drive down the road to one of the many rivers and inlets that flow out to sea in this part of the country.

A number of popular angling targets call the gippsland region home. Black Bream and Dusky Flathead would have to be two of the most common and popular species for anglers, but dont be suprised if you hook into a Silver Trevally or Estuary Perch along the way.

The actions not over after dark either, as Summer is usually the start of the annual prawning season. A simple dip net and battery powered light is all you need. Prawning is not only a fun activity for all ages, but the rewards area also delicious!

**MARLO**  
**CAPE CONRAN**  
**BEMM RIVER**  
**TAMBOON INLET**  
**MALLACOOTA**



# 2

FALLS CREEK

BRIGHT

OMELO

MANSFIELD

JAMIESON

WOODSPOINT

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## VICTORIAN HIGH COUNTRY

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The Victorian High Country, most commonly associated with the Man from Snowy River and picturesque mountain huts, the high country also offers some great fishing for those wanting to put in a little bit of effort to explore the endless number of lakes, rivers, streams and creeks that meander their way through the undulating mountains that make up this part of the world.

Being higher in elevation, the high country can also offer a chance to escape the blazing dry heat that the rest of the state can experience during the Summer months, do keep in mind though that the area is still very much at risk of bush fires, and careful preparations should be made to minimise putting yourself at risk.

# 3

MILDURA

ROBINVALE

LAKE MULWALA

SWAN HILL

BARMAH

## THE MURRAY

The mighty Murray River, rising in the Australian Alps and travelling some 2508kms before draining into the ocean via Lake Alexandrina in South Australia. Even during the peak holiday season your sure to find a stretch of this amazing river to yourself.

Summer is the prefect time to target our native species, which can be taken on a wide range of techniques, however none are more visually appealing and exciting as surface luring.

Murray cod are ambush predators and using surface paddlers that make lots of noise and commotion can be a great way to entice a bite, particularly around dusk, dawn and into the night.



# 4

**EILDON**  
**BONNIE DOON**  
**GOUGH'S BAY**  
**FRAZER NAT. PARK**  
**THE PINES**

## LAKE EILDON

Lake Eildon offers a the freshwater angler a great getaway, just a couple of hours from Melbourne, which makes it ideal for a day trip or weekend getaway.

Though host to a number of fish species, summer is the perfect time to target our native species, in particular Murray Cod.

Try fishing early mornings and late afternoons, as these times not only coincide with peak bite times but there will also be less traffic on the water from ski boats and jet skis.



# 5

LAKE TOOLONDO

LAKE FYANS

LAKE WARTOOK

LAKE BELLFIELD

ROCKLANDS RESERVOIR

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## THE GRAMPIANS

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Typically home to trout anglers during the cooler months, the grampians region still offers excellent fishing during the warmer months. Warm evenings bring on a hive of insect activity, baitfishing with mudeyes or fly fishing is a very popular and successful technique which has brought many big brown trout undone over the years as they come into the shallow margins of the lakes to feed.

The Grampians offers some of the states best trophy redfin fishing with many lakes in the region capable of producing quality fish, in excess of 2kgs



# RIVER SESSIONS

STORY: DARREN WEDA PHOTOS: JOSH CHEONG







There is definitely something special and exciting about heading to a new trout water, that anticipation on the drive in, the hike through dense bushland and that moment when your research and hard work pays off as you step into a crystal clear stream miles from anywhere, anyone, and you're in your own little paradise.

Anyone can experience this great feeling, and with a little bit of research, some time in the car and some good old walking its within reach to almost anyone.

Exploring new water can also have its ups and downs, some streams off the beaten track will be no good for fishing, this could be for a number of reasons such as it being overgrown with bank side vegetation, have little or no flow, be too warm, the list goes on and all the hours spent getting there can be for nothing.

## **ON THE OTHER HAND WHEN IT DOES PAY OFF THE FISHING CAN BE AMAZING AND EXTREMELY MEMORABLE.**

On a recent trip exploring a new stream we hiked for 1.5 hours only to find the stream we planned on fishing was far too steep and un-wadeable, another 1.5 hrs got us back to the car without even wetting a line.

On the other hand when it does pay off the fishing can be amazing and extremely memorable.

Here is some tips to get you started with your own trout stream adventures.

# RIVER SESSIONS

## RESEARCH

Do plenty of it, use tools like Google earth, Google images and rooftop maps to find likely locations and access points. Word of mouth can also be a good tool, ask around and listen to what people have to say, this can point you in the right direction.

## GEAR

Have the right gear for the job. Waders and wading boots are essential. Long hours walking and wading in the rivers means you need to be comfortable and warm, otherwise the experience can be very un-enjoyable. Also a comfortable backpack for all your gear can make a world of difference. Pack as little as possible to get you by, as a weighty bulky pack will not only become tiresome to carry, it will also impede on your maneuverability around things like fallen trees.

## BE PREPARED

Some of these remote locations we get into are literally in the middle of nowhere and not easily accessible. If anything were to happen to one of us we need to be prepared for the worst. Make sure you carry a first aid kit, Fire lighters, EPIRB, GPS and headlamp. I have had quite a few close calls with snakes out and about on the rivers, so it pays to be prepared. Also if in the Alpine areas keep an eye on the weather, it can close in rapidly at certain times of year and temperatures drop quickly! No matter what the conditions when you start fishing, its always worth packing a jacket.

## SENSE OF ADVENTURE

Not all streams will be great fishing, but you will get a good look at the countryside and see some other amazing things on your travels. Take it all in and enjoy the journey, as it is definitely part of the adventure experience.

The more you get out there and check these locations you have researched, the more you will work out what type of locations on the map will have trout, and who knows you may even find the Holy grail of trout streams, I know that is what i am still looking for!





## FISH UPSTREAM

Trout will almost always face upstream into the current, so by fishing upstream we are always coming up from behind the fish and bringing the lure or fly back past them like natural food in a river will do. Trout also have a bit of blind spot right behind them, so they will find it a lot harder to see you and your movements by doing this. But be prepared to change tactics if any back eddy's are encountered along the river, as the flow will change direction and head back upstream, which means the fish will be facing downstream into the flow, and will see you coming!

Fishing upstream will drastically reduce your chances of being seen by fish.



## POLARISED SUNGLASSES

The use of good polarising sunglasses are a must on sunny days, it cuts the glare off the water and makes seeing trout and your fly or lure so much easier. A hat or cap will also keep the glare off your glasses or eyes helping even more. By being able to see through into the water we are able to better see fish holding structure, the fish themselves or any follows we may have on our lures or fly's. polarised sunglasses

Polarised sunglasses reduce glare on the water, which will help you spot more fish and key fish holding areas

## WADE

Wading into the rivers will help by being able to access so many more places where the fish are holding. Also it gives better casting angles and allows to cover the river much more efficiently. 95% of our fishing is done standing in the river itself. Waders are also much more affordable than they were, and for shorter trips you do not need really good gortex waders like simms etc, but a \$50 pair of rubber waders will work fine.

The use of waders give you many more options for access, especially in rugged terrain.

## STEALTH

Fish have remarkably good eyesight, and will see movement from quite a distance. So stealth is a must, wear dull coloured clothing, keep low, make slow deliberate movements and try and stay to the shadows as much as possible. This especially rings true in smaller rivers where the fishing is close and the fish may only be a few meters in front of you. Try to keep to the shadows to avoid detection.

## CHOICE OF LOCATION

While most of our rivers hold trout, they will all fish totally different dependent on angling pressure. Try and find rivers or sections of rivers that do not get too much attention and your catch rates will definitely increase. The old saying "Either fish where the fish are, or where the fishermen aren't" sums it up.

Putting in the hard yards to get to a secluded spot can pay dividends.







# ABROLHOS ISLAND LIFE

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PICTORIAL BY JOSH CHEONG

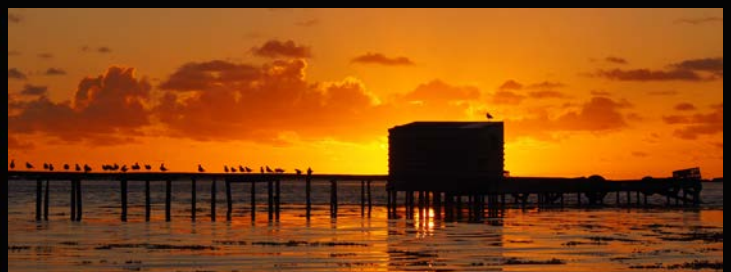
NESTLED OFF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COAST LIES  
A GROUP OF 122 ISLANDS AND CORAL REEFS KNOWN  
AS THE HOUTMAN ABROLHOS





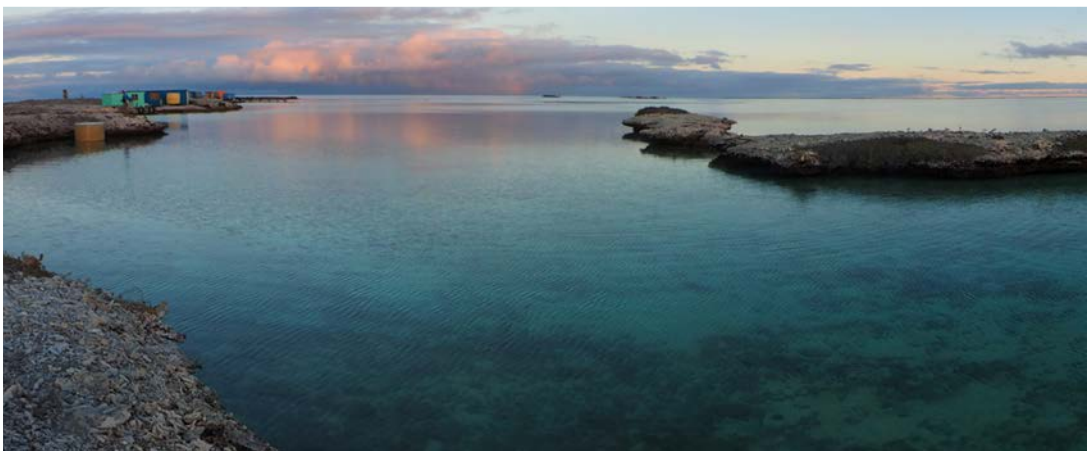


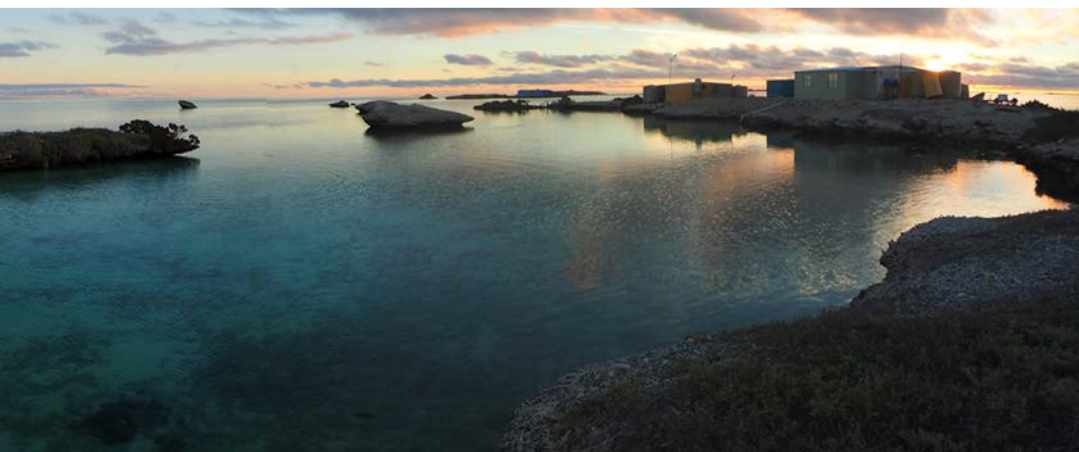
# ABROLHOS ISLAND LIFE



# ABROLHOS ISLAND LIFE

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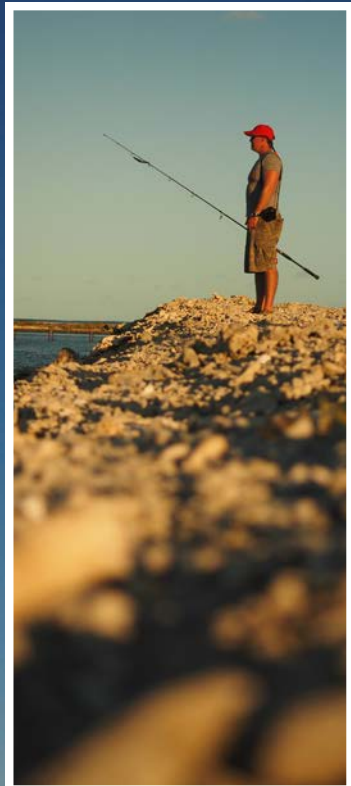




# ABROLHOS ISLAND LIFE

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# BALINESE TOPWATER

PICTORIAL BY: ANDREW SMITH & JOHN CAHILL

PRESENTED BY

**EBB TIDE**  
ADVENTURES

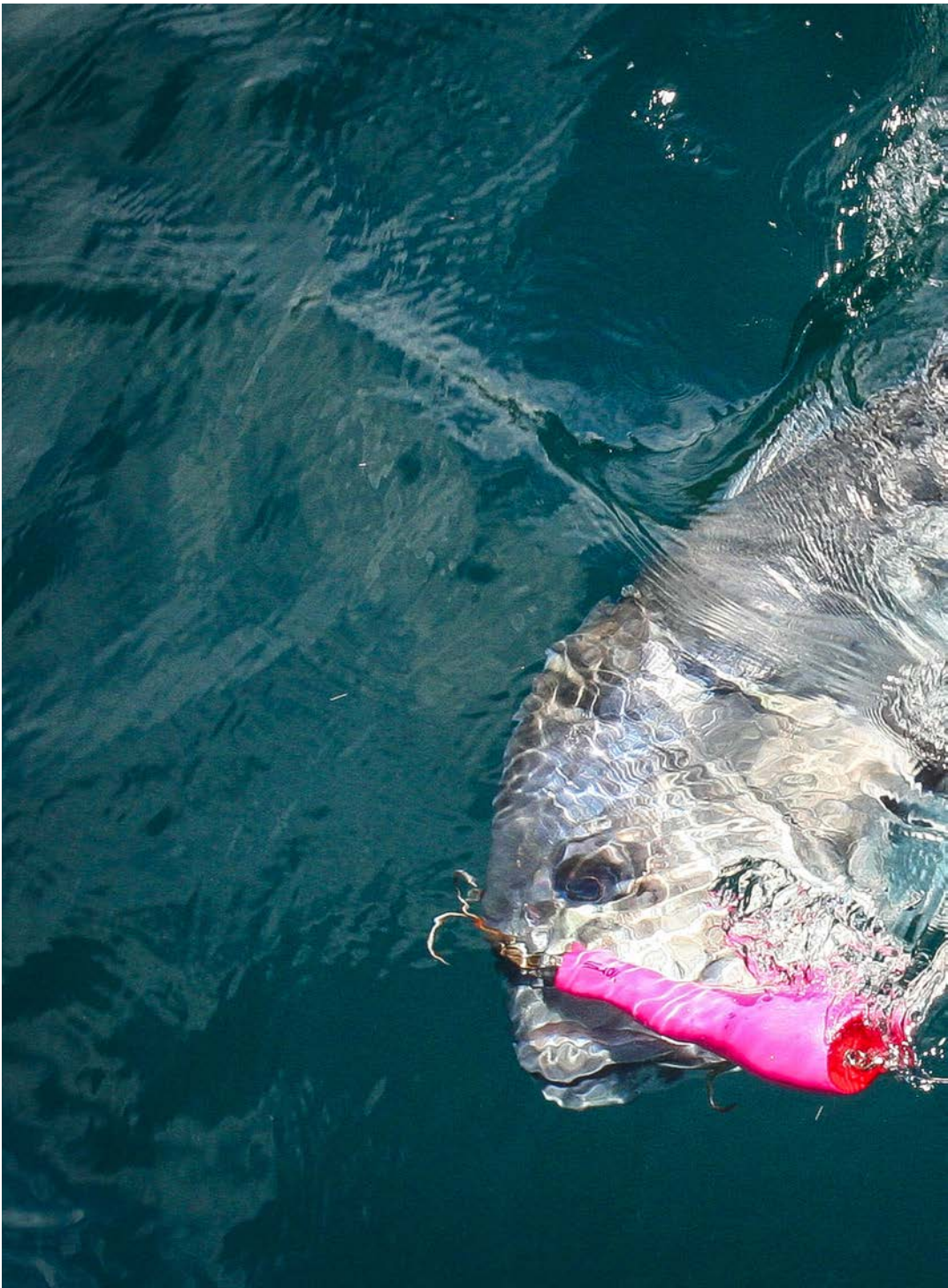
EBB TIDE ADVENTURES ANDREW SMITH AND JOHN CAHILL EXPLORE THE TURBULENT WATERS TO THE EAST OF THE INDONESIAN ISLAND OF BALI WITH ADHEK SPORT FISHING.

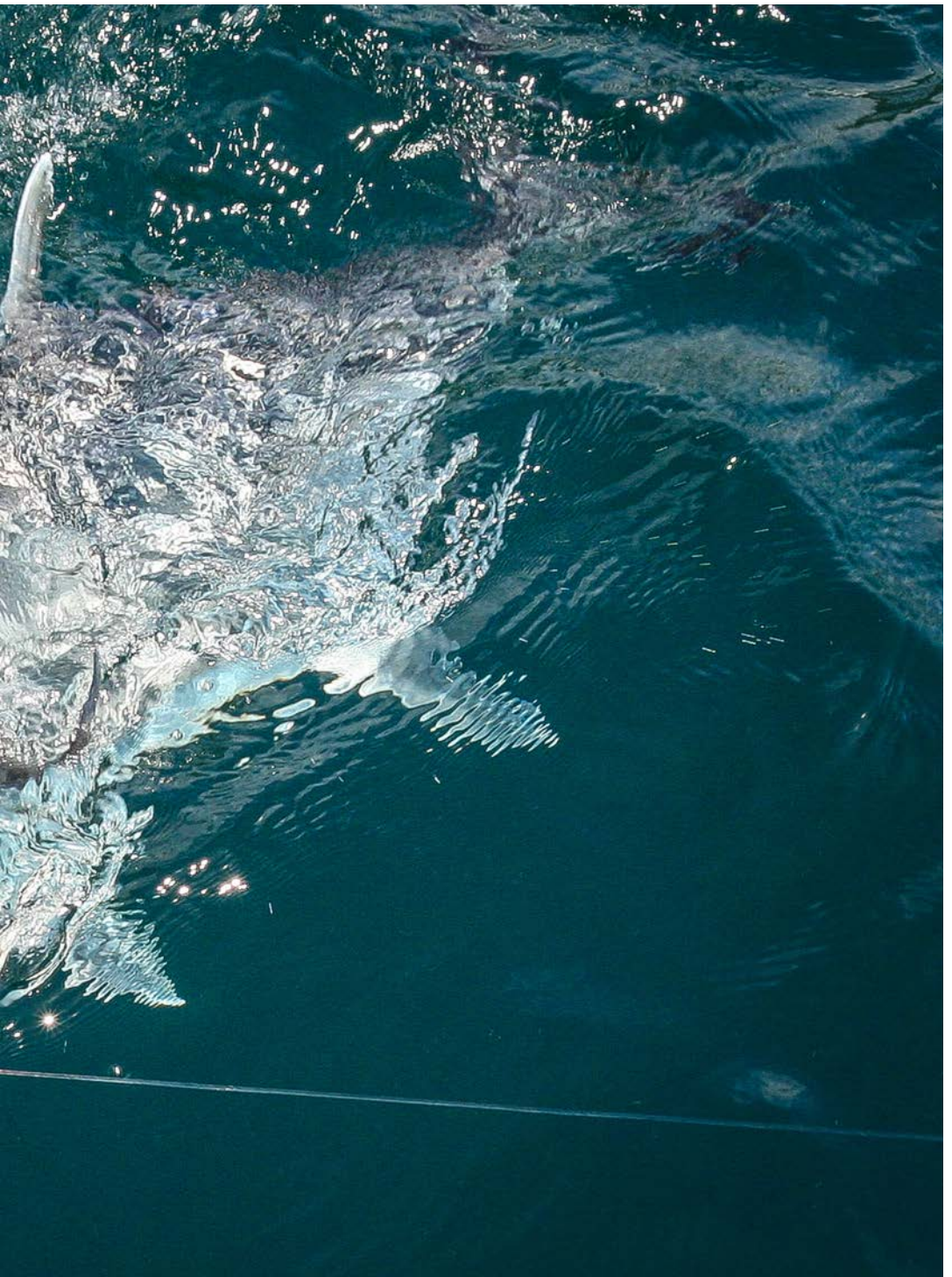




















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