

APRIL TRIP JINDABYNE

Seven members, including our two newest club members, Tim Olsen and Ben Campbell attended the ANZAC weekend trip to Jindabyne. Both Tim and Ben teamed up with Barry Gentle and Kym Prehn on the Friday to fish the Thredbo River. Barry and Kym took time out to introduce Tim and Ben to the skill of fly fishing for trout, resulting in Tim catching his first trout. Barry was not to be out done and landed a nice 40+cm rainbow which turned out to be the largest fish landed on the weekend.



Tim Olsen's Rainbow

On Friday evening Roger Woodward and I arrived and met up with the guys at Jindabyne Bowling Club for a nice meal and a re-cap of the day's events. After dinner we headed back to our excellent lodgings (Thankyou Roger Woodward) where we met up with our Club President Neil Nelson. Plans were put in place on where we were going to fish and with whom.

On Saturday Neil and Tim headed to the Mowamba, whilst Barry and Kym decided to fish the Thredbo above Gaden Hatchery.

Roger, Ben and I headed to the Thredbo below the bridge. As we trekked downstream you couldn't help but notice the amount of leaves that were floating down the river, and aside from heralding the onset of Autumn, they made sighting your fly difficult. We slowly worked our way upstream without seeing a rise or a single strike amongst the three of us. The nearest we came to a fish was when we came upon a lone spin fisherman with a freshly caught Rainbow. Roger suggested we look at the Snowy River towards Island Bend. As we ascended into the mountains we drove into rain squalls which worsened the higher we climbed, so after a quick look at Island Bend, we retreated to the lower altitude and

encountered much improved weather conditions. We decided to give the Mowamba River a fish. Ben got his first taste of dry fly fishing action as he hooked up on 3 fish during the course of the afternoon using a Royal Wulff. Roger too, had some success and landed a Brown of around 25cm. Roger takes his catch and release very seriously, in fact so seriously he likes to release the fish with the flies still attached!! I also finally had some success and caught a few small Browns, with my largest fish also about 25cm, that was captured using a Royal Wulff.

The Poplars that line the riverbank were certainly attracted to my flies, and unfortunately I tended to hook up on the trees regularly losing a few flies in the process. Late in the afternoon we met Neil and Tim further up on the Mowamba. Both Neil and Tim had fished with reasonable success catching Rainbows.

On Saturday evening we all headed to the Jindabyne Bowling Club for dinner once more. We met with Chris Harding and his family in the dining room. After dinner and a discussion with Chris about fishing, we headed back to our lodge. Plans were discussed for the next day's fishing, however gale force winds interrupted proceedings. With hopes of better conditions for the next day, we retired to bed.

Rising early on Sunday morning I had the feeling of Dejavu'. Just as in 2008 our Jindabyne trip on the ANZAC weekend culminated with strong wind and snow, and yes, here it was again, but this time worse - as the wind was even stronger and accompanied by sleet and snow reaching into Jindabyne. It was unanimously decided that the fishing would be too difficult under the prevailing conditions and we all decided to make an early departure for home. Barry, undaunted by the weather of these two ANZAC trips declared that we should revisit Jindabyne, ANZAC weekend 2010 ☺, which Barry also advised will be a long weekend next year. Noted Barry, and as they say 3rd time lucky, so I expect the weather conditions to be much more compliant next year.

A trip home is never complete unless there is a stopover at the local fly shops. High country Outfitters enjoyed our patronage as well as a visit to The Alpine Anglers. A utility heading back from Eucembene pulled into the car park at the Alpine Anglers, and it was clear from the amount of snow on the tonneau cover of the ute there had been a fair amount of snow fall out that way as well. Let's hope the snowfall is good this year and get decent water levels into both the Eucembene and Jindabyne dams.



Barry's catch of the trip

Jeff Randal