The great escape?

Will Thompson  |  March 2008  »  Area Articles / Victoria & Tasmania / Freshwater / Central Gippsland /

This report seems a little unbelievable, but thanks to high quality mobile phones, there is a video camera everywhere – even on the riverbank.

A good customer and mate of mine Tim Hoppin brought in his mobile phone and said, “Have a look at this”. What he showed me next, I had never seen or heard of before. Tim showed me video footage of him catching not one but two stonking rainbow trout, yes rainbow trout, from the Morwell River. Now for those of you who don’t know Morwell River too well, it is not known for its rainbow trout population. In fact, I’ve never seen a rainbow trout in Morwell River in my life, which leads me to believe that these fish had made the great escape, and perhaps escaped from a nearby dam. I could be wrong, but that to me is the most logical explanation.

One rainbow was a female weighing 1.6kg and measuring 52cm, while the other was a big buck male with a hook jaw. It measured closer to 60cm and weighed over 1.8kg. Tim spotted the fish rising and said he threw everything in his tackle box at them. After about 100 casts, one fish engulfed a Rapala CD3. He then picked up the other rainbow about 10 minutes later.

This is the strangest report I’ve heard for a long while, and I honestly don’t think I will ever hear of such a report again. If I hadn’t seen the video footage, I would have thought he was having a lend of me and had just pulled them out of a farm dam. Excellent effort Tim!

Blue Rock Reservoir

Blue Rock has been producing heaps of redfin around the edges. The dam has risen to around 80%, which is the reason the fish are in so close to the banks. I can’t stress enough how successful the use of soft plastics are in situations like this. The reason is that most traditional trout lures are too heavy, and either get snagged on the bottom in the shallow edges or simply spook the fish due to the large splash they make when hitting the water. Through the use of ultra light jig heads ranging from 1/40 oz to 1/16oz, you eliminate these problems straight away, which is what makes soft plastics so successful for trout. Also, try to use smaller plastics, 3 inches maximum, but preferably 1-2inch.

For more information about fishing in Central Gippsland, contact Will at Allways Angling in Traralgon on 03 5174 8544.

Blue Rock Reservoir has been producing redfin around the edges. Hard-bodied lures like this will work, but soft plastics are an even better option (photo: Marc Ainsworth).

Images