

# Trout Fish Tasmania



Photo by Steven Ooi

Free guide to trout  
fishing Tasmania



## Using this booklet

This booklet is designed and written for the travelling angler. It is set out in regions.

Included are some of Tasmania's most easily accessed trout fisheries. There are many outstanding fisheries NOT included, but these are well worth exploring. Some are roadside — or off the beaten track.

**QR Codes** below can be used to access maps, brochures and webcams for popular fishing sites. So please download a QR code reader to your iPhone or Android.

**INFISH APP.** You should download the free **infish** app which you will find in the Apple, or Google Play stores. The **infish** App will give you access to buy a licence, regulations, weather, lake levels, lake webcams, stocking levels and more.



### INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

SCAN this QR Code to go directly to Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) website - or just search Inland Fisheries Tasmania.

You can buy a licence, check regulations and keep up to date on stocking.

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### WEBCAMS

SCAN this QR Code to go to AAT's webcams - or just search Anglers Alliance Webcams Tasmania.

Anglers Alliance Tasmania have installed and manages 10 webcams around Tasmania. These are live view and update every few minutes.

If a webcam is available - it is noted next to location.



### ANGLER ACCESS MAPS

SCAN this QR Code to go to digital copies of the latest Angler Access maps.

Over 30 Angler Access maps are online and most are available in hard copy at tackle stores. They give information for formal access at hundreds of locations in Tasmania. A list is shown below.

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### Angler access maps are available for the locations below

Many are in brochure form and available at tackle stores and other locations, whilst some are online only.

Arthurs Lake	Huon River	Lake River	River Leven
Binney Lagoon	Lake Barrington	Lake Rosebery	South Esk River
Bradys Lake	Lake Burbury	Lake Rowallan	St Clair Lagoon
Bronte Lagoon	Lake Crescent	Lake St Clair	Talbots Lagoon
Brumbys Creek	Lake Echo	Little Pine	Tooms Lake
Brushy Lagoon	Lake Fergus	Lagoon	Tungatinah
Craigbourne Dam	Lake Gordon	Macquarie River	Lagoon
Dee Lagoon	Huntsman Lake	Meadowbank Lake	Tyenna River
Four springs Lagoon	Lake Kara	Meander River	Western Lakes
yingina/Great Lake	Lake King William	Mersey River	Woods Lake
	Lake Leake	Penstock Lagoon	<b>More may be available. Check IFS website.</b>
	Lake Mackintosh	River Derwent	
	Lake Pedder		



## **Trout fishing around Tasmania**

Trout were first introduced into Tasmania from England in 1864. Tasmania is a diverse island with an impressive array of habitats. This diversity extends to its waterways in which trout abound.

The west coast has rugged, tannin-stained rivers — clear shingle rivers in the north west — meadow streams in the northern midlands — forest streams in the northeast — estuaries of the southern rivers, and the jewel in the crown — the Central Plateau with many crystal clear tarns and lakes.

This range of habitats offers many fishing possibilities around Tasmania. Nearly all rivers, streams and lakes hold trout.

There are four species of salmonids in Tasmania: brown trout, rainbow trout, brook trout and Atlantic salmon.

Native fish, including black bream, blackfish, estuary perch, short finned and long finned eel are also governed by the inland fisheries regulations within inland waters.

## **Licensing**

A current inland angling licence is required to fish with a rod, reel and line in any inland water in Tasmania.

Some inland waters are open all year, whilst others are subject to seasons. Go to [www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au) for detailed information - or download the free **infish** app.

Licences are available online at [ifs.tas.gov.au](http://ifs.tas.gov.au), from any Service Tasmania outlet and some tackle stores.

## **Accessing waters across private land**

There is no formal right of access to rivers in Tasmania, so access across private property should be viewed as a privilege. If in doubt, obtain the landholder's permission before attempting access. It is seldom refused. Most lakes have public access.

## **Angler Access Program**

The IFS and Anglers Alliance Tasmania (AAT) have developed a number of access points around Tasmania that use private and reserved land.

Check [www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au) or [www. http://anglersalliance.org.au](http://www.http://anglersalliance.org.au) for brochures and details.

AAT has webcams on a number of waters around Tasmania. Find them at [www.anglersalliance.org.au](http://www.anglersalliance.org.au) or scan the QR code opposite.

## FISHING METHODS

Bait, lure and fly fishing, are the three main methods used to target inland fish species within Tasmania.

### Bait fishing

Unweighted earthworms in flooded rivers or lake margins are highly effective early season. During summer, casting a grasshopper in the rivers can produce good bags of fish. A mudeye under a bubble float around trees in lakes is also a productive method.

**Bait fishing regulations:** Bait fishing includes natural, artificial or manufactured baits (for example 'Powerbait') or similar. It is an offence to use fish as bait in any inland water not subject to tidal movement. The use of frogs, freshwater crayfish and ground bait (berley) is also prohibited.

### Lure fishing

A 2-4kg spinning rod with a 1000-2500 spin reel is a good size outfit for most fishing situations. Floating and sinking bibbed lures in the 5-7cm range are ideal, as are spinners, spoons and spinning blade style lures. Soft plastics are very popular, using different weighted jig heads. They can be used to cover most depths of water imitating a wide range of prey.

### Fly Fishing

A 3wt to 6wt rod/line will cover most situations. Tasmania boasts a huge variety of insect life from mayfly and caddis hatches, many different types of beetle, ant falls, grasshoppers and more. For those times when insect life is not on the surface, early season tailing trout can be found in flooded lake margins and sea run brown trout feeding on the whitebait runs in estuaries.

## SUGGESTED LOCATIONS

### BAIT FISHING

Four Springs Lake  
Brushy Lagoon  
yingina/Great  
Lake  
Arthurs Lake  
Craigbourne Dam  
Lake Burbury  
Lake King William  
Woods Lake

### LURE FISHING

Four Springs Lake  
Pet Reservoir  
Arthurs Lake  
yingina/Great  
Lake  
Woods Lake  
Lake King William  
Bronte Lagoon  
Pine Tier Lagoon

### FLY FISHING

Penstock Lagoon  
Four Springs Lake  
Arthurs Lake  
Little Pine Lagoon  
Bronte Lagoon  
St Clair Lagoon  
Talbots Lagoon

**There are many more waters in Tasmania that provide great trout fishing — give them a try.**

## CENTRAL NORTH (LAUNCESTON BASED)



### **FOUR SPRINGS LAKE (WEBCAM)**

Four springs Lake is 20 km north of Hagley via the C735

**Four springs Lake** is a purpose-built fishing lake — first opened to fishing in 1999. The lake is quite shallow and has prolific weed growth helping to support abundant insect life. It is a 'put and take' fishery with both brown and rainbow trout. Fish average between 1 and 2kg with fish to 3kg common. Due to the lake's low altitude (226m), and its close proximity to Launceston, Four springs is popular especially during the cooler months.

Set rod bait fishing with worms can be productive in the shallower bays of the lake as fish forage close to shore during spring, while water temperatures remain low. As the water warms over summer fish seek out deeper water and the western shore either side of the dam wall becomes more productive for bait fishing. An unweighted mud-eye or one suspended under a bubble float from October onwards on the western shore can be extremely effective.

Casting soft plastics in black and gold or pumpkinseed is productive. Wade fishing the banks is effective, but weed growth becomes a problem during summer on the eastern side and restricts casting. The deeper western shore fishes better in the warmer months. Fishing from a boat is productive and gives access to the deeper water.

Early mornings and late evenings brown trout can be found tailing in the shallows bays. Early season flies such as Woolly Buggers and fur flies work well. During spring black and red or orange bead-headed nymphs can be very effective. During October and November Four Springs has quite reliable dun hatches and red spinner falls. Most dun or red spinner imitations will work. Still, calm evenings from November to February see fantastic mud-eye migrations. Mud-eyes or imitations fished around partially submerged logs or trees on evening will produce some exciting twilight action on large brown trout.



### **BRUMBYS CREEK (WEBCAM)**

Brumbys Creek is approx. two km south of Cressy to Weir 3 and 5 km to Weir 1 via Fisheries Lane on B51.

Water levels: <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDT60251/IDT60251.591049.plt.shtml>

**Brumbys Creek** is a lowland tailrace fishery that can provide exceptional sport for brown trout. Most anglers focus on the three low-profile weirs. The weirs were built in the early 1960s and act as buffers against the erosive force of water released from yingina/Great Lake through Poatina Power Station. The cooler tailrace water tends to delay the mayfly hatches until November but helps to maintain them throughout summer, unlike some of the other lowland rivers that tend to shut down over the hotter months of the year.

**Weir 1** (top) is highly respected by flyfishers, having open banks and good weed growth, fish tail along shallow edges early in the season and continue to do so with higher water levels from October onwards. The heavy weed can make lure casting difficult especially during reduced flows. The silty bottom can hinder wading.

**Weir 2** is open to all forms of fishing and tends to be narrower and faster flowing than Weir 1, supporting good hatches of insect life. Lure fishing may still be difficult in Weir 2 due to the heavy weed growth.

**Weir 3** provides better water for lure casting and bait fishing both above and below the weir. Bait fishers will find plenty of sport early in the season, with fish tailing in the shallows in the early mornings and late evenings. Casting an unweighted worm to the feeding fish will produce good results. From January to March an unweighted grasshopper will prove very productive. Casting the bait upstream to the gaps in the weed and along the bank edges and letting it drift with the current is the best approach.

Lure casting in any of the three weirs will prove productive. In the early-season casting medium-sized soft plastics such as green and yellow T tails on unweighted resin head jigs to the tailing fish and retrieving it very slowly should work well. Casting several metres beyond the fish and slowly retrieving the soft plastic until the fish spots the lure is the best approach. During summer, days of higher water flows can improve your prospects, making it easier to keep



### *Fishing from kayaks is popular on the Top Weir at Brumbys Creek*

your offering out of the weed, but more importantly promoting the fish to actively feed.

Fly fishers do well targeting the early morning tailers from September until January with flies such as Woolly Worms, Fur Flies and Woolly Buggers. Mayfly hatches generally start in November in the cooler tailrace waters. Duns hatch from around 10 in the morning whilst black and red spinner falls start around lunchtime and will continue until dark if the sea breezes don't pick up. Caenid mayflies have good hatches on early, still mornings from December until February accompanied by day time damselfly action. Also on warm still summer evenings there are good rises to a variety of insects including cockchafer beetles, moths and spent spinners.

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### **BRUSHY LAGOON**

Brushy Lagoon lies 20km north of Westbury via the Birralelee Road (B72) and Priestleys Lane(C714).

**Brushy Lagoon** is a shallow impoundment surrounded by State forest approximately 20km north of Westbury. The lagoon is managed as a put and take fishery, stocked with adult fish, which gives the novice angler a good chance of success. Large rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon are released into the lagoon. Wild adult brown trout are also liberated into the lagoon. This water has an abundance of fish available for the angler. Open all year round and with a relatively low altitude of 276m it provides a pleasant place to fish even during winter.

Most of the lagoon is shallow, averaging around 3m, and weed growth is prolific in the warmer months, making bank fishing difficult in places. Most bank anglers concentrate on the southern end near the dam wall as weed growth is less in the deeper water. The lagoon has two boat ramps, one on the eastern shore and one at the southwest end of the dam wall.

Power bait or earthworms fished on the bottom account for many fish in spring along the southeastern shore including the dam wall. Mudeyes start to hatch in November and continue until late March on warm evenings. Fishing around the drowned timber on the western shore of the lagoon with a mudeye suspended under a bubble float will normally produce fish late in the day.

Fishing a floating mudeye pattern in amongst the drowned trees on the western or northern shore will provide good entertainment on dusk. Casting wets such as Mark 2 Woolly Buggers in green or black or a slightly weighted Hamill's Killer from a drifting boat during the cooler months will produce results.

Large lightly-weighted soft plastics work extremely well immediately after any stocking with large Atlantic salmon. Trolling shallow running bibbed lures in bright colours will prove productive. Furthermore, drift spinning with the prevailing northwesterly breeze using shallow running bibbed lures or black and gold T-tails on light jig heads will prove irresistible to the fish.

The lagoon has huge midge hatches on still mornings over most of the year and can provide some fantastic angling from a boat or kayak. You need to be on the water at first light though. Presenting a large foam fly such as a Chernobyl Ant or a Bruisers Bug will normally trick the unwary trout, rather than trying to 'match the hatch'.

Red and black spinner mayflies normally start in late October and continue until the end of March.

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## **MACQUARIE RIVER**

Woolmers Bridge can be accessed from Woolmers Lane (C521), south from the centre of Longford, Macquarie Street, Cressy is approximately 10km south of Longford on the Cressy Road (B51), Barton Road is west of Epping Forest (A1) and Macquarie Rod access is on C522 north west of Campbell Town.

The most productive part of the Macquarie River is the tailrace section between the junction with Brumbys Creek at Cressy and the South Esk River near Longford. The river in this section is fed by cool water from yingina/Great Lake, via the Poatina Power Station. This 20km section passes through flat pasture, and the river banks have open grassy verges and tussocks with some willow trees.

An Angler Access Program gives foot access to most of the river. A good entry point exists at Woolmers Bridge on Woolmers Lane just south of Longford and Macquarie Street in Cressy providing access to the river just below the Brumbys Creek confluence. Good numbers of brown trout exist in this waterway, ranging in size from 0.4-0.8kg although some fish do exceed 1.5kg.

Grasshopper time between January and March provides the best



opportunity for bait fishers. Casting a hopper upstream near the undercut banks and trying to land the bait in the clear water should produce fish. Windy days can be more productive with wind-blown hoppers landing in the water on a more regular basis keeping the fish active. The wind also helps to break up the anglers outline, allowing you to get closer to the fish without being seen. Polarised sunglasses can also assist to spot the fish as they cruise the edges.

Lure fishing the lower Macquarie can be highly rewarding through most of the season. Higher water flows during spring are suited to fishing a soft plastic such as a T-tail upstream on light jig heads. Small, shallow-running bibbed lures in rainbow colours also work well at this time. With the decreased flows of summer, a lightweight gold celta with black blades will be effective and take good numbers of fish on overcast days.

Barton Road and above can be productive early season until November, but low summer flows tend to slow the fishing down.

Mayfly action on the lower Macquarie tends to be delayed until mid November due to the cool waters from Brumbys Creek tailrace. Large falls of both red and black spinners can be expected from mid-November through until the end of January.

Caenid mayflies will appear on still mornings in December and continue through until the end of February, followed closely by baetid mayflies throughout March and April. Most popular red and black spinner imitations will work well and WMD hopper patterns will account for most fish feeding on grasshoppers.

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## **MEANDER RIVER**

Meander River can be accessed from Meander Valley Road B54, Highland Lakes Road A5, Meander Road C167

The Meander River is a first rate fishery, and improved even more in recent years by regulated flows, following the construction of the Meander Dam in 2008. The irrigation dam has limited, to a certain extent, the excellent spring flood fishing but it has improved summer and autumn flows with both size and catch rates in the resident brown trout seeing a marked increase since its construction.



The lower Meander River between Deloraine and its confluence with the South Esk River flows through lowland pasture and typically consists of silty broad waters and stony riffles with good weed growth. Some of the banks are heavily overgrown with willows, but in recent years land owners have cleared quite a few of the banks. The fish range in size from 0.5kg to 1kg with fish to 2kg not uncommon.

The Meander River between the township of Meander and Deloraine is predominantly a shingle-bottomed fast water best fished whilst wading. Large numbers of fish can be caught in this highly productive fishery averaging between 0.2kg and 0.7kg with the odd larger fish at times. The banks are a combination of pasture and native scrub with good access provided at several road bridges.

Bait fishing with unweighted earth worms while the river is rising or is static at its highest point during spring floods is highly effective. Look for fish feeding in flooded backwaters or drains off the main river where they can be seen in the shallows as they forage for food.

Fishing unweighted grasshoppers from January to March along the high grass banks of the broad waters will produce good bags of fish.

Lure fishing the riffles between the broadwaters will be the most productive areas to fish in the lower Meander. Weed growth in the fast water can make lure casting difficult at low water levels. Better sport with lures can be found in the upper reaches between Deloraine and the township of Meander. Barretts Bridge and the Cheshunt Road bridge provide access to fantastic water for upstream wade spinning with bibbed lures in rainbow trout colour or black bladed gold celtas produce reliable action.

The lower Meander River sports consistent hatches of mayfly, producing excellent fishing. Caenid mayflies on calm mornings, dun hatches on humid overcast days, followed by afternoon black spinner falls from October until the end of December are the main features. Small F Flies, Fast Water Duns and Parachute Black Spinners respectively are useful imitations at these times.

WMD hopper patterns fished close to the grassy banks will bring fish undone over summer. Mayflies return in the mornings from March until late April with good hatches of tiny baetid mayflies and the possibility of black spinner falls on some calm afternoons.

A size 14 gold bead head nymph suspended under a Royal Wulff will produce fish in the riffles of the upper Meander at most times.



## **ST PATRICKS RIVER**

The section of St Pats River adjacent to the Tasman Highway (A3) between Nunamara and Targa represents some of the best river fishing in the north east. Easy access can be gained to the river at the Nunamara bridge (A3), Pecks Hill Road Bridge (C829), or the Targa Hill Road Bridge at Targa (C828).

St Patricks River is a medium-sized fast water rising in the Diddleum Plains area, flowing through a combination of native forest, plantation and farmland to its confluence with the North Esk River. St Pats is predominantly a shingle-bottomed fast water, its banks lined with a combination of willow trees and native scrub making access difficult and fishing the river is made easier by wading. The river supports large numbers of wild recruited brown trout with rainbows sometimes encountered. Fish range in size from 0.1kg to 0.4kg with larger fish being taken at times.

When the St Pats River breaks its banks in floods during spring fishing an unweighted worm in the inundated backwaters and ditches can provide good fishing. From January to March grasshoppers work well fished close along the banks.

Early season when the river is running high and discoloured, but hasn't broken its banks, celtas in fluoro or gold blade in small sizes cast upstream and retrieved work extremely well. If the river has broken its banks, try casting a very lightly weighted small soft plastic in the backwaters. During the warmer months celtas, small bibbed lures and small soft plastics cast upstream in the deeper riffles can produce large bags of fish through to the end of the season.

As with most lowland rivers in the north of the state, St Pats has reasonable mayfly hatches from the start of October through until the end of March. Fish will usually rise to a nondescript pattern such as a Royal Wulff or a Red Tag. If the fish are reluctant to take a dry, a number 14 bead-headed nymph suspended under a buoyant dry will often provide action. Fish can be selective though and a good dun pattern such as Fast Water Dun or a red spinner imitation will serve you well. St Patricks River has fantastic caddis hatches on still evenings from November to January. A size 16 Elk Hair Caddis is a great fly.



## ***NORTH ESK RIVER***

Formal access is limited, but there is some fishing close to Launceston at St Leonards picnic ground, and Corra Linn on Blessington Road is just 10 minutes from Launceston. There is a formal Angler Access area mid river at The Ballroom - around 20 minutes from Launceston on (C401) Blessington Road. There is no brochure, but the access points are easy to find.

Just before the Ballroom property the river comes close to the road. There are open paddocks and stiles over the fences.

This is an easy area to fish and with small celtas, bibbed lures or flies you will find many small fish. Wading can be slippery, but for the most part you can fish from the bank.

Fly fishers will find small dry flies effective, but those that are proficient nymph fishers the results can be outstanding.

There are many small fish here and of an evening often a larger fish can sometimes be found. In summer caddis hatches will bring out many small fish just on dark.

The river can be accessed at many other areas, but it is all private property, so permission will be needed. If you can find the land owner permission is seldom refused.

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## ***SOUTH ESK RIVER***

The South Esk is Tasmania's longest river at around 250kms. Formal access is available through the Angler Access Program.

The South Esk River offers some outstanding fishing along its entire length. Early season try around flooded edges with worms. Lure, fly and grasshopper fishing during the height of summer can be fantastic.

Lures to try are celta type blade spinners and small bib lures. Flies such as Royal Wulffs, Black Spinners, Elk Hair Caddis and small nymphs under an indicator are outstanding. Good baits are worms and grass hoppers.



### **1. Upper Esk to Evercreech Road.**

The headwater section from Upper Esk to Evercreech Road is generally wadeable riffles and shallow pools flowing through a mixture of native forest, private forest plantation and pasture and is ideal for wade fly fishing, lure and bait fishing. Easy access is available at Mathinna Plains Road bridge and Griffin Park with more challenging sections both up and downstream of these points. Heavy rainfall in the upper catchment can affect the fishing therefore it is advisable to check flows before leaving home. Generally small, fit brown trout and the occasional rainbow trout are encountered with the odd larger fish a pleasant surprise. Note: Griffin Park is very popular with campers and off road motorbikes during holidays periods.

### **2. Fingal to Conara**

The section from Fingal to Conara flows through predominantly open pasture and contains both wadeable sections and broadwaters. Access is available from many of the bridge crossings including Heffords Road, Leona Road, Storys Creek Road and Bonneys Plains Road and has been assisted through the generosity of private landowners. The river slows through this section with both shore based angling in the broadwaters and wading the flowing sections productive. Mayfly hatches and grasshopper falls are more reliable and can provide good sport for fly anglers during the warmer months. Lure and bait fishing can be productive at any time of the year.

### **3. Clarendon to Hadspen**

Feature fishing includes bait fishing with worms, wet fly and lure fishing early in the season, red spinner, mayfly and caenid hatches in spring and summer and grasshopper and black spinner hatches in autumn.

Upstream of Evandale bridge, off Perth Mill Road, up and downstream of Perth Bridge, Mill Dam at Longford and at Lions Park, Hadspen the river offers opportunities for shore based and wade angling.

Canoes and kayaks can be launched at Clarendon (paddle upstream.), Perth Riverbank Reserve, Longford (Union St. boat ramp) and Hadspen (paddle upstream.) providing access to water not generally available to shore based anglers.

## Central Highlands



### *yingina/GREAT LAKE (WEBCAM)*

Breona at the northern end of yingina/Great Lake is 40km south from Deloraine via the lake highway (A5). Miena at the southern end of yingina/Great Lake is 135km north of Hobart via the Midlands Highway (A1) to Melton Mowbray, then the Highland Lakes Road (A5) to Miena.

All methods can be used and access to the shore is extensive. It is an outstanding fishery - open all year round. Fishing close to shore - especially the shore on to which the wind is blowing can be very productive; this is where galaxiids gather - and the trout chase them.

yingina/Great Lake was the largest natural lake in Tasmania before it was dammed. It is the largest of the lakes on the Central Highlands and also one of the most reliable trout fishing destinations. The lake's clear waters abound with quality wild brown and rainbow trout that average between 1 - 1.3kg.

yingina/Great Lake is primarily used for hydro power generation and the lake height can vary between 1 and 4m from one year to the next. Low lake levels help promote weed growth due to the increased sunlight, in turn it bolsters invertebrate numbers. It has been found that only 5% of the lake supports weed beds, with the largest of these being in Sandbanks Bay, the south side of Reynolds Island, Canal Bay, Swan Bay, Todds Corner, Muddy Bay and Elizabeth Bay. These areas can all prove highly productive for both bank and boat.

Fishing baits such as worms and wattle grubs on the bottom is productive through most areas of the lake. Many people choose to camp in Boundary Bay, Christmas Bay and Swan Bay usually fishing on the bottom close to their camps in these locations. Bush cockroaches, large speckled mountain grasshoppers and mudeyes are effective when fished around structure such as weed beds, drowned trees or deep rocky shores. A useful method to fish these baits in shallower water is to cast out, let it sink, followed by a slow retrieve of the unweighted bait. A productive method for fishing deeper water is to use an unweighted bait under a bubble float with a greased line, so that the line can run through the bubble float and sink well down.

Shore-based lure casting is well worth the effort around Reynolds Island, Clarks Point, Beehives Point, Maclanachans Point, Burneys Island, Howells Neck Island and Rainbow Point. Most lures will work well with galaxia imitations being of note for hardbodies and soft plastics. Black and gold colours work extremely well on the deeper shores around Beehives Point. Spawning aggregations of brown trout in April and early May can be targeted by fishing on the eastern side of the marker posts at Clarks Point and Rainbow Point at the mouth of Canal Bay. Other spawning creeks are Brandum Creek, Sandbanks Creek, Pine Tree Rivulet and Half Moon Creek, which all can be fished outside the 50m exclusion zone. Rainbow trout gather at the same locations from August until October. Drift spinning along the shallow shores is also a productive way to spend some time.

Fly anglers can find good sport fishing along the bank, but a boat will give access to offshore wind lanes and foam lines and is helpful for drifting over weed beds and parallel to the more productive shores. Midge hatches provide superb sight-fishing action from October until March on cold calm mornings. Gum beetles will become a feature in the foam lines and wind lanes during summer with northerly wind on sunny days providing the best sport. If you can find foam lanes close to shore concentrate on them. 'Foam is Home' to fish.



### **ARTHURS LAKE (WEBCAM)**

Arthurs Lake is approximately 60km South of Longford via the Poatina Road(B51).

Modern day Arthurs Lake was formed by the damming of the upper Lake River in 1964 which inundated the natural lakes of Blue Lake and Sand Lake and the Morass Marsh that joined the two. The resultant hydro lake is now encircled by stands of drowned trees and with a string of islands dissecting the middle of the lake. Large shallow weedy bays such as the Cowpaddock and Seven Pound among many others provide exceptional fishing action throughout the year. Tailing fish move in to forage in the newly flooded margins as the lake rises in spring. Big hatches of midge occur on cold, still nights from November until April with dun hatches starting on muggy, still days in November, finishing at the end of February. Warm summer breezes promote large gum beetle falls adding to the surface feeding frenzy. The self-

sustained wild brown trout average between 0.8kg and 1.2kg with numbers of surprisingly large fish taken each year in excess of 4.5kg.

From the start of the season while the lake is rising earthworms are the bait fisher's best chance of bringing an Arthurs brown undone. Any of the shallow bays along the western shore are worth a cast. The more active bait fisher may like to walk the edge of the bays in the low light of early morning or late evening and look for fish tailing and feeding in the shallows. Cast an unweighted worm to within a metre of the feeding fish and let them do the rest. From November onwards mudeyes and large terrestrials become your best chance to catch some trout. Walk the rocky banks behind the drowned trees and cast a mud-eye suspended a metre under a bubble float to the gaps between the trees.

During sporadic dun hatches in places such as Cowpaddock Bay it's possible to catch large numbers of trout on an unweighted black bush cockroach. On warm summer days good gum beetle falls inspire frantic surface feeding. Use the large speckled grasshoppers found around the edge of the lake in summer to target the rising fish. The hoppers float well and will be taken with great enthusiasm by the beetle-feeders.

Rising lake levels in spring bring fish in on the marshes early in the morning and late evening to forage in the shallows. Wade fishing with a lightly weighted soft plastic at these times is quite effective. Concentrate on fishing the water depths between 0.5 to 1.5m and use a slow steady retrieve with your rod tip held high. Use soft plastics in black and gold or smoke cloud. Spinning from the rocky banks in the early-season on rough overcast days is also quite effective. Use lightly weighted soft plastics or shallow-running bibbed lures in places such as Snake Point around to the dam wall, Jonah Bay around to Phantom Bay, Creely Bay around to Pumphouse Bay and Morass Bay.

Fly fishers love tailing fish and trout take advantage of the rising water levels from early season to forage in the shallow bays. Fishing these areas under low light with a black fur fly or Woolly Bugger is quite effective. At times when fish can't be found actively feeding in the shallows, blind fishing a little further out in the gutters and holes just off the tailing shores should produce fish.

Mayfly hatches get underway as early as the start of November and continue through to the end of February. The best action occurs from around 11am to mid afternoon with ideal conditions being slightly overcast or sunny and a breeze. The shallower bays such as Cowpaddock Bay, Pumphouse Bay, Hydro Bay, Phantom Bay, Seven Pound Bay, Camerons Opening and the Lily Ponds between Hawk Island and Passage Point. Searching these areas with a nymph prior to the hatch then once the hatch starts switch to an emerger or traditional dun pattern.

Arthurs Lake features midge hatches on the calm, cold mornings from early November until April. Red Tags are usually all that is required to take fish consistently with a small weighted black nymph pulled past the nose of the fussy ones being required on occasion. Gum beetles feature heavily in the fishes diet on the warm days in summer and autumn with foam lines providing the best action.

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## **LITTLE PINE (WEBCAM) AND PENSTOCK LAGOONS**

These are easily accessed lagoons with camping areas, are fly fishing only waters and both highly regarded. They are similar in size and offer outstanding shore fishing from the start of the season through until the end.

Tailing fish are a feature from opening day and at the right level fish can be seen in the shallowest of water foraging for food. Frog patterns and fur flies work best. From December dun hatches start and this is very exciting as fish feed on top. Emergers such as Parachute Duns, Shaving Brushes and Barry Lodge Emergers are all good. Gum beetles, ant hatches and other terrestrials also bring fish to the top.

Both lagoons are waters where observation is the most important aspect of fishing. If you go rushing into the water you will most likely spook fish, so look carefully before you wade in.

Penstock is surrounded by trees and will always offer a sheltered shore somewhere, whilst Little Pine is open to all the elements in rough weather.



## **WOODS LAKE**

Woods Lake is approximately 70km South of Longford via the Poatina Road (B51). Turn left onto the Arthurs Lake road (C525), 38km south of Poatina and continue onto the Woods Lake road west of the Morass Bay shacks. The road is unpaved and can be quite rough.

Woods Lake is a large storage nestled between forested hills approximately 5km southeast of Arthurs Lake. Shore access is limited.

The lake is renowned for its early season tailing fish and prolific dun hatches over summer. The water is normally a milky green and can become quite turbid after strong winds which has the beneficial effect of fish being less selective when taking lures and flies. The lake is known for producing large numbers of well conditioned wild brown trout to all forms of trout fishing. Fish average between 0.7kg to 1.2kg with good numbers above 2kg taken each year. Normal summer drawdown of up to 4m can be expected to provide a riparian flow to the lake river. The lower levels during summer results in parts of the lake becoming very shallow and weedy, making bank angling difficult in parts and creating some boating hazards.

The northern shore provides convenient access to deeper water for set rod bait fishing with worms or wattle grubs. Rising lake levels

in spring encourage fish to tail around the northwestern shore that can be targeted with a couple of unweighted earthworms cast to the feeding fish. Peak times are low light of morning and evening and also on overcast days. Walking the deeper wooded banks in spring and blind fishing to structure such as drowned trees with a cockroach will also bring fish undone. The submerged trees of Pattersons Flat are well worth a cast with a mud-eye or cockroach suspended under a bubble float during spring.

Lure casting from the northeastern shore around to the dam wall is quite productive using small hard body lures. These shores fish best in a westerly wind, being productive during the entire season. Other shallow shores require wading to fish beyond the weed growth in summer as the lake levels fall.

Wet fly fishing with black fur flies around the drowned timber at Pattersons Flat works well from the start of the season in August through until October. Fish will tail prolifically on the marshy shores in the north west and southwestern side of the lake in November. Peak times are low light of morning and evening or overcast days. Flies such as Mark 2 Woolly Buggers or black fur flies should be all that is required. Reliable dun hatches start on warm still days from mid November until mid March. Any good emerging pattern should work well early in the day with a Highland Dun size 12 being the preferred fly once the rise is well established. Hot breezy days from December until March sees reliable falls of gum beetles which stimulate good activity at times.



### **BRONTE LAGOON (WEBCAM)**

Bronte Lagoon is approximately 145km north of Hobart via the Midlands Highway (1) to Granton, then the Lyell Highway (A10) to Bronte Lagoon.

Bronte Lagoon is a hydro impoundment in the Tarraleah district in central Tasmania. Bronte is celebrated in the flyfishing community as one of the best tailing waters in the state. Surrounded by sub alpine woodland the foreshores feature expanses of tussock marshes that become inundated in spring providing fantastic sight fishing action. The largest of these snowgrass marshes extends from Fly Corner to the eastern tip of Woodward's Bay. Smaller but still very productive sections of marshes also exist at the heads of Hut Bay, Bronte Bay

and Tailers Bay. Natural recruitment takes care of the brown trout numbers with fish averaging between 0.5 to 1kg and many larger fish caught each year. The lagoon also boasts a small number of rainbow trout that make up 10 to 15% of the yearly catch. Large volumes of water are brought into the lagoon from Laughing Jack Lagoon via the Clarence Pipeline and Pine Tier Lagoon via the Bronte Canal. Woodward's Canal exits the south end of the lagoon and after 1500m opens out into Woodward's Broadwater adjacent to the Lyell highway also boasts extensive tailing fish marshes.

Lure casters wishing to fish from the bank can target the inflowing waters at the mouth of Bronte Canal and Clarence Pipeline which are both very productive in the early-season. The same locations become rainbow hotspots towards the end of September as these fish aggregate for their annual spawning run. Rainbow Point, Currant Bush Shore and either side of the dam wall provide access to snag free deep water that fishes particular well with a soft plastic. As the sunlight increases around mid morning tailing trout will exit the shallow water along the Long Shore in September and October. For anglers with a boat drifting just off the Long Shore casting soft plastics on light jig heads rigged for weed free running will bring these retreating fish undone. The Red Rocks Shore is quite productive on a westerly wind in overcast weather for either drift spinning or trolling, with 5-7cm bibbed lures in brook trout colour being the preferred lure.

Late August to the beginning of November are the peak times for frog feeders in the flooded shallows. Best times are after heavy rain when the lake is rising or maintaining a high level. Fish can be found from first light onwards feeding amongst the inundated tussocks in Tailers Bay on a northerly or north-westerly wind. Long Shore and Woodward's Bay fishes best at first light on a westerly or southerly breeze. Woodward's Broadwater is sheltered under most weather conditions. Black fur flies or Woolly Worms are the preferred flies. Heavy rain in summer or autumn can cause the marshes to become inundated once again providing a smorgasbord of drowned terrestrials for tailing fish. Warm, still days in January promote good dun hatches in Woodward's Bay and Long Arm, any good emerger or dun pattern should get the job done. The heavily forested eastern shore sees large gum beetle falls on warm, windy summer days and fish can be found feeding along the edges. Gum beetles, along with other terrestrials, can promote good wind lane action in the main body of the lake providing good sport for boat anglers.

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## **LAKE ECHO**

Lake Echo is approximately 135 km north of Hobart via the Midlands Highway (1) to Granton, then the Lyell Highway (A10) to the Strickland Road turnoff approximately 7km past Ouse, follow Strickland Road (C176), turn left on to the Victoria Valley Road (C173), turn right onto the Lake Echo road and your destination will be on your right, in approximately 8km.

Lake Echo is a large hydro impoundment with deep clear waters surrounded by stands of eucalypt forest. The lake's clear waters



abound with good numbers of naturally spawned brown and rainbow trout that average between 0.7kg to 1.3kg with quite a few fish to 2kg. Most of Lake Echo's shores are cloaked in stands of submerged trees interspersed by several weedy bays that provide fantastic floodplain fishing in spring. The sheltered western shore is mostly deep and rocky with consistently good fishing while providing excellent cover from the prevailing westerlies. The lake levels are usually well below full supply providing clear foot access along the shores. The lake is serviced by three boat ramps, one on the western side of the dam wall at the southern end, another approximately 4km north on the western shore via Echo Link Road and a good quality concrete ramp located at Large Bay in the northwest corner of the lake.

Set rod bait fishing with worms on the bottom is quite productive in Teal Bay, Large Bay and Broken Bay from the start of the season through until summer as the lake levels rise. Fish will be foraging in these marshes at times of low light and are keen for a well placed bait. The submerged forests of the western shore provide the scene for great sport over summer. Fish can be polaroided feeding amongst the trees on gum beetles and are best targeted with an unweighted cockroach or mud-eye. At times when fish can't be seen actively feeding, casting baits to gaps between the trees and letting them sink, followed by a slow retrieve will achieve the desired result. The same fishing method can be employed from a drifting boat on the outer edge of the drowned tree line. For a more leisurely approach, a greased line through a bubble float will assist in getting the bait well down in the water column while still being extremely effective.

Lure casting from any of the rocky tree-lined shores with hard bodies or soft plastics that imitate redfin perch will provide good sport in spring and summer. Fish can be found tailing in Brocks Bay, Teal Bay, Large Bay and Broken Bay from September until November when levels are above minus 6m from full supply. These are best targeted by wading the shallows and casting lightly weighted soft plastics in a searching pattern in front of the angler.

Wet flyfishing for tailing fish in the northwestern bays is a real feature of Lake Echo from August until December. As the lake is rising the fish move in, gorging themselves on drowned earthworms, then switch to feeding on frogs in October and in November the tadpoles become the prime targets. A number 14 black beetle fished subsurface will bring the worm feeders undone, with a black fur fly being effective on the frog and tadpole feeders. Polaroiding from the tree-lined rocky banks along the western and northern shores

during summer provides good sport. Fish can be spotted feeding amongst the trees on gum beetles and can be targeted with any good terrestrial imitation such as Humpys or Red Tags or just as effective is a Chernobyl Ants, WMD Hoppers or Bruisers Bugs. Reliable midge hatches occur from October until March on cold still nights. The action starts from first light until sun up. Gum beetle falls can be expected on warm sunny days from December until the end of March with good action to be had. Reliable evening rises occur through most of the marshes and drowned timber on the western and northern shores on calm summer evenings.

## East



### LAKE LEAKE

Lake Leake is accessed via the Lake Leake Road (B34), 34km east of Campbell Town.

Lake Leake is on the upper Elizabeth River and supplies water for irrigation and domestic use at Campbell Town. The rock fill dam was constructed in 1882 and at that time was the largest artificial lake in Australia. Lake Leake is quite shallow with a full supply level of 5.2m. It has large weedy bays such as Kalangadoo, and Chock'n Log bays being the most notable for tailing fish in spring when the lake is usually at its full supply level. Large drawdowns during the summer period can increase turbidity after windy weather. Both brown and rainbow trout are present in the lake, averaging 0.7 - 1kg and some of the best fish attaining 2kg.

Lure fishing is usually at its best from late September to mid December, though fish are caught in the height of summer and there is always a resurgence of activity just before season's end. The shore-based angler will enjoy good results spinning along the outer edge of the bays, though this gets more difficult during the warmer months as weeds proliferate. The best bet is to spin from a boat while drifting the outer edges of the weed banks. Popular lures for drift spinning are soft plastics in pumpkin seed colour and black and gold T tails. Trolling is also popular with cobra lures being commonly used.

Early season wet fly fishing for tailing fish can be productive when the water backs up into the trees with the best areas to search being Kalangadoo Bay and Chock'n Log Bay. Midge feeders become

a feature of calm mornings in November and December followed by reasonable dun hatches and red spinner falls from mid morning until early evening. The warmer days of January and February can tend to suppress hatches but as the weather cools in March and April red spinners become a feature once again. On calm evenings during January and February fish can be found actively feeding on mudeyes and terrestrials.

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### **TOOMS LAKE**

Tooms Lake is approximately 42km east of Ross on C305

Tooms Lake is an exceptionally good trout water for all forms of fishing. The lake is located within the Tooms Lake Conservation Area, surrounded by dry woodland, behind a seven metre high concrete dam on the Tooms River. Full supply level is 464m above sea level with many rocky banks providing access to moderately deep water but also with some good weedy shallows in Swamp Bay, Wet Bay, Wilsons Bay and the Neck Inlet. The lake holds good numbers of brown trout ranging in size from 0.7kg to 2kg which are supplemented with stocked rainbow trout.

During early morning and late evenings in spring, fish will start tailing in the marshes and chasing frogs. Bait fishing the edges using cast and retrieve methods or static under a bubble float with cockroaches or mudeyes will bring these fish undone. Calm evenings in January and February can trigger good rises to mudeyes. Fishing a mudeye under a bubble float around any structure that may be in the water should give good results.

The best places for spinning from the shore are the deeper banks at Axe Handle Bay, the White Rocks shore and near the dam.

Casting black fur flies for the frog feeders tailing in the marshes during spring is a good place to start for fly fishers. The fish will tail at dusk and from dawn until the sun gets too bright, but on overcast days they may tail all day. Cold still nights promote good midge hatches, best exploited by being on the water at first light and fishing to rising fish mopping up the midge. This can be made easier if a slight breeze picks up, forming good wind lanes. Neoprene Mudeyes, or Bruisers Bugs work well on these fish as they mop up. Reliable red spinner falls in November and December on warm days promote good rises over most of the lake.

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## **GEORGE RIVER**

The lower George can be accessed from Treloggens Bridge on the Binalong Bay Road (C850), two kilometres east of St Helens. The middle George River and the Groom River are crossed by the Tasman Highway (A3) at Goshen and the North George River crossed at Pyengana again by the A3. Permission must be sought from landowners before crossing any private land.

The George River is a small, lightly tea-stained stream rising in the Mount Victoria area and flowing into Georges Bay at St Helens. Most of the river flows through a combination of native bushland and farmland. The stream bed is primarily yellow granite sand interspersed with rock bars and some shingle sections in the Pyengana area. The river holds large numbers of naturally spawned brown trout ranging in size from 0.2kg - 0.4kg with a moderate number of larger fish up to 2kg more common in the first 5km above Georges Bay. Notable tributaries are the Ransom and Groom rivers flowing into the George River at Goshen adjacent to the Tasman Highway (A3). These two streams hold a large number of small, eager brown trout easily spotted over the granite sand.

January to March provides good sport for bait anglers fishing with grasshoppers. Casting small hoppers upstream near the bank can be very productive. Open shallow sections of river in the Goshen and Pyengana provide fantastic action.

Good sport can be had on the larger resident browns in the lower sections of the George River in October and November as whitebait migrate upstream. Casting shallow running, hardbody lures and soft plastics such as minnows in watermelon pearl or smelt colours to trout as they crash through the bait is exceptional springtime action. The best access point for this is Treloggens Bridge on the Binalong Bay road (C850). Fish can reliably be taken on small gold celtas in the north and south George River in the Pyengana area over summer. Upstream wade spinning with small lures will give good results. The best access points are the bridge on the Tasman Highway (A3) next to the Willows Road House or the bridge on the St Columba Falls Road (C428).

The middle to upper George and its tributaries fish well from the start of the season with a slightly weighted black beetle in size 16, fished subsurface. The water clears quickly after rain and the browns can be easily seen feeding over the sand. Nondescript dries such as Red Tags or Royal Wulffs in sizes 14 - 16 become reliable as fish begin looking up from November onwards. These flies continue to work well as the grasshoppers become active from January to March. Late March, until the end of the season, black beetles once again will become the dominant fly especially after any autumn rains freshen up the systems.

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## ***CURRIES RIVER RESERVOIR***

Curries River Reservoir can be accessed from Bridport Road (B82), approximately 5km from the East Tamar Highway turn off.

Curries River Reservoir is a man made dam, constructed in 1979 as George Town's domestic water supply. After the dam was finished it wasn't opened for trout fishing until 1990. The reservoir is managed as a put and take fishery and has been stocked with brown and rainbow trout. These fish average 0.5 - 1.5kg with specimens that feed on galaxias in excess of 3 - 5kg not uncommon. There is ample scope for land-based anglers, as there is a causeway giving access to the favoured northern shore. The causeway is a popular fishing area, separating the dam into two halves. The northern shore is mostly cleared and has steep banks that drop off into deep water. The shallower southern shore has extensive weed beds and is preferred by land-based flyfishers. At the northern end of the causeway there is a reasonable bank launch site for small dinghies. Check regulations in regard to use of motors.

Some of the more commonly used baits are wattle grubs and worms fished on the bottom. Mudeyes work well when fished under a bubble float close to structure, such as drowned trees or weed banks. Power bait is also quite popular, with sherbet and rainbow putty the most popular colours. When using power bait it can be beneficial to use an unweighted, small, light hook to allow the bait to float off the bottom, above the weed.

Curries is a fantastic spot to troll or drift spin from a small boat or spin the shores. The deep water on the northern side is very productive when land-based. If drift spinning, concentrate on casting along the outside of the weed beds, looking for fish swirling and bow waving as they feed on the schools of galaxias. Some of the more popular lures are Christmas tree colour cobras. Other good lures are green and gold spinners. Floating 5cm minnows in brown trout and rainbow trout colours are also very productive.

Some of the best sport occurs when the trout are charging about after schooled up galaxias. The best area to encounter these fish is along the outer fringes of the southern weed beds. The easiest way to target them is from a boat using wets resembling galaxia. The lake supports good year round midge hatches with the insects hatching on calm, cool nights providing plenty of action, as the fish start mopping up insects at first light. Be on the water from dawn, look for any wind lanes or foam lines that concentrate the midge. Predominantly

rainbows will be feeding into the breeze, up the wind lanes, quite often with their backs out of the water as they swim between rises. Casting a Bruisers Bug or a WMD hopper in line with the feeding fish should give good results. During summer there are reliable evening rises to mudeye feeders on warm, muggy evenings.

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### **PIONEER LAKE**

The town of Pioneer is located on Gladstone Road (B82) with Pioneer Lake only 500m along Racecourse Road (C839) from the T intersection in town.

Pioneer Lake, as it is known today, first started as an alluvial tin mine on Bradshaws Creek around 1880. The area was continually mined for 50 years until its closure in 1930. At some point, Bradshaws Creek was diverted to flood the old open cut, creating Pioneer Lake. Evidence of the tin mining heritage can clearly be seen in the white quartzite dunes and cliffs that surround the lake. Unsurprisingly, a large amount of the tannin-stained lake is very deep with weed beds and emergent rushes in places. There are good facilities for launching a boat on the eastern shore and reasonable bank access on some shores. The lake is managed as a put and take fishery being regularly stocked with brown trout, rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon.

There is plenty of scope for bait fishing with both worms and power bait being effective. When using power bait in this water try using a smaller, light hook such as No 8 or No 10 so the putty suspends off the bottom and above the weed. The lake also has reasonable mudeye hatches from November onwards, so suspending a mudeye under a bubble float should attract some attention.

The lake also supports reasonable numbers of galaxia which makes casting bibbed lures or soft plastics worthwhile. There are some open sections of bank on the northern and southern side towards the western end giving reasonable access for spinning from the bank. A pair of waders can help when the water is high to give access beyond the emergent rushes.

Pioneer Lake has reasonable hatches of midge on cool, calm nights. Rainbow trout accompanied by the odd brown will start mopping up the midge from first light. On warm, still summer evenings from December until March you are likely to encounter fish rising to mudeyes along the outside edges of the emergent rushes. Presenting a floating mudeye pattern to the feeding fish should bring success.

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## NORTH WEST



### *HUNTSMAN LAKE*

Huntsman Lake is 20km south of Deloraine via the Lake Highway (A5) and Meander Road (C167) through the Meander township

Huntsman Lake was constructed at the foot of the Great Western Tiers on the Meander River in 2007. The dual purpose lake supplies irrigation water for farmers and also hydro electricity. With steep forested banks on the east and south sides, several rainforest creeks, including the Meander River and flat pasture in the northwest the lake sports diverse fish habitat. Huntsman Lake also has good facilities with a concrete, dual lane boat ramp with ample parking and public toilets at the dam. The Dairy day use area off Huntsman Road also has public toilets, picnic area and barbecues. Fish stocks are maintained by natural recruitment, with the lake managed as a wild brown trout fishery. With good spawning facilities keeping the lake well stocked the brown trout in Huntsman average 0.4 -0.6kg.

The northern half of Huntsman Lake has good shore-based access, from the south side of McNeill Bay all the way to the boat ramp. The forested, steeper banks of the northern shore can be quite productive. Notable hotspots are a small bay with a drain halfway along the northern shore and the last 300m of the treed bank in the northwest corner. Prospecting this deeper water with a soft plastic on a medium weight jig head and letting the lure sink well down should produce fish. Paynes Landing fishes well in the early season for tailing fish at dawn and dusk especially when the lake is rising or is high. Casting small, lightly weighted soft plastics beyond the tailing fish by several metres and then slowly retrieving the lure until the fish sights it, is the best approach. Drift spinning from a boat along Paynes Landing is also effective early season. The forested southern shore is a highly productive shore for drift spinning and with the prevailing westerlies the boat angler is able to fish the entire shore without much repositioning. Fish depths from 2m to 5m using soft plastics and bibbed lures for best results. Casting to the inflows of the Meander River, Sales Rivulet and the Dunning Rivulet will be time well spent. Lures around 7cm are productive.

Feature fishing occurs in spring as the grassy western shore is inundated by the rising lake. Fish can be found foraging in the shallows

at dawn, dusk and also during the day if overcast. The entire western shore is productive, from Paynes Landing through McNeill Bay around to the Meander River inlet. Most wet flies will do the job such as a Fur Fly or a Woolly Worm or go for a surface take with a greased Black Beetle. Dun hatches occur in November and December on dull, muggy days, with reasonable spinner falls around the river inlets and sheltered bays. Low water levels and higher temperatures can reduce day time activity during summer or though on calm evenings good sport can be found as fish rise to terrestrials. April sees a return to mayfly action on calm sunny days.

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### **TALBOTS LAGOON**

Talbots Lagoon is located approximately 50km south of Burnie. Turn east off the Ridgley Highway (B18) 38km south of Ridgley onto Guildford Road. Follow Guildford Road for 8km to Talbots Lagoon car park. The lagoon is reached by a 200 metre walk. Small boats and kayaks can be used, but no motor power. They will have to be carried or wheeled to the water. There is good foot access around the perimeter of the lagoon.

Talbots Lagoon was constructed in 1960 with a 9m high dam on the Wey River. The lake is a mostly shallow, clear water with extensive weed beds and drowned timber set in a production forest. With an altitude of roughly 650m and being constructed close to the high rainfall of the West Coast, the lake water is cool and clear. This helps to support an extensive array of food sources for the naturally-spawned, resident brown trout and rainbow trout. The trout range in size from 1 to 2kg with a good number of much larger fish being taken each season.

Talbots Lagoon supports a prolific population of mudeyes which start to migrate from the weed beds to hatch during warm, muggy, still evenings in November and continue through until mid March. Suspending a mudeye under a bubble float around weed beds and drowned timber from mid afternoon through until dark will provide action on most days. Fishing a neoprene or deer hair mudeye imitation around the emergent timber on dusk should provide good action.

The clear waters of Talbots Lagoon provides good polaroiding on sunny days for cruising fish which can be easily tracked between rises. On days when fish can't be polaroided concentrate on placing your

bait, lure or fly close to submerged logs and let it sink until close to the bottom, then slowly retrieve parallel to the structure.

At times of low light such as dawn and dusk or on dull overcast days from September until November fish can be found in very shallow water. Casting soft plastics such as black and gold T tails on light jig heads parallel to the bank while wading to mid thigh is a good way of catching these fish as they search the shallows. Flies such as Woolly Bugger Mk 2, black fur flies and nymphs will prove productive.

On windy days fish the roughest shores as the waves coming in will help to disturb the prey items encouraging fish to feed. Casting straight into the wind and retrieving a black and gold T Tail or an Ashley spinner in green and gold with red spots should work well at Platform Point and Slimey Corner with the prevailing westerlies. Drift spinning is quite popular from a canoe or kayak and will prove productive through the entire season.

The lagoon supports dun hatches from late October until December and also good spinner falls on calm days in sheltered bays at these times. Grasshoppers start to become an effective bait from January through until March.



## **MERSEY RIVER**

Best access points are Shale Road from Hamilton Street Latrobe. Great Bend via Great Bend Road off the Railton Road (B13). Lovetts Flats via Lovetts Flats Road from Native Plains Road (C153). Hogs Bridge from Native Plains Road (C153). Merseylea Bridge via Merseylea Road (C154), from Railton Road (B13).

The Mersey River is one of Tasmania's best trout waters, rising on the western side of the Central Plateau from Lake Meston and flowing into Bass Strait at Devonport. Over its length it changes from beech forest and button grass plains through Lees Paddocks to steep-sided, tea tree lined canyons at Dogs Head Hill and Alum Cliffs. There are willow edged pastures through Liena, Mole Creek, Merseylea and Latrobe. The river holds good numbers of naturally spawned brown trout averaging 0.2 - 0.7kg with some better fish exceeding 1.5kg. There are also good numbers of rainbow trout in the Mole Creek and the Kimberley areas averaging around 0.4kg.

Set rod fishing an unweighted worm in backwaters and flooding pastures of Latrobe, Merseylea and Kimberley is highly productive. Look for areas with little or no flow that are being inundated away

from the main river as it rises. Cast and retrieving a mudeye or grasshopper along the deeper edges of most broadwaters should be productive from January until late March. Fishing along any undercut bank or logjam is a good method as fish can become less active with the warmer water temperatures.

The Mersey fishes particularly well from the start of the season in August until the start of January. When the river is flooded in spring concentrate on fishing the backwaters and calm edges with lures small bibbed lures in rainbow colours or celtas with gold or fluorescent blades. Whitebait runs commence in mid September until December in the lower Mersey while the river remains below flood levels. The peak of the action in the Latrobe area starts two hours before high tide through until the tide turns. Casting 70mm soft plastics minnows or shallow running bibbed lures will be effective when fished close to structure where the fish are ambushing the bait as they pass by. The whitebait schools will continue to migrate as far as Merseylea through until December. January and February can coincide with low flows in the river and at times can subdue feeding activity. Good action can still be had by fishing close to structure at the head and tail of the pools in the Kimberley and Merseylea areas. The last two weeks of March and April see a return to action in the lower Mersey as adult galaxia school up and migrate downstream. Casting lures upstream close to structure along the banks from the Big Bend to Latrobe should bring the larger resident brown trout undone.

The Mersey River supports good hatches of duns and baetid mayfly from October until early December with caenid mayfly in December and January. The river is faster flowing than the meadow streams of the Central North with fish predominantly feeding in the riffles during dun hatches. Flies such as Fast Water Duns are good imitations of the naturals along with Parachute Black Spinner. A popular fly used during caenid hatches is a CDC F-fly in sizes 14 - 16. At any time between October and December when fish are not actively feeding on the surface, use a nymph such as a bead head Pheasant Tail under an indicator. Pick a good riffle around knee depth and fish upstream through the riffle. Any of the access points mentioned in the Mersey River Angler Access Brochure from the Great Bend up to Kimberley are highly recommended for flyfishers.

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## **RIVER LEVEN**

Gunns Plains is accessed via the Gunns Plains Road/Preston Road (B17) from the Bass Hwy (A1).

Loongana can be accessed via the Castra Road (B15) then the Loongana Road (C128).

The Leven is one of the few larger rivers within the state to remain free of hydro development, with large sections of the river flowing through canyons and native forests. The exceptional fishing for wild brown trout in the Leven is on par with the Mersey as the best in the region. Some notable places to fish are the estuary above Ulverstone for the whitebait runs in spring, Gunns Plains caddis hatches on summer evenings and Loongana for a shot at a rainbow. The water can tend to be tannin-stained and discoloured after heavy rain but



clears reasonably quickly as waters recede. Most browns in the Gunns Plains area average 0.2 - 0.6kg with a reasonable number above 1kg. The fish in the Loongana area average 0.1 - 0.4kg with the odd fish over 1kg.

Gunns Plains offers the best opportunity for set rod bait fishing with a worm during the spring floods. Water levels that are just beyond the bank side willow trees and edging in to the depressions and backwaters of the paddocks are the best. Floods in the Leven can be extensive and on the larger floods fish can become hard to find. The best action can be had from January to March in Gunns Plains and Loongana, fishing upstream through the riffles, casting an unweighted grasshopper. The low summer flows improve access and wading is quite easy in most places.

Anglers stand a good chance of catching a sea runner as they feed on the whitebait from September to November in the estuary above Ulverstone. Hot spots include the rocky points on the southern shore between the Leven Bridge and the Bass Highway Bridge, also the Gawler River mouth 800m west of the Bass Highway Bridge on the southern shore. Good fishing for the large resident browns and also sea runners following the migrating galaxia can be had upstream of the Allison Bridge off Lobster Creek Road. Reliable lures are soft plastics such as 75mm minnows and small hard body lures. Good sport also exists during summer fishing Gunns Plains and Loongana using celtas while wading the fast water. Try varying colour blades, with a black blade being more widely accepted on overcast days and gold with green being preferred on sunny days. Good catches can be expected when conditions are right.

The best sport for the fly angler is around Gunns Plains, starting in November through until March as lower summer flows allow good wading. Fishing a small nymph under an indicator fly such as a Royal Wulff or a well dressed Red Tag will produce fish. As the day warms, fish should switch from the nymph to the dry.

January and February support good hopper action when the trusty WMD hopper will bring many fish undone. The Leven supports prolific hatches of caddis on warm, still summer evenings, producing frenetic action. The hatch of adult caddis fly brings on frenzied feeding from browns. Using a size 12 Elk Hair Caddis can bring many fish undone. Size 12-14 CDC F flies in natural colours, cast directly in front of rising fish also works well.



## **LAKE ROWALLAN**

From Deloraine take the Mole Creek Road/Liena Road ( B12), past Mole Creek, turn left onto the Mersey Forrest Road (C138), then on to the C171 past Lake Parangana.

Lake Rowallan is located in the upper reaches of the Mersey River valley and represents the best trout fishing of the lakes in the Mersey-Forth Power Development. The 43m rockfill dam wall flooded the heavily forested, steep sided valley creating a long, deep lake with extensive stands of drowned timber. Large drawdowns can be expected in late summer and autumn with 20m below full supply level not uncommon and fishing generally improves at lower levels. Stocks of brown trout are maintained by natural recruitment whereas rainbow trout stocks are a combination of natural recruitment and occasional stocking with fish averaging between 0.3kg and 1.2kg. Good boat launching facilities exist on the eastern shore at the north end of the lake, approximately 500m south from the dam.

Rowallan presents plenty of options for the avid bait fisher. Common methods used are set rod fishing with wood grubs or worms on the bottom with the river flats at the south end of the lake being of note. Cast and retrieved or suspended under a bubble float, baits such as mudeyes, grasshoppers or bush cockroaches are effective. Hot spots for this active bait fishing are the deeper tree-lined edges on the west and east shores in the northern half of the lake. These deeper shores lend themselves well to polaroiding fish on sunny days, either cruising or feeding on terrestrials such as gum beetles on the water surface. Fish close to the submerged timber for best results when fish can't be sighted.

Trolling is quite popular and productive on Lake Rowallan, whilst early mornings offer the most consistent flyfishing opportunities. Fish feeding on midges quite are often found in wind lanes feeding on caenids. Browns offer the easier target as they predominantly feed directly upwind at a slower pace giving the angler a better chance to present the fly. Rainbows on the other hand tend to be far more erratic as they feed, constantly changing directions and at a higher pace, making intercept far more difficult. Browns should be susceptible to a well-placed Bruisers Bug size 12 or a floating beetle

whereas the rainbows may prefer a large bead head nymph cast 2m ahead of them and let sink through the surface film. The lake often sees healthy falls of gum beetles on calmer days, especially in November and December with the western shore being the preferred side. Mudeye migrations sometimes accompanied by corby moth falls in the evenings in the warmer months often lead to fantastic sport. Floating mudeye patterns twitched among the timber are not often refused.

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## **PET RESERVOIR**

Travel approximately 15km south of Burnie on Mount Road (B18) until you reach the township of Ridgley. The Pet Reservoir is situated within the township and can be easily seen east of the main road. It is easily accessed by foot, just south of Circular Road.

The Pet Reservoir or Pet Dam, as it is generally known, is the primary water supply for Burnie. The original dam was formed in 1962 and was raised in 1966 to its current height of 16m. Full supply level is 268m above sea level but big drawdowns can be expected during late summer and autumn. The Pet is a popular fishing location among local anglers given its close proximity to Burnie and is also well patronised in the early-season due to the comparatively warmer climate compared to other higher altitude options. The dam is predominantly surrounded by gently sloping grassy banks providing good angling access, but you do have to walk. No boats, kayaks, nor any vessels are allowed. The Pet Reservoir contains both rainbow and brown trout. A small resident and self-sustaining population of brown trout is regularly supplemented by the stocking of both brown and rainbow trout. The fish average from 0.2kg - 1.5kg.

Set rod bait fishing is a productive method for taking fish in the Pet Reservoir from the start of the season in August until December. The baits most commonly used are earth worms, wattle grubs and power bait. Another method commonly used by locals is to fish after sunset with a wattle grub, cast and slowly retrieved on the surface. Mudeyes become more active with the warmer weather as they search for a convenient place to hatch, such as drowned trees or emergent rushes. On evening trout will take up station around these hatching hotspots and are love a mudeye under a float.

The Pet fishes well from the start of the season with lures, especially on windier days with a good chop on the water. Concentrate on fishing the shores where the wind is blowing in, commonly the eastern shore of the reservoir. Colours such as black and gold on the dull, overcast days and green and gold or just gold on sunny days. Plastics also work well in the early-season with darker colours such as black and gold T tails being productive. Action can be subdued somewhat during the daytime in summer with the lower dam levels and warmer water temperatures. The best times to fish are early in the morning and late evening in the deep water towards the north end. Fishing improves in mid-March and April as the weather cools down and the water temperatures drops.

Reasonable sport can be had in August and September wet flyfishing in the Pet Reservoir with flies such as black fur flies, Hamill's



Killers or Green Shreks. Notable times for tailing fish are at first light and just on evening around the shallower edges towards the southern end. Reliable caddis hatches occur on warm, still evenings from December until February with CDC F flies in size 12 or Elk Hair Caddis being good representations. Mudeyes are also migrating to hatch on evening during this period. Fishing a floating mudeye pattern around any structure protruding from the water should work well.

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### ***GUIDE RESERVOIR***

Travel approximately 26km south from Burnie on Mount Road (B18). The road leading to the Guide Reservoir (18 Mile Road) may be posted on the right hand side of the road as you travel south approximately 6km south of Highclere. This gravel road crosses below the dam joins with Upper Guide Road on the Eastern side, which will take you to the top of the reservoir.

The Guide Reservoir was created in 1982 with the construction of a 15m high earthen dam wall across the Guide River. The dam flooded a grassy plain in a forestry plantation with radiata pine and blue gums on the western shore and shallow grassy banks along the eastern side. The primary purpose was to augment the water supply for the city of Burnie. The abundant brown trout already present in the Guide River flourished in the newly created dam and to this day provide plenty of action. Fish range in size from 0.2 - 0.7kg with the occasional larger trout to 1.5kg. The dam is subject to moderate drawdowns in late summer but this does not negatively impact on the fishing. Good walking access exists around most of the lake, with a carpark at the eastern end of the dam wall.

Good sport for bait fishers starts in August along the grassy eastern shore. Fish should be foraging in the recently flooded shallows and can be targeted with worms, wood grubs or power bait. The best times are morning and evening especially on overcast days. Mudeyes become active from late November until February as they leave the water to hatch. Suspending a mudeye under a bubble float during these times should produce plenty of fish. Calm, warm summer evenings provide the best action found around emergent structure.

Most lures and soft plastics work well from August until November. Notable are Ashley spinners in Green and gold or black and gold,



soft plastics such as black and gold T tails and 3-5cm lures in rainbow trout colour. Working the shallow edges on the eastern shore with lightly weighted T tails in the early morning should entice the tailing fish. Sunny calm conditions over summer can lead to a lack of activity for the lure fisher but fishing improves on overcast and/or windy days. Action improves once again in March and April with good fish being taken towards the southern end of the lake as the fish congregate in preparation for their spawning migration.

Fishing a wet fly from August onwards, such as a fur fly or Woolly Buggler along the shallow edges of the eastern shore works well. Best times of the day are in the low light of morning and evening. The Guide Reservoir supports excellent hatches of caddis from December until February accompanied by extensive migrations of mudeyes. The best fishing occurs on calm evenings when fish can be found actively feeding on the surface around most shores. Flies such as CDC F flies work well for the caddis feeders. Trout taking mudeyes can be tricked with floating neoprene, or deer hair imitations best fished close to emergent structure from sunset until well after dark.

## **SOUTH**

### ***CRAIGBOURNE DAM***

Craigbourne Dam is located in the Coal River Valley off the B31, approximately 46km east of Hobart via the town of Richmond.

Craigbourne Dam was constructed in 1986 to supplement irrigation in the Coal River Valley. The dam is surrounded by open pastures with good access on all banks. The dam's close proximity to Hobart, low altitude and regular stocking has seen Craigbourne Dam become popular for southern anglers. The dam is a put and take fishery, open to angling year round, with a boat ramp and public toilets available on the southwestern shore near the dam wall. Craigbourne Dam gives the novice a real opportunity to catch a trophy fish with good numbers of adult Atlantic salmon stocked into the water each year. The water is also regularly stocked with adult brown and rainbow trout.



Set rod bait fishing is a highly productive with worms, wattle grubs and power bait fished on the bottom along the deeper western shore near the dam wall. As the dam begins to refill in late winter and spring brown trout move in to forage on the flooded pasture in the mouths of Wallaby Rivulet, Coal River and Craighourne Creek and can be targeted with earth worms. Best times to encounter these foraging browns is in the low light of day break and late in the evening. Warm still evenings from December until March see trout taking beetles and migrating mudeyes from the surface and can be targeted with a cast bait such as a mud-eye. Wattle grubs fished on the surface on dark also work well at these times when fished with a slow retrieve.

Wade spinning the shallower edges around the inflowing creeks with lightly weighted lures will take brown trout foraging in the shallows as the dam rises in spring. Fishing the Coal River inflow in early spring with shallow-running bibbed lures is a good way to target the pre-spawn rainbow trout. Atlantic salmon are best targeted soon after stocking using large, light coloured soft plastics fished close to the surface. Concentrate on fishing the southern bank from the boat ramp around to the dam wall. Warm water coupled with low levels in summer can reduce surface activity. At these times it may be required to fish heavier lures, concentrating on deeper parts of the dam.

At dawn and dusk brown trout can be found tailing on the shallow grassy areas around Wallaby Rivulet and Coal River deltas as the water rises in late winter and spring. Wet flies such as Woolly Buggers and fur flies will be readily accepted. Pre-spawn rainbow trout can be targeted in September in the bay close to the Coal River inflow with large wet flies such as Shreks or Hamills Killers. Reasonable dun hatches can be expected from October until December on still muggy overcast days, accompanied by sporadic spinner falls. There are reasonable midge hatches in spring and autumn after cloudless, calm, cool nights, action starts from first light. Still muggy evenings from September through until March see reliable rises to caddis fly, mudeyes and cockchafer beetles, with a notable area being from the boat ramp around to the dam wall.

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## ***HUON RIVER***

Huonville is approximately 39km south of Hobart on the Huon Highway.

The Huon River is a large tea-coloured, fast-flowing river surrounded by dense forests for the majority of its 170km length. By far the best fishing can be found in spring in the lower tidal sections between Port Huon and Glen Huon. The annual whitebait run sees large resident and sea run brown trout accompanied by Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout escapees from the local fish farms feeding on the migrating baitfish. Each year anglers catch surprising numbers of resident and sea run brown trout from 4-7kg. Reasonable bank access can be found along both sides of the estuary through to Huonville but a boat is an advantage. The middle and upper reaches can be difficult to access due to the overgrown banks. These areas are best fished in summer and early autumn when the river flows reduce allowing access along the shingle river bed.

Juvenile galaxia are the best option for bait fishers wishing to target the fish feeding on the spring whitebait run in the tidal zone. The bait fish migration is most reliable between the start of September until the end of November during times that the river is not in flood. They can be fished on the bottom or cast and retrieved in the calm pockets of water that form either side of rocky points or logs that protrude into the current. Bait fish congregate in these locations as they migrate upstream and are ambushed by the trout. Keep an eye out for bait fish jumping in a spray pattern on the surface of the water as they are ambushed and immediately cast to these locations. Trout should become most active in the estuary above Egg Islands on the last few hours of the incoming tide especially when this coincides with low light conditions around sunrise or sunset.

Lure casting is the most effective fishing method used in the Huon, with a boat being a big advantage when used to either drift spin or troll. In late winter and early spring the best action can be found between Port Huon and Franklin as the whitebait gather in readiness to migrate. The sea run brown trout and Atlantic salmon follow the schools as they move upriver to spawn in the Huonville area or in the case of the galaxia continue on to take up residence in the fresh water streams and feeder creeks. Hard body lures in brighter colours

are best in the darker waters of the Huon. Concentrate on the edges of current lines or rips where fish will lay up close to the fast moving water. Rocky points or any prominent structure that protrudes into the stronger current will hold fish. Trophy fish generally stay deep during the day and can be targeted with brightly coloured soft plastics on heavier jig heads. Work these lures along the bottom through any structure such as logjams for your best chance at a trophy fish. Lost lures and lost fish are par for the course when fishing deep.

Any good whitebait imitation that incorporates eyes in the design such as small, lightly-dressed white surf candies, grizzly Matukas and Fuzzle whitebait all work. Incorporating a small amount of lead wire in some patterns may help when fishing deep water around drop offs and under cut banks. Casting to these locations from a drifting boat gives you your best chance of a fish, concentrate on casting to back eddies, current lines and bank side structure. In late spring the galaxia continue to migrate upstream and become bottle necked at the first few shingle rock bars in the Ranelagh area as they wait for the high tide to push over. These areas give good access for land-based fishing and see prolific action at times when the river is not in flood.

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## **MEADOWBANK LAKE**

Dunrobin Bridge and boat ramp is on Ellendale Road located 8km west of the township of Hamilton approximately one hour from Hobart via the Lyell Highway (A10).

Meadowbank Dam was built in 1966 as part of the River Derwent power development, primarily for the generation of hydro electricity. The subsequent lake floods a steep-sided river valley, surrounded by open grassy banks on most sides, with regular summer drawdowns of up to 6m. The Dunrobin Causeway and Bridge cross the northern end of the lake, separating the deeper steep-sided narrow southern part from the shallow weedy northern basin. The lake has large numbers of naturally spawned brown trout most weighing between 0.3-1.2 kg with reasonable numbers of fish to 2kg. The lake is periodically stocked with rainbow trout and adult Atlantic salmon, giving the angler a good chance of success. The water is open year-round and is a good option in the cooler months of the year given its low altitude of 73m above sea level and being located in a relatively warm part of the state. Good rises occur in late spring and summer with caenid mayflies, red spinners, and mudeyes providing the best of the action. Fish also feed heavily on the perch schools that abound in Meadowbank Lake.

Set rod bait fishing using worms or power bait suspended under a bubble float can be productive over the weed beds in spring in the northern basin. Rainbows, in particular like power bait. Fishing on the bottom with the same baits either side of the causeway and bridge is also very popular. During December and January reliable mudeye migrations occur on the evening, hence a mudeye suspended under a bubble float around any emergent timber or rushes should prove productive. Reliable evening rises in summer can also be exploited with wattle grubs cast and retrieved on the surface after sunset.



There is plenty of scope for lure casting from the deeper banks south of the causeway, and also along the edges of the causeway, but with regular drawdowns weed can become a problem in summer. Best results can be gained by fishing from a small boat in the northern basin. Using soft plastics such as fry in pumpkinseed, fishing in the deep channels of the original river between the weed beds works well over winter. Use a very slow, stop-start retrieve and keep in close proximity to the bottom for best results. In the warmer months of the year imitating the abundant redfin perch is a good tactic.

Meadowbank Lake sees some good hatches of caenid mayflies from the start of December until mid January particularly on calm mornings from first light onwards. Size 16 to 18 flies work best with accurate presentation being more critical than pattern. Other options for targeting these selective mayfly feeders is to fish a number 16 black beetle under a greased leader or a number 14 black nymph, 15cm below a Red Tag. Reasonably reliable red spinner falls occur between October and December over the weed beds in the northern basin. Most red spinner patterns in size 12 or 14 work well at these times. A good fallback for the flyfisher over summer is to fish either a dry or wet mudeye pattern in the late afternoon around any emergent structure along the edges.

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## ***RIVER DERWENT***

Dogshear Point, Otago Bay, Dowsings Point, Store Point and the stretch from Geilston Bay to Lindisfarne Bay all have good foot access for land-based anglers. Dogshear Point is best accessed from the northern side via the foreshore. Parking can be had near the golf club.

The River Derwent dissects Tasmania's largest population centre in Hobart and is one of the state's best sea trout fisheries, with good launch facilities and easy access available on both sides of the river. The estuary is open to angling with a licence all year round which allows fishers to take advantage of the winter fishing action which gets underway as early as May in the lower estuary. Areas such as Dogshear Point, Otago Bay, Dowsings Point, Store Point and the stretch from Geilston Bay to Lindisfarne Bay all fish particularly well from June until at least late November. Areas higher in the estuary



such as Old Beach, the Bridgewater Causeway, Limekiln Point, the fringes of the marshes, the mouth of Sorell Creek and Mason Point become more productive in August and September with fish feeding heavily on the migrating whitebait. Brown trout range in size from 0.5-1.5 kg with good numbers of larger fish to 5kg taken each season. While fishing for trout in the Derwent it is quite common to have a large and varied by catch of whiptails, mullet, bream, cod and flathead.

Jollytail, native sandies or glassies give the bait fisher the best chance to bring these city-dwelling trout undone. Fish any of the locations mentioned above with one of these unweighted baits by casting upstream along the edge of current lines where the fast water meets the slow water. The bait should be let drift back with the current using a slow retrieve to keep in contact with the bait. A bait hung 1 to 1.5m under a bubble float and drifted down a current line can also be extremely effective. These same baits can be used to fish on the bottom. The best results are in waters less than two metres deep. Best times are two hours either side of the high tide when these tides coincide with low light conditions such as the period from two hours before until two hours after sunrise and sunset.

Fishing any of the above mentioned locations on the top half of a making or receding tide under low light conditions will be effective on most occasions for the lure caster. A variety of hard bodied lures will take most sea run and resident brown trout. Jig heads of 2-3grm are recommended with soft plastics in pearl watermelon smelt colours. Cast these to any fish seen chasing bait along the edges or cast to the inside edges of current lines and back eddies behind in stream obstructions. Soft plastic minnows fished very slowly after dark on a falling tide with a light jig head can be deadly. Plastics with added scent can prove very effective in the low light on some of the larger trout.

The same locations will serve the fly angler well with good room for back casts and reasonably shallow gravel or rocky substrate. Fish can often be spotted chasing baitfish or tailing in the shallows taking crabs and shrimps. Most good bait fish imitations in natural colours will work when cast to these feeding fish. Boat anglers can find good sport on a falling tide fishing the fringes of the marshes, edges of the main river channel and the gutters draining the marshes north of Mason Point in September and October. Baitfish will be forced to leave the marshes as the tide drops and the action can be frenetic.

Good sight fishing can be had to cruising trout in summer and early autumn along the shallower rocky edges of Cornelian Bay, Store Point, Lindisfarne Point and Dogshear Point. The best times are on calm, sunny mornings between 8am and midday at which time an increasing sea breeze is likely to make spotting fish more difficult. Fish can be seen cruising the shallows feeding on crabs and shrimps and can be targeted with a well presented, unweighted small streamer fly.

New Norfolk and above, to Gretna, the River Derwent can be challenging for the shore based angler and river flow is critical to success. There is some very good fishing though, especially evenings from November through to March.

Fly fishers will find a regular caenid hatch most calm mornings from November and grasshopper feeding fish around February and March. Wet flies can be fished any time and the edges of the river always seem more productive.

Bait and lure anglers should try the slower pools and around any inflowing tributary. Green and gold bibbed lures work well as does black. Soft plastics in the 50mm to 75mm are also good.

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## **TYENNA RIVER**

The Tyenna River is approximately 20km northwest of New Norfolk via the B62 and/or B61. Most access points lie between the townships of Westerway and Maydena.

The Tyenna is one of the state's best fast water trout streams. It is a medium size water, draining the southern side of Mount Field National Park. The riverbed is dominated by large boulder strewn runs and moderately deep pools, with most banks heavily overgrown, making wading essential. The lightly tea-coloured stream can rise quickly after heavy rain and become turbid but clears quickly. The stream is managed as a wild trout fishery dominated by brown trout with reasonable numbers of rainbow trout. It has been determined through electro fishing by the IFS that the Tyenna supports large numbers of trout, up to 150 trout per 100 metre section, with 40 of those trout being above minimum takeable size. Each year the Tyenna gives up surprising numbers of trophy fish up to 5kg. One of the state's largest recorded brown trout (12.95 kg) was taken in the Tyenna in 2002. Summer and autumn are the best times of year when water levels are low, making wading easier.

Bait fishing in spring with a worm on the bottom can prove effective when the river is rising or high around Westerway in the lower Tyenna. Look for any areas away from the main flow such as backwaters or depressions in the paddocks that have become inundated. Also of note is the river just below the outflow from the fish farm. Fishing grasshoppers from late December until the end of February provides the best action for bait fishers. Use an unweighted hopper collected locally on an appropriately sized bait holder hook, 10#-14#. Cast upstream along the edges of banks, heads and tails of the pools or around any instream structure such as logs. Wading will give the angler the best access to the water as you cast to any likely lies and let your bait drift back down current.



Fishing lures from the banks in spring works well where breaks in the bank side vegetation can be found, high water levels will make wading difficult. Use bibbed lures in brown trout colour or soft plastics in black and gold fished along the edge of current lines at the head and tails of pools. Low river flows in summer and autumn are best suited to fishing a celta upstream, while wading. Good bags can be expected on most days especially between Karanja and the top side of National Park. Small bibbed lures and small celtas in black/gold for dull, overcast days and gold is best in bright conditions.

Early in the season when water levels moderate enough to allow wading, flies such as 14-16 Black Beetle fished subsurface can be effective, either fished under a greased leader or suspended from a generic dry such as Royal Wulff. From October onwards nymphs in 14-16, such as a bead head pheasant tail flashback work well under a Fast Water Dun. Warm days in summer and early autumn can see reasonable rises usually peaking on dusk. Most generic dries will work well with small Bruisers Bugs and WMD hoppers taking care of the fish intent on grasshoppers and an Elk Hair Caddis being effective on dark. For those summer days where fish are not active on the surface a nymph fished under a Bruisers Bug will prove effective.

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## **LAKE PEDDER**

Strathgordon is approximately 152km from Hobart via the Midlands Highway 1, to Granton, then the A10 to Rosegarland, then the Gordon River Road (B61) to Strathgordon.

Lake Pedder is a massive hydro electric dam in the midst of the Southwest National Park. The lake was formed by the damming of two separate catchments the Huon and Serpentine Rivers in the early 1970s. Wild brown trout that existed in the upper Huon River were supplemented with a one off stocking of 350,000 brown trout fry in September 1972. These fish quickly gained size and condition with most averaging between 4.5 to 8kg. Sadly the boom had a bust with the average size dropping to 0.4 to 0.8 of a kilogram with some to 1.2 kg. Formal campsites, boat ramps and public toilets are available at Scotts Peak Dam and Edgar Dam at the south end of the lake and



at Teds Beach near Strathgordon at the northern end. Lake Pedder is open all year.

Spinning from the banks with lures in rainbow trout colour and 65mm soft plastics in gary glitter or neon is often productive. Tea tree and button grass scrub can make shore access difficult when the lake is at full supply level but the lateral scar exposed with the small drawdowns in summer and autumn can assist with access. Good bank fishing locations can be found either side of McPartlan Canal and the Gordon Shore, both in Hermit Basin, Trappers Inlet and Teds Beach just south of Strathgordon. Good access can be had along the shore from either side of the Edgar Dam and also along the western shore from the Scotts Peak Dam.

Good midge hatches start from October until April on cold nights usually as a high-pressure system approaches. A boat is necessary to access the rising fish which can be found feeding from first light. The morning breezes usually concentrate the midge into wind lanes where the fish can be targeted with large foam flies such as Bruisers Bugs or WMD Hoppers. If these large flies are refused, try a weighted number 14 brown nymph pulled past the feeding fish's nose. Dragonflies and damselflies entice fish to the surface on warm sunny afternoons from November until the end of February. Large dry fly imitations of the damselflies can be used or subsurface mud-eye imitations.

Fish can be found feeding on evening around any emergent timber as the mud-eyes migrate to hatch. Reasonable mayfly hatches occur on warm overcast days in December and January with Hermit Basin being of note. The dark tannin-stained waters make polaroiding difficult but on calm sunny days in summer it is possible to spot fish from a drifting boat against the white quartz shores of Buckys Bonnet and Bonnet Bay and also the shores around Harlequin Hill.

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## West Coast

### **LAKE BURBURY (CAMERA)**

Lake Burbury is approximately 15km east of Queenstown on the Lyell Hwy (A10). Access to the Crotty and Darwin dams is via Mount Dukes Road 23km south from Queenstown.

Lake Burbury is a huge tea-coloured hydro impoundment 15km west of Queenstown. The Lyell Highway crosses Lake Burbury via the Bradshaw Bridge which gives good access to boat ramps on both the western and eastern shores. Mount Dukes Road accesses a third ramp and the Crotty and Darwin Dams at the southern end.

Large stands of drowned timber can be found in the old river valleys of the southern half of the lake whilst the northern half floods on to button grass plains with numerous small islands. The lake supports large numbers of wild rainbow and brown trout, presenting even a novice angler with an excellent chance of success. Reasonable shore access can be found either side of Bradshaws Bridge along the foot of Mount Owen at the inflow of the Princess River and near the Darwin Dam. Local anglers prefer to fish the lake from boats which allows anglers to target wind lane feeders.

Bait fishing using a mud-eye under a bubble float around the trees is popular. Use a clear, running bubble float and a swivel approximately 1m above the hook and grease the line above the swivel with either Gink or Vaseline to allow the line to float and run through the bubble float. Fish close to the drowned timber and let the mud-eye slowly sink down for 10 or 15 minutes. This can be a very successful tactic. If the bait isn't taken, move to a new location and try again.

Mud-eye migrations and wind lane feeding fish are highlights. Good action can be had from November until April with the peak times being from mid December until the end of February. Clear skies which accompany a high-pressure system promote prolific midge hatches at night, which are concentrated into wind lanes. These wind lanes are often full of fish. A Chernobyl Ant or Bruisers Bug that rides low in the surface film can be easily seen by the approaching fish. Another good option is to fish the evening rise amongst the drowned trees looking for fish feeding on migrating mud-eyes or other terrestrials that fall on the water around sunset.

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### **LAKE ROSEBERY**

Lake Rosebery is located 95km south of Burnie on the Murchison Hwy (A10).

Lake Rosebery is a large tannin-stained lake located approximately 110km south of Burnie on the Murchison Hwy. The lake was created in 1983 with the construction of the 75m high Bastyan Dam across the Pieman River. A large part of the southern and western shores are cloaked in dense forest with reasonable shore-based access from the button grass plains along the northern lake edge from Bastyan

Dam through to Farm Creek. The best bank fishing access is obtained on the eastern shore both north and south of the township of Tullah. A boat ramp is situated in the town along with accommodation options and services. Trout average from 0.2 - 0.7kg with larger fish at times.

Lake Rosebery is at its best from summer until early autumn. The best sport for bait anglers can be on still evenings from December until February as the mudeyes migrate to hatch on the drowned timber on the lake shores. Fishing a mudeye under a bubble float, close to the trees, is the most productive method. Locals do well fishing after dark with a wattle grub cast and retrieved on top.

Reasonable sport can be had fishing lures such as soft plastics or bibbed lures along the eastern shore around the town of Tullah or the northern bank west of the dam wall. Using heavier jig heads such as 3 gram or more will assist in fishing the full water column. Brightly coloured plastics such in neon, gary glitter or silver fox being most productive. Fishing from a boat or kayak in Lake Rosbery is a convenient way to fish with drift spinning and trolling being popular.

Cold, still nights during summer encourage good midge hatches, which bring fish to the surface from first light. Wind lanes continue to provide good action into autumn with regular beetle falls on still afternoons. Shore-based fly fishers can target trout feeding on migrating mudeyes from December until February concentrating around trees on evening, with floating deer hair mudeye patterns.

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## **LAKE MACKINTOSH**

Lake Mackintosh is located 95km south of Burnie on the Murchison Hwy (A10), turn left at Tullah onto the Mackintosh Dam Road and continue approximately 4km to the Mackintosh Dam.

Lake Mackintosh is a large, tea-coloured hydro impoundment created in 1980 with the damming of the Mackintosh River. The lake sports large areas of submerged forest along the eastern shore, in Brougham Inlet, at Tunnel End and through the Mackintosh Valley.

Limited shore angling is available around the Mackintosh and Tullarbardine dams and at Tunnel End. Brown trout stocks are maintained solely through natural recruitment. Trout average 0.7kg with larger fish to 1.2kg regularly taken. A good concrete boat ramp is located north of the Mackintosh Dam with a second sheltered launch area a further 250m north of the first ramp.

Set rod bait fishing can be productive at Tunnel End in the early season using baits such as worms or wattle grubs. This same location fishes particularly well from December until February as mudeyes become active. Fishing a mudeye under a running bubble float amongst the timber will prove effective. This method works particularly well for boat anglers as well in the sheltered stands of drowned forests of the upper Mackintosh River valley and Brougham Inlet. Grasshoppers, cockroaches and mudeyes can be effective on fish feeding in wind lanes in summer, either cast to feeding fish or hung close under a fixed float in the foam line in ambush.



Shore-based anglers will do well fishing soft plastics in the outflow at Tunnel End in the early season with rainbow trout being a feature.

The best flyfishing action occurs in Lake Mackintosh from December through until March with a boat being required to access most of the action. Midge hatches on still, cool nights provide excellent sight fishing action from first light. Look for trout mopping up the midge in the foam lines through the main body of the lake. Large foam flies such as Bruisers Bugs or WMD Hoppers work well as these sit low in the water and are easily seen by the fish as they approach. Wind lane action can often continue on sunny days as beetle falls add more food to the foam lines.

Mudeyes will become active amongst the emergent sticks and trees on still evenings in January and February. Rising fish will be found actively feeding on dusk and can be successfully targeted with floating mudeye patterns of either foam or deer hair.

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## **LAKE ST CLAIR**

Lake St Clair is situated west of Derwent Bridge and accessed via C193 off the Lyell Highway (A10). It is entirely in the Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park.

Most of the lake is difficult for shore angler to access, but there is some remarkably good fishing. The water is crystal clear and along the western shore it plunges to 174 metres deep. Narcissus Bay in the north and Cynthia Bay, Frankland Beaches Derwent Basin and St Clair Lagoon at the southern end are notable places.

Narcissus Bay at the top of the lake can be accessed via the ferry, which transports bush walkers back to Cynthia Bay as they finish the Overland Track. It is also accessible by the Overland Track from Cynthia Bay, but this is around a 12 kilometre walk. From Echo Point around Narcissus Bay to Ida Bay features sloping gravel beaches and pockets of strap weed. Where the Narcissus River enters the lake there is a deep channel which is well worth exploring.

Dry fly fishing can be good to spinner and beetles feeders. A Black Spinner is all that is needed. Lure fishers should try black and gold soft plastics or a small dark coloured spinner. With very clear water and the sun behind you polaroiding can be a real treat.



Lure fishers can enjoy some great fishing between Cynthia Bay, along Frankland Beaches through to Derwent Basin and then in St Clair Lagoon - especially on overcast, windy days. Small lures and soft plastics work well.

Derwent Basin on the south eastern corner can be accessed by a track past Pump House Point, but is best fished from a boat. There are very reliable spinner hatches during summer and it is a rare evening when there is no action.

St Clair Lagoon is an outstanding fishery - especially for fly fishers. The lagoon is separated from the main lake by a weir. Waders are essential and most of it can be waded. This is mostly a brown trout fishery and at natural levels the 'tailing' can be as good as anywhere - especially at first light. Lightly weighted nymphs and possum emergers can work well, but the fish can be fickle as well.

The lagoon can be accessed at St Clair Dam or along the track leading to Pump House Point.

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## **LAKE KING WILLIAM**

Lake King William is on the south side of the Lyell Hwy (A10) at Derwent Bridge. Access to the Guelph Basin is via Harbacks Road, 8km west of Derwent Bridge. Clark Dam is accessed via Butlers Gorge Road 2km south from Tarraleah on the Lyell Hwy (A10).

Lake King William is a large hydro lake located at Derwent Bridge on the Lyell Highway. The lake is edged on the eastern and southern shores by large stands of eucalypt forest with button grass plains along the northwestern shores and around the Guelph Basin. Large drawdowns can be expected in summer and autumn reducing the lake height down to 29m in some years. The lake boasts large numbers of naturally spawned brown trout accompanied by a small number of rainbow trout. Most fish average between 0.2 - 0.6kg when the lake remains low for an extended period, but size improves dramatically when the lake recovers to full supply level with fish to 1.2 kg reasonably common.

Good sport can be had fishing worms or grubs on the bottom when the lake is rising in spring from 5m below full supply level in Bedlam Bay, Charles Bay and Bethune Bay at the northern end of the



lake. Fish will be foraging over the beds of green weed as the lake rises and can be found tailing in the same areas at times of low light such as morning and evening or on overcast days. Fishing mudeyes under a bubble float around the drowned timber along the deeper western shore and through the Guelph Narrows is highly productive during summer. The use of a running float with a greased line is recommended to let the bait sink well down on these deeper shores. Fishing large baits such as wood or wattle grubs on the surface is popular after dark and will catch fish.

The best access for land-based spin fishing is along the deeper northeast shore of Guelph Basin and around the narrows via Hardbacks Road, also the eastern shore from the Clark Dam. The easiest way to fish in the lake is from a small boat with drift spinning and trolling being very popular. Productive places to target are Guelph Basin and the northern end of the lake, concentrating on fishing close to the drowned timber while varying lure swimming depths.

Spring sees good wet fly fishing for tailing fish in Bedlam Bay, Charles Bay and Bethune Bay as the lake rises above 5m from full supply. Wet flies such as black fur flies or Woolly Buggers work well or a stick caddis suspended under a dry can also get great results.

Reasonable dun hatches occur in December and January accompanied by evening caddis hatches as well as mudeye migrations continuing into February. Lake King William supports good wind lane action with midge and beetle falls providing the bulk of the food source.

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**There are many more waters  
in Tasmania that provide great  
trout fishing — give them a try.**



## Helpful Contacts

Inland Fisheries Service;

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Anglers Alliance Tasmania Inc: [www.anglersalliance.org.au](http://www.anglersalliance.org.au)

Bureau of Meteorology: <http://www.bom.gov.au>

Bureau of Meteorology (river heights):

[http://www.bom.gov.au/tas/flood/rain\\_river.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/tas/flood/rain_river.shtml)

Hydro Tasmania (lake levels):

<http://www.hydro.com.au/water/lake-levels>

Service Tasmania: 1300 135 513

Tasmanian boating weather: 1900 969 940

Tasmanian forecasts: 1900 955 364

Trout guides and lodges Tasmania: <http://troutguidestasmania.com.au>