



Lilydale Lake

Lilydale Lake is a rather large lake situated in Lilydale just off Swansea Road. The lake has a whole heap of facilities like playgrounds, BBQs and walking trails built in the grounds so it is ideal for the family-orientated angler, and is around 30 minutes drive from Dandenong.

While the lake has a population of carp, roach, trout and redfin it is the redfin and trout that make up the bulk of anglers interests. Victorian Fisheries regularly stock an excellent number of trout into the lake, some of which can be 2kg or so.

The lake is generally a mix between mud and clay bottom with some sand also and small patches of rock, particularly around the 'wall' and some of the fishing platforms. There are reed stands around some of the lake margins, while Olinda Creek filters its way into the lake via a small wetland system.

Being overall shallow and discoloured it can warm up over the warmer months, so the ideal conditions for trout especially are the cooler mornings and evenings, or the colder months of the year.



Lilydale Lake is a large and open waterway, with two islands and wetland creek that filters into it.

The best method for trout at Lilydale
Bait fishing is the most effective method for catching trout in Lilydale lake. The lake's muddy water makes strong scented baits like powerbait and specialist trout doughs the best option. The deadliest method to fish these baits is 'coarse' style.

These dough type baits are specifically made from the same ingredients as the hatchery pellets. As these trout are grown in the hatcheries they are fed on a pellet-based diet, and become accustomed to the scent of these, so any baits based of this type of hatchery scent work wonders.

Having both dough and powerbait in various colours covers all bases and like anything – options are good to have! The advantage with powerbait is that it has a buoyancy to it, which when rigged correctly can help stay off the weed or grass on the bottom – and where the fish can see it.

The correct outfit
Having the correct bait is only one part of the solution; getting it out there and fishing it correctly are also vital, and this is where we look at tackle and rigging.

The truly ideal outfit for this particular form of finesse bait fishing consists of a long and light threadline outfit.

Having a light-tipped, parabolic action graphite rod in a length from 7'6" through to 10ft is the way to go – with the ideal length

coming in at 9ft. Lilydale is a large 'open' lake so be able to cover water is a big advantage. Having a more 'forgiving' action in the rod will help greatly in keeping soft dough baits on the hook during the cast, and setting fine gauge hooks on soft bites.

Spin reels in the 2000-2500 size spooled with fine mono in the 4 – 8lb strength. The extra stretch in the line will also help in keeping small hooks in.

Rigging up

Getting down to the specifics of the rig, we are looking at a modified 'running' rig. On our main line we first need an anti-tangle feeder cage boom, with feeder cage attached. Below this a small soft bead to absorb shock, then a tiny black rolling swivel. Black blends in on the bottom substrate with less chance of spooking the fish.

A light fluorocarbon leader of around a metre in 4 – 8lb is attached to the other side of this swivel. At the business end we are using either a ULT style treble, or a fine gauge 'dough' style hook. Be sure to mould your dough style bait around the hook so it stays on as securely as possible.

Don't forget berley with this method

Berley and what we use for berley is vital for success. Throwing sinking trout pellets into the water will make a similar sound to when the trout are fed at the hatchery and they respond well to this – and this is one method of using this berley.

Another more popular method and very effective use of these specialist pellets is to make a 'clay' consistency paste of it. Breaking these pellets down with hot water in a bucket and slowly adding a fine grit pollard style powder back in will thicken your mix up. Once you're happy with the consistency leave it to cool down.

When it comes time to deploy your berley at your chosen location, the best way is to use a berley spoon. The angle of this spoon lets the berley go where you want it to; and speaking of this, make sure you continuously cast your bait where this berley is going. You're 'preparing' the fish for your offering by berleying in one zone.

The other critical use of this berley is to pack your feeder cage with it. By doing this you are again sending a slow release berley to the area your bait is in, with it and your bait being cast back in the same area that you have thrown the berley in.

Luring Lilydale

Lure fishing the lake is common for anglers chasing redfin or the larger trout. While both can be caught on the same lures, the redfin are best targeted around the structure in the lake – be it reed stands, rock piles or drop offs. The section of wetland that flows in is also a good area to target with weedless style soft plastics.

Generally a slowly 'twitched' soft plastic 'creature' bait will get the attention of the redfin. Adding scent here works wonders.

When targeting trout on lure, a good way to cover ground and search is the use of a long-casting spoon. Fishing these styles in open water will land a trout or two. Once you have found a zone that has cruising fish you can hone in with other lure types.

A suspending hardbody can be an excellent option when 'jerked' and left to sit and trigger a bite from the trout. Aggressive colour options are excellent at getting 'reaction' bites from the trout.

A small creature bait will work well fished in open water also, especially in a dark colour to silhouette in the dirty water. These work especially well slowly wound in with a constant 'shake' of the rod tip.

For any additional information or specifics talk to us in-store.

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This handout is for use as information only, and the suggestions are based on our experiences for fishing this particular location and or species.