



Rowville Lakes

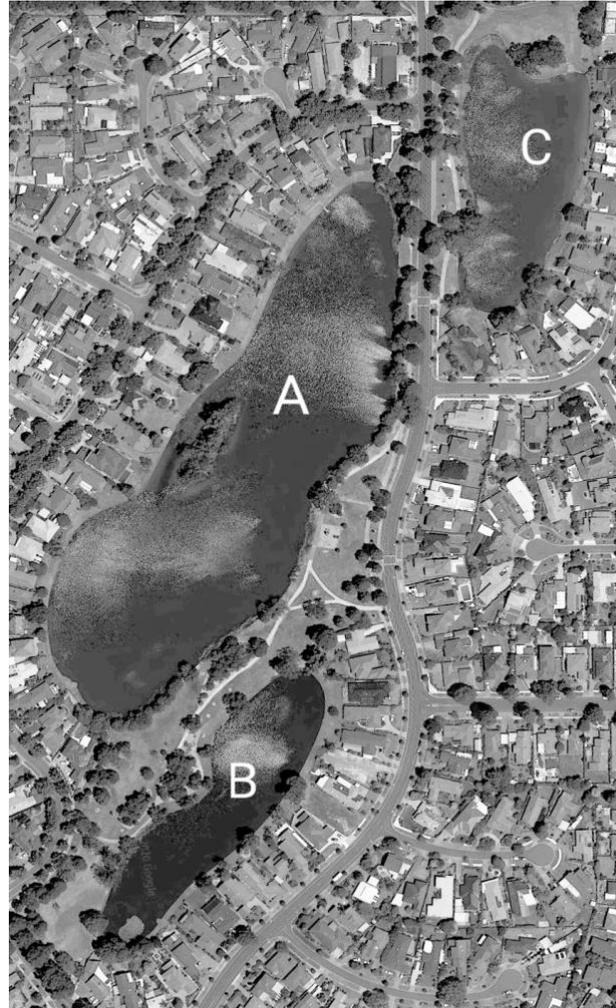
The Rowville Lakes system is situated within the Lakeside estate of Rowville, which is a mere 10 minute drive from Dandenong. There are three lakes within the Lakeside Estate. The largest one links the other two lakes via a spillway and underground piping.

All three lakes offer reedy margins with general clay/mud bottom, with patches of weed also. There are some overhanging trees in areas, so these will provide shade and cover for fish along the margins especially during the warmer weather.

Victorian Fisheries stock the main lake with 'advanced yearling' trout prior to most school holidays. At this size they are hungry and perfectly suitable for youngsters starting their fishing careers, or experienced anglers alike.

The 'main' lake is situated on the right-hand side of Lakeside Boulevard as you enter from Stud Road and has a number of roadside parking spots available. The lake is the largest and also the deepest, with a 'super' long cast ideal for probing its vast size.

There are numerous fishing spots easily accessible around this lake that are ideal to fish, with reed stands, water overflows and overhanging trees some of the terrain available.



The 3 fishable lakes at Rowville, A) the 'main' lake, B) 'weedy' lake and C) 'shallow' lake. All are connected underground.

The 'weedy' lake at the back of the system is generally fished less, as the weed can make it frustrating for some. Anglers fishing weedless soft plastics share success on redfin in this lake, as do some bait fishing the clear pockets devoid of weed.

The lake closest to Stud Road is the shallowest of the three. This lake is generally quite good in terms of clarity and sight casting redfin on lures if you are inclined to do so.

Bait fishing technique

All manner of baits can be used in these lakes when targeting trout but by far and away the deadliest method here is to coarse fish with a 'dough' style bait. These dough baits are specifically made from the same ingredients as the hatchery pellets.

Why is this so important? As these fish 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.

The main styles of bait to use here are a specialized trout dough, and various forms of powerbait. Powerbait is a scented artificial dough-style bait that comes in various colours. Having a few different colours gives the fish the option, and like anything – options are good to have! The other massive advantage is that powerbait has a buoyancy to it, which when rigged correctly can help stay off the weed on the bottom of all three lakes – and where the fish can see it.

Presenting the bait correctly

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.

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

For the best results when bait fishing one of the lakes here we use 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 muddy bottom, 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.

Fine gauge hooks are a critical inclusion to your rigging up here, as the ultra-fine wire will turn subtle bites and taps into hookups on the generally small size trout in the lake.

Berley confines the fish to you

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.

On top of this method another 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 way to successfully use 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.

Soft plastics options for redfin

For those wanting to lure a redfin or two, soft plastics are the most versatile option at

Rowville. With the majority of food in these lakes coming from aquatic insects, these are what can be imitated.

'Creature' style soft plastics are deadly when rigged on lightly weighted and weedless jigheads and very slowly 'shaken' around reed stands, overhanging trees, drain outlets or weedbeds.

Weedless rigging options also give you the confidence of being able to fish through the snaggy structure where the fish are sitting without compromising the presentation of the plastic.

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

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