



Luring Stream Trout

A fairly popular pastime for anglers around the state is river trout fishing. Many start their angling journey on a small river in search of a wild trout or two, and this form of fishing can be one that sticks with you for your angling days.

While the notion of a big trout lies high for many anglers, there is often something to be said for simply being among the elements – and river trout fishing captures that perfectly. The Aussie bushland, with its eucalypt smell and distant wildlife noises coupled with a gentle flow of clear freshwater over smoothed granite river stones can be enough in itself.

The best part of this form of fishing is that you don't need to drive miles and miles away from the suburbs and have a week off work to enjoy it. Many quality Victorian streams lie within 90 minutes or so from the outer South-Eastern suburbs. Obviously the further you drive from civilization the more remote you will find yourself, with the potential of stumbling across a creek that barely sees

any anglers. **For a good starting point here's a few within a leisurely drive from Melbourne's South East;**

Tarago river, Latrobe river, Toorongo river, Tanjil river, Mcalister river, Goulburn river, Acheron river, Stevenson river, Rubicon river, Yea river, King Parrot creek, Murrindindi river – and many many more. **Talk to us in-store for up to date location reports and information.**

Finding trout streams can be as easy as a solid look from a mapping app on your phone, or a glance over a topographic map. Generally a blue line on the map will indicate some form of water or another, and some real hidden gems are found this way!

Gearing up for trout

Having the correct outfit when luring trout on the rivers is paramount – it can be the difference between a really frustrating and expensive day or a delight. There are a million and one choices for a trout outfit but there are tackle specifics that will perform much better than others for this scenario. **Talk to us in-store for specific rod and reel choices and information**

Rod – 6ft – 7ft 1-4kg rated graphite rod, with soft tip

***Graphite is a must for ultimate control and accurate casting with small lures**

Reel – 1000-2500 sized lightweight spin reel

***Lightweight and balanced reel will help reduce fatigue over the course of 1,000 casts**

Line – 4-8lb thin diameter quality braided line if possible or soft touch mono

***Braided line will give you much more lure feedback and help get them swimming correctly**

Bait fishing the rivers and streams can also be done using the same basic outfit, with a few minor modifications.

Tackle accessories

Aside from lure selection, some recommended tackle to bring with you to make your fishing easier is as follows; Quality fluorocarbon leader material, lightweight quick-change lure clips, gel style scent, spare trebles and split rings, small pair of split ring tweezers or pliers, spare jigheads and plastics, quality pair of glass lens polarized sunglasses, and a small sling or backpack – with lightweight net attached.

All of this may sound like a lot but once in a backpack it is a very amount of gear to carry.

Lure selection

This can be a whole essay in itself. There are LOTS of lures to choose from, so where do you start? Most anglers do themselves out of success buy simply buying too many 'similar' lures. By this we mean they end up with too many lures that dive to the same depth or are

the same colour pattern. Mix things up with running depths, lure profiles, swim actions and colours. Soft plastics are an excellent option also. Here's a basic 'starting' selection of lure styles to carry to the rivers:

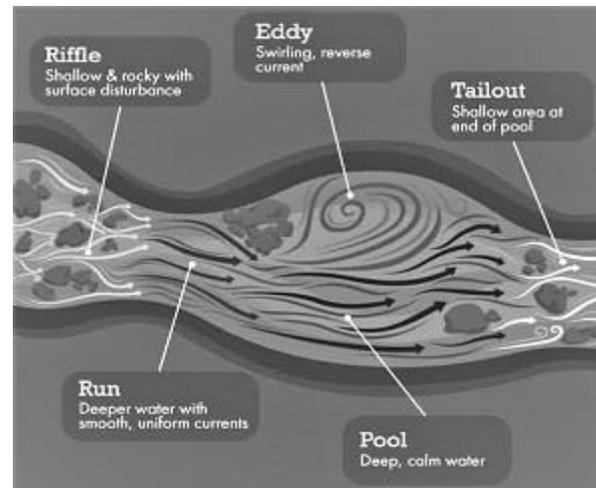
Bladed spinners
'Tassie devils'
Spoons
Small shallow jerkbaits
Medium jerkbaits
Large 'aggressive' jerkbaits
Mid depth crankbaits
Sinking twitchbaits
Surface crawlers
Body rolling paddle plastics
'Creature' style baits
Soft twitchbaits

Having a selection is the most critical factor, as there will be a day when 'what worked yesterday' won't work again. By experimenting with different styles you will build up a catalog of choices for all conditions and become a more successful fisherman.

Some of these lure styles may seem confusing so feel free to talk to us in-store for help with specific lure information and selection for locations and techniques.

Where to cast?

Once you're at the water and you're about to start peppering the water with casts there's a few things to take into consideration. Have a good look around your chosen stretch of river; can you see any fish holding along a current edge or in deeper water? Don't just cast aimlessly. Try and get your lure to swim along edges of where the fish can ambush from. Trout will sit along the seam where fast and slow water meets, and let the current bring the food to them. The same goes for 'structure' like timber and large rocks. There will be a small area of low current around the edges of this structure, and that's where the fish will sit in ambush.



A very simple visual breakdown of typical stream habitat. Generally the edges of where many of these zones meet will be the best areas to fish.

Make sure you cast your lure ahead of these zones and get it dancing and working through these 'strike zones'. If possible always try to get your offering swimming 'downstream' with the natural flow. Trout will be ready in waiting for food items to be swept down river to them naturally, and prey swimming back 'up river' can spook them.

Lastly try and move stealthily around your fishing area, as any sudden movements and loud noises can spook the fish in your area. Moving about slowly and assessing your casting options will help in not spooking the fish but also help you place more accurate and measured casts into better water and result in fewer casts and snags but for more fish!

Good Luck & Happy Fishing! Compleat Angler Dandenong

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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.