

G'day lads,

Sunday morning, and it's another 6.00AM start at Roseville boat ramp. This time I was fishing with Peter Cole-Clarke, in his terrific new Signature 580.

All the reports of an abundance of kingfish and salmon in the lower harbour last week had us pretty fired up. The plan was to downrig some live yellowtail around the usual kingfish spots, and see if we could start the season with some keeper kings. After all the rough seas and strong winds the seas looked pretty good as we came into The Sound, so we decided to let the live bait wait a while, and headed east to see if we could find any working birds.

We found them about two clicks off Bluefish Point – a big school of hungry salmon, marked by hundreds of circling mutton birds and gulls. Because the action appeared to be mainly subsurface we started with two small Rapalas:





Although they're often taken for granted, I never tire of salmon. They're a great sport fish who usually turn on some aerial acrobatics, and if you don't like them on the plate they make great mako baits. After putting a few in the ice-box we switched to light gear, which meant a 20 minute fight on each one. The ABU Revo the lads gave me for my 50th worked a treat:



Eventually we decided to return to the Harbour to chase kingies. But wouldn't you know – after visiting four different never fail live bait spots, we could not get one yakka for the tank! It wasn't that they weren't biting, they just weren't there. Rather than persevere and get frustrated we decided to call it a day, and got back to the ramp by late morning.

That evening Daryl pulled up out the front of our place with his beaut customized 12-foot Savage in tow. I threw my kit in the back and off we headed to Scone, with a day's bass fishing at Glenbawn planned for Monday.

Next morning started with a challenge, as heavy weekend rain meant the causeway on the usual access road was under water:



We went around the long way, launched at the ramp and were soon heading up the lake. After all the rain, the lake and surrounding countryside looked wonderful. The dam is now up to 75% capacity. However, from past experience I know how fickle Glenbawn bass can be, and how for a good session it's best to have the barometer going up and down like a yo-yo. They proved to be just as fickle yesterday.



First strike came about an hour into the trip, with a 25cm bass taken on a Kokoda copy of a Jackall lure. The fish took the lure as it was being worked deep around the sticks:



After that, we had a long dead session. Despite a thousand casts, and some lengthy trolling, we didn't turn a scale. Switching over to the windward side of the lake made things difficult in terms of positioning the boat, but Daryl had heard it was a good tactic. We took a further two bass, one at 33 and one at 35cm:



All were released. Then it was back to the boat ramp kiosk for a steak sandwich, which we consumed while admiring pics of recent catches pinned up on the wall. These included a 7 pound bass, and a Murray cod over 60 pounds. They are there, it's just that they bite best under certain weather conditions that are hard to predict. We'll be back! Thanks to Daryl and Pete for their kind invitations, looking forward to the next trip, Andrew