



News from Uncle Billy's Retreat

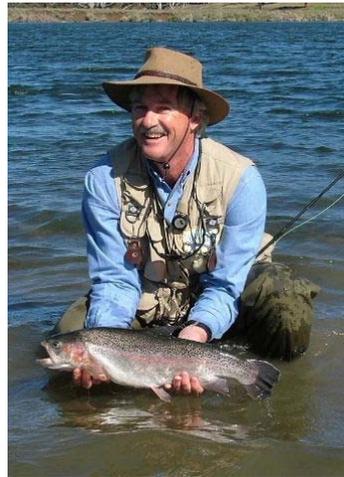


Merry Xmas & Happy New Year from Bill, Sue, Rob & Melinda

December, 2004

A decade of Trout Fishing

It is hard to believe that we started our fishing venture 10 years ago. We thought it was appropriate to produce our first News-letter. Over this time some very big rainbow trout have been caught ranging in size from 500 grms. to 5.5 kg. We have stocked a few brown trout over the years with an occasional large brown caught and landed. During the ten years we have gradually increased our fishout, including more dams and more accommodation facilities. We have had great exposure from television lifestyle programs and from articles written in magazines. In about 1999 a keen angler from Sydney, Karsten, a Graphic Designer redesigned our brochure, hence our Uncle Billy's Logo. In 2002, with the help of another keen angler from Brisbane, Nick, we set up an Internet site. 'Fly of the Month' has proved very popular with anglers and recently a new section has been included, with the help of Roger—'Sights and Sounds'. All this promotion has added to the success of Uncle Billy's. We have met some wonderful people during this time and are very grateful for all the help that we have been given. Not only do guests come to fish, they come to enjoy the tranquility and peacefulness that Uncle Billy's offers. The sunsets are always spectacular, the clear starry nights are appealing and the occasional snow falls in winter also attracts guests. Many of our visitors observe the many species of birds that reside on or around the lakes. Quite a few water birds nest on Lake Yoolimba including the Rare Blue Billed Diving Duck.



Mark with a rainbow trout weighing 6 1/2 lbs



A 6 1/2 lb. winter trout caught by Nick

Steve from Brisbane fished at Uncle Billy's for the first time in November. Not only did he catch his first trout on fly, he landed 5 rainbows.

What a way to travel!



Sam with a nice rainbow caught in Spring



Winter fishing at Uncle Billy's

Fishing. 2004

2004 has been a difficult year with some very extreme weather conditions. January was very hot with high temperatures recorded. During the middle of January a cool change arrived and the trout started to move and some nice rainbows and browns were caught mainly on dry fly. From February to July very little rain fell. Autumn fishing was very good with lots of fish moving. Some excellent trout were caught on dry fly, nymphs and Woolly Buggers. During the winter months we had more than 100 frosts, with very clear skies to follow, which made fishing challenging. Three falls of snow fell late in winter. With the cold weather the fish fed on the bottom feeding on snails and were caught on nymphs. Spring arrived and the much awaited rain arrived. Various types of nymphs still seemed to have the most success with Woolly Buggers and Hammill Killers also proving popular. Late October saw more activity on top of the water with trout caught on tiny Black Midge and White Moth. Nymphs also worked. Over the past few months we have concentrated on stocking our lakes with fresh trout and summer should see some exciting fishing, providing weather conditions are not too extreme.



Better Management and Planning

As with any business, new rules and regulations seem to keep appearing. In the interest of better management and as requested by NSW Fisheries we are asking guests to complete an information sheet with the details of fish caught, size, released, etc. Our main aim has always been to maintain a high standard of fishing and we feel by having a log book this will help with our future planning.



A nice brown trout caught by Wally



Jed caught this 6lb rainbow at Uncle Billy's early October

The Lakes



What's New

During September a new dam was constructed. This dam is 30 foot deep and has a diameter of 400 meters. This dam is situated between the main lake and our smaller lake and is alongside the middle dam (pictured at right). These two dams will be known as the Lakes and this area of water will add another option to our fishing. Until we build our fish numbers up, these two dams will be catch and release and fly only. We plan to landscape this area to include a picnic spot with gazebo and bar-b-que. The dam at the Lodge was fenced out about two years ago and gradually the natural plant life is being established, which will increase the insect life and make for better fishing. We have also started a tree planting program which will also create a better fishing environment. Other projects include reconstruction of grow out ponds at Lake Yoolimba. These ponds will still be stocked with freshwater crayfish. Plans are at foot to upgrade the shed to make it weatherproof and warmer and maybe a bedroom will be added to the smaller log cabin. A Bridge is also in the pipeline to make access to the shallow water easier.

Guiding Service

A Guiding Service was introduced a few years ago. We have access to several Guides including a Fly Casting Champion. Classes can be organised for learners and groups who wish to improve their casting techniques. We plan to run a couple of Seminars next year. Further information about these Seminars will be advertised during the year. Classes can also be tailor made to suit your skills.

For further information about Uncle Billy's, please visit our Website: www.unclebillys.com.au or contact Bill or Sue on(02) 67 794216