

# TASSIE 2007 CONTINUED

With the departure of Bryan, Woolly, Reg and Russell the fishers and the fishing slowed down.

On Saturday the only fishing was in the evening at Swan Bay on the Great Lake. Very few fish were rising, generally out in the deeper water and well out of casting distance. This resulted in a fishless day.

On Sunday Doug and I fished the evening at Swan Bay again. Doug caught 3 fish, 2 x browns 2.5lb and 3lb, and 1 x rainbow about 3lb. Doug was fishing 2 flies, a rusty brown beetle with a red tag dropper. All fish were taken on the red tag. I had another fishless day.

On Monday we went down to Launceston, visiting the regular haunts and picking up some building materials for Doug's house renovation project. When we arrived back at Miena we started our packing for the trek into Lunka Lake, one of the remote Western Lakes beyond Lake Ada and Ada Lagoon. This meant we only fished the evening again, and you guess it, at Swan Bay. We went around and fished the western shore, I missed a take early in the evening then after covering another rise I hooked up on a fish that took me down to the backing and kept going for another 20m or so, before turning and heading back towards me. This made it difficult to maintain tension on the fish but I finally landed it (thank goodness for large arbour reels). The fish was a 2.75lb rainbow in excellent condition with a thick strong body and smaller head. The fly I was using was a deer hair red tag.

On Tuesday Doug, Duncan and myself headed off on our trek into Lunka Lake. Duncan is a friend of Doug's from Miena that has had trekking experience in the Himalayas and wanted to visit and fish some of the lakes beyond the more accessible Western Lakes. So was willing to join Doug and myself on this trip.

We drove to Ada Lagoon where I left my car and transferred our gear to Duncan's vehicle before heading on along a 4WD track to Tallinah Lagoon. The track was rough and the going slow but a lot easier than walking and carrying our packs. When we arrived at the end of the 4WD track at Tallinah Lagoon, we unpacked and strapped on our backpacks and started our hike to Lunka Lake. Initially we hiked along a defined track that leads to



*Fishing has to be a lot easier than this bush bashing!*

Lake Fanny, but we left this track and headed north at the Christys Creek lakes. The walk to Lunka Lake took us about 2.5 hours, including two rest breaks and some time to admire the wildlife.

Lunka Lake is a glacial lake with a small tree covered island in the centre and a few pine trees around the rocky shore line. There were a couple of weedy bottomed bays on the western shore that looked promising. We selected one of these bays with a small sandy beach to set up our camp. After recovering from our walk in, we explored the nearer bays using spinner, beetle and emerger patterns, but with no luck. There were very few rises noticeable on the lake. In the evening we continued to cover the weed bottomed bays with dry flies until the light failed, then we changed to wet flies, but still no takes so we called it quits for the day.

Early the next morning Duncan noticed a nice fish patrolling the small bay when he looked out of the tent. In his rush to cover the fish he only succeeded in hooking the tent with his back cast and spooking the fish (no not with an airborne tent!). But things were looking promising for the day.

Later we headed off in different directions to try our luck. Doug and I headed north along the western shore and Duncan headed south to try his luck around from the eastern shore.

Doug and I came across a quiet bay with a few fish cruising that we could polaroid. We covered these fish with a multitude of dry flies, black spinners, parachute dun and beetle

patterns but they were not interested. All we finished up doing was spooking the fish. I continued further along to the top of the lake where there is a narrow neck that joined to another lake. I didn't see anymore fish or notice any rises. When we returned to camp, we all had the same story, no takes and no fish. That evening I tied on a dazzle woolly bugger and covered an area where I had seen a rise the previous day resulting in finally enticing a take, but it did not hook up.



On Thursday we had a quick fish, with no luck, before packing up and hiking out. We arrived at Duncan's vehicle just as it started to rain (great timing). That evening we fished the eastern shore of Swan Bay just below Doug's house. It was still raining lightly with a north easterly breeze. I landed 3 browns that evening, on a deer hair red tag, ranging from 2lb to 2.75lb.

On Friday Doug and I did some drift fishing out of Doug's boat at Elizabeth Bay but without success, only managing to entice a few rises but no hook ups. The fish we saw seemed very flighty and easily spooked.

That evening we fished the western shore of Swan Bay again. I covered a rise and caught a 2lb rainbow on a deer hair red tag.

We didn't fish too late because I had to pack for my return trip to the mainland. This was the end of my stay and I thank Liz and Doug for their warm hospitality and guidance. It was my most successful trip to Tassie, catching 17 fish in 13 days. The average weight per fish was greater than 2lb, with 13 of the fish caught

being between 2lb and 3.5lb. I'm now looking forward to my next trip back to Tassie and walking into some of the other remote western lakes.

*Jeff Baldock*

