

A week at Awoonga

The English language does not contain enough superlatives to describe our recent trip to Awoonga! The weather was superb, with light Northerlies predominating, the water temp on the dam was high (average 27-28 degrees), and the fishing sensational. There were six club members, two club visitors, and two members of the Bundaberg SFC in our group, and in total we caught 160 barra for the week, with 44 over the magic metre mark. In fact, only one person in the group missed out on a meter plus barra. Almost all were caught trolling, but Gary Richardson and Darryl Lindeman both caught barra over 1m casting lures.

Jeremy Arnold



Roy towed my boat up to Awoonga on Sunday night and we had a barra each before most of the others had even arrived. We caught most of our fish trolling during the day in the deeper water and dropoffs along the old riverbed, but mostly



these were small fish caught at the 'breakfast bar'. It wasn't until a bit later in the week that we began to concentrate our efforts on the lower section of the dam – the 'green buoy' and 'pelicans' that we more consistently found bigger fish. In contrast, Jon and Steve were catching most of their fish at night.

Their system was obviously very successful, but as much as they tried to explain it to everyone else, we just were not able to get the results. Roy and I spent just as much time



on the water trolling at night as we did during the day, and we caught 5 at night compared to 27 during the day. With about 10 hours trolling per day over 6 days, that is one fish every two hours. Just to let you know that we did have to work for the fish Mr Watson! Almost all fish were released, although a handful was kept to claim State and National records. The general consensus is

that they really are not worth keeping as the flesh tastes muddy. Will we be back there next year? That is your choice. The trip will be on if there is enough interest!

Awoonga 05

Roy Lane



Stocked Impoundment fishing has never really turned me on until the club had its first trip to Awoonga in November 04. On this first club trip to the dam we had limited success but the one that got away had me thinking that these Barra in this dam had a bit of power. Anyway we arrived at the dam and proceeded to try and catch a Barra over the magic meter mark and that mile stone was realised by most club members that were there. Talking with people at the ramp from day to day was full of stories of

Barra hitting lures and fighting like Barra do (jumping clear of the water). One elderly lady was complaining of a sore chest from her battles with the Barra of the dam that morning with a grin from ear to ear. (She outfished her hubby that morning).

There were blokes from the bundy club there as well and some great captures were recorded for them. As well as members of our club. The dam seems to be full of big Barra. The main means of capture for our crew of keen fisho's was trolling lures. Day time vipers in chrome gold, barra classics in a orange yellow combo was a top performer, arafura barra was also a good day time lure. The night time hot bite lure seemed to be the



Classic Barra red head black body (proved by Jon and Steve, the night time Barra guru's) These lures seemed to get a better strike rate if worked in a rip forward motion followed buy a sit still or just moving period (usually just as the lure moved again the Barra would hit it.) Most of the fish in our boat seemed to be hooked around the outside of the mouth and around the head.

Barra of this dam seem to fight fantastically providing great fun on all types of tackle. In all it was a great trip and if the club sets up another trip I will surly be going. It is something different to



the normal salt water fishing I enjoy. On wrapping this story up I will let you in on some of the hot spots around the dam. The grassy knolls is a good troll at night. The dude ranch a lure casting spot. The sand island is a hot night time location for some. South dingo is good for a mornings troll session. And of course Dam wall wide excellent Big Barra spot morning or Arvo. Anyway I had great week fishing with a Great bunch of blokes.

