

# Mitta Valley

FEISTY FISHING



# The Streams



*Brown Trout*

**1 LITTLE SCRUBBY CREEK:** A small but very productive stream that improves after a very wet winter. Careful stalking greatly enhances one's chances of success, as does precision casting and risk taking, as far as snags and allowing your line to run under the overhanging banks. Best method 3. Best fished period is mid December to early March. Expect to catch Browns and Rainbows up to 800grams.



*Rainbow Trout*

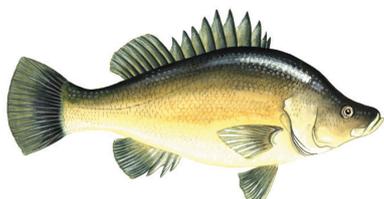
**2 LITTLE SNOWY CREEK:** A highly productive, midsized stream, that offers wonderful quantity and quality fishing. The Little Snowy flows through the middle of the Eskdale township, after traversing private property upstream, before spilling into the Mitta River downstream. This stream offers all forms of fishing; accomplished fly fishermen reap rewards here, alongside lure, live bait and weekend worm drowners: all are a real chance. If you are fishing from the bank, stalk carefully: the pristine water allows fish to spot you from a long distance. Precise casting also increases your chances. Be patient in the larger pools. Best method 1,2,3,4 and 6. Best fishing period is October to May. Expect to catch Browns and Rainbows from 250 grams to 5.8lb.



*Trout Cod*

**3 SPRING CREEK:** A tiny stream running through private property and harbouring surprisingly large trout. Extremely difficult to fish with precision casting required, and stealth paramount. Occasional fish may be caught by allowing your live bait to drift downstream. Best method 3. Best fishing period is November to April. Expect to catch mainly brown trout up to 3 1/2lb.

**4 SCRUBBY CREEK:** A small stream full of surprises. Keep low and sneak carefully casting your grasshoppers, crickets, mudeyes or worms upstream allowing the current to drift them back to you. Fish are always good quality in this creek which flows for 7 kilometres through private property. Some small pools exist for the worm drowner. Best method 3. Best fishing period is November to April. Expect mainly Browns up to 4lb, occasionally Rainbows.



*Yellow Belly*

**5 CALLAGHAN CREEK:** Situated 5kms along the Dartmouth Road. The Callaghan is a wonderful mix of choppy runs and slow meanders, offering the bait and experienced fly fisherman a great experience. The flat and feisty Browns really go to town in this scenic small fishery, that follows the Callaghan Creek Road through private property for 10 kilometres. Best method 3, live bait only. Best fishing period is November to April. Expect mainly Browns up to 3 1/2lb, occasional Rainbows.

**6 WEST BRANCH CREEK:** The West Branch is a fast running medium sized, rather overgrown, tributary of the Snowy Creek; entering some 5 kilometres above Mitta Mitta on the Omeo Highway. It is quite difficult to fish due to the closeness of the scrub. However for the angler prepared to bend his back, blend in with the environment, and sneak, it is an incredibly rewarding stream. Wading is the only option but hardy anglers appreciate these conditions and great results await. Best method 1,2 and 3. Expect both Brown and Rainbow trout, the odd fish up around 4lb. Best fishing period is Mid December to March.

## Impoundments

**LAKE BANIMBOOLA:** Our trophy trout fishery: There are some monsters in here. Boating is the only form of fishing NOT acceptable. A fly fishing mecca (both dry and wet) bait fisherman's paradise and lure caster's dream; this large body of water offers all an equal chance of putting one on the wall. Smaller trout and seasonal Redfin adorn this area as well. No closed season applies to 'the pondage' and year round success is a reality. Huge amounts of incoming food mean all fish are in pristine condition. Best method is 1,2,3,4 and 6. Expect to catch Brown trout up to 5kg. Rainbow trout up to 4kg. Redfin up to 1.5kg.

**DARTMOUTH DAM:** The highest earth-rock fill dam in the Southern Hemisphere and arguably the best trout fishing in Australia. When on song Dartmouth is absolutely dynamic. From light line dry flies, to heavy trolling downriggers, the whole gammit, gives the fisherperson an equal chance. Huge Rainbows and Browns abound in this impoundment. They live harmoniously with Macquarie Perch, a

magnificent table fish, Dartmouth is the soul surviving wild breeding ground for them. Tributaries to Dartmouth that are large enough to explore include: Mitta River (40 kilometres upstream) Gibbo River: Wombat Creek: Larsen's Creek: Dart River: Shady Creek and Eight Mile Creek. Best methods are 1,2,3,4,5,6. Best fishing period in cooler months. No closed season. Expect to catch Brown trout up to 5kg. Rainbow trout up to 4kg. Macquarie Perch to 2kg. Trout Cod up to 4kg (please return).

**OVER THE HILL:** Continue your journey along the Omeo Highway where you will again meet up with the Mitta Mitta River (pre Dartmouth). You can also explore the Bundara and Cobungra Rivers and Middle Creek, all exceptional trout streams with pristine waters. Best method of fishing is 1,2,3,4 and 6. Best fishing period is late October to April. Expect to catch Brown trout up to 3.5kg and Rainbow trout up to 3kg.

# The Streams



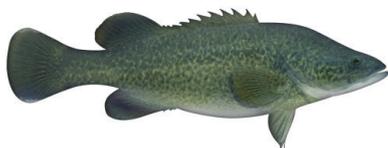
Macquarie Perch



Red Fin



Blackfish



Murray Cod

**7 SNOWY CREEK:** Arguably the greatest trout stream in Victoria. This magnificent mountain creek offers fly, lure and live bait fishermen thrill after thrill as it produces quality and quantity of Browns and Rainbows. The size of the Snowy allows the learner to explore fishing and hone his skills while still a real chance of hauling in a fish; while the experienced angler explores the nooks and crannies where the monsters hide. The scenic nature of this pristine waterway, as it combines crashing rapids, deep dark slow pools and meandering waters under towering tree ferns, makes the fishing seem secondary. Don't relax though; you can be jerked back into reality as a 7 or 8lb Brown smashes your fly. This is fishing heaven. You will enjoy your day just for the walk; add to that a bagful of Browns and Rainbows up to 8lb. Bliss: sheer bliss. Best method is 1,2,3,4 and 6. Best fishing period is October to June.

**8 LIGHTNING CREEK:** A rapidly running mountain stream with a smattering of beautiful runs and deepish pools. Wading is the only method available to the angler, however fishing is quite 'open' and not that difficult. You can expect more Rainbows than Browns here, and 'most' fish will be around 300-400 grams but talk about pocket rockets. They go berserk. Always be ready for a surprise in this little stream as an odd thumper sometimes appears. Best method 1,2 and 3. Expect Rainbows up to 1kg and Browns up to 1kg odd one to 2kg. Every fish you catch will give you a great fight. Best fishing period is November to March.

**9 MITTA MITTA RIVER:** The jewel in the crown. Murray Cod: Brown Trout: Rainbow Trout: Redfin: Blackfish: Yellow Belly and Trout Cod: all frequent the lower section (Dartmouth Dam to Tallangatta) of this magnificent river; while the upper reaches (Glen Wills to Dartmouth Dam) are heaven for sensational Browns and Rainbows. All forms of fishing are available here; including trolling in small tinnies and rafts. Huge Cod and Yellowbelly await the angler from Tallandoon to Tallangatta. Trophy trout, Redfin, Trout Cod and Blackfish adorn the length of the Mitta, while the scenery is breathtaking. Pristine water means long accurate casts and stealth are an important prerequisites. Best methods are 1,2,3,4,5,6. Best fishing period is September to June. Expect Murray Cod to 100lb, Yellowbelly to 8lb, Brown Trout to 12lb, Rainbow Trout to 7lb, Redfin to 4lb, Blackfish to 14" and Trout Cod (please return).

**10 BOGONG SNOWY / WILLS SNOWY:** The two tributaries that form the Snowy Creek. The Bogong can only be reached on foot, while The Wills can be driven to, both from the Bogong Saddle. The difficulty in traversing these little streams is well worth it, as sensational fishing awaits. Camouflage and stealth are paramount and short precision casting a must. Patience is also necessary, sneaking quietly while casting into any water deep enough to cover fish. Explore every nook and cranny. Rods should be no longer than 6 feet to combat the overhanging scrub. Line to 6lb is preferred; however a big Brown heading for his home snag is a formidable challenge. Towering tree ferns, green shrubbery, babbling rapids, pristine water, deep runs, feisty mountain trout. It doesn't get any better. Best method 1, 2 and 3. Best fishing period is November to March. Expect an even catch of Browns and Rainbows. Browns from 250 grams to 3kg. Rainbows 200 grams to 2kg.

## Methods Of Fishing

### 1 FLY FISHING

Dry Fly Fishing at dawn or dusk. Nymphs, moth patterns. Try to read the hatch; watch for tiny insect life. Cast directly to the rise. Wet Flies throughout the day particularly in the mountain streams. Crickets, grasshopper. Mudeye patterns. Keep inconspicuous.

### 2 LURE CASTING

Choose the size of your lure according to the size of your stream. Accurate casts upstream exploring all the water in front of you, and return at a slightly faster rate than the current. Keep inconspicuous.

### 3 BAIT CASTING

A tiny piece of split shot 6" above a no.8 or 10 hook on 4-8lb line. Place a grasshopper, cricket or mudeye on your hook casting upstream up to 10 metres; fishing every nook and crannie. Wading is great. Keep inconspicuous.

### 4 BUBBLE FLOATING

A cork, rubber or bead stopper applied to the line some 300mm (varies) above a size 14,12 or 10 hook allowing the water fill able bubble float to run freely. No resistance when bait taken. Place your bait firmly on the hook; mudeyes through the wing cage; crickets, grasshoppers and small yabbies lengthwise through the abdomen.

### 5 TROLLING

Flat lining with attractors. Lead lining, trolling with live bait (mudeyes or worms). Down rigging paravanning. All practices are successful depending on the time of year; depth the fish are feeding at; water temperature; personal choice. Ask the locals.

### 6 WORM DROWNING

Place a sinker approximately 350mm above your number 6 hook and hold it there with a tiny piece of split shot, allowing the sinker to slide along the line. Add a couple of worms or small yabbies to the hook; find some backwater; cast: relax.





*Legend*

- Family Friendly Fishing
- Fishing spot
- Town or city
- Water/lake
- Major road
- Minor road
- Walking track

**Map Symbols**

- |                     |               |                         |                  |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Toilets             | Hotel         | Historic Mine Site      | Public Telephone |
| Historic Hut        | Caravan Park  | Hanggliding             | Camping          |
| Picnic Table        | General Store | Lookout                 | Airport          |
| Visitor Information | Fuel          | Tourist Park/Attraction |                  |

**Local Authorities**

DSE	136186
Parks Victoria	131963
Goulburn Murray Water	02 6072 4411
Towong Shire Council	02 6071 5100