

Issue 198

TROUT FISHER

Fly focused but totally transferable

Spring 2026

**Biting the Bullet ~ Snowy Lakes ~ Wild to the Table
Heading Back ~ Spent Sulphur**



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Cover: Keep them underwater, unless intending to kill. (PWS)

Heading Back 2

It's mid-July and someone has brought some quills from a pheasant road kill. On a freezing Winter day, these instantly have me thinking Spring and, able to wade broken river beds again, heading back into uncommon locations in North Island terms, brown trout fisheries.

Planning another season with Peter Storey



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Larry Burke responds to John Kent's letter in Issue 197

Chargrilled Trout or Salmon with Potato Roti and Chimichurri 16

Springtime, the season that sparks all that is good about the pursuit of angling and cooking for that matter. A good time for the barbecue with a little touch of South America in the chimichurri dressing.

Wild to the Table with Tony Smith



Spent Sulphur

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This fly is untested but I have been thinking about tying it ever since I found that dun, eight years ago. Many factors have kept me away since then but the intention has remained. So whatever eventuates come early October and whichever venue works out, rather than simply winding another black hackle around a bare hook, this season I am finally going to find out whether a yellow early season mayfly adult imitation gets accepted in rivers where its nymph abounds.

At the Bench with Peter Storey



Biting the Bullet

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I became a member of the NZ Salmon anglers Association at their AGM in May 2005 and immediately found out about the volunteer work they did for North Canterbury Fish & Game, hoping to be able to give something back into the salmon fishery.

Confessions of An Addicted Salmon Angler, Parts 16 and 17. by Larry Burke



Snowy Lakes

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With the NSW fishing season now closed (from 8th of June to 1st of October), there's no need to 'hang up the boots' quite yet . . . While it's a great time of year to be out stalking the Snowy Lakes for cruising brown trout, it's also hard not to let your thoughts run freely and prematurely about those warm spring mornings to come . . .

By Matt Hoole



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Snowy Lakes

By Matt Hoole

With the NSW fishing season now closed (from 8th of June to 1st of October), there's no need to 'hang up the boots' quite yet. Although winter has finally arrived in the mountains, icing car windows and numbing the fingers and toes with temperatures often below freezing, the lakes and dams of NSW remain open. While it's a great time of year to be out stalking the Snowy Lakes for cruising brown trout, it's also hard not to let your thoughts run freely and prematurely about those warm spring mornings to come - humongous dragonflies swarming overhead like an army of drones and lake fish torpedoing out of the water trying to engulf them!





Sunset at Frying Pan, Lake Eucumbene





Sunset: Lake Jindabyne

THE TWO TITANS

Lakes Eucumbene and Jindabyne are huge impoundments of water in the Snowy Mountains - man-made reservoirs constructed in the mid 1900's for the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme. Both lakes stretch kilometres around towns – empty shorelines with several major tributaries entering them, the Thredbo, Snowy and Eucumbene rivers, as well as numerous other feeder creeks. While these larger rivers help to raise lake levels, water is often used to generate electricity by Snowy Hydro and then released back into the Snowy, Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers, therefore lake-levels commonly fluctuate. In recent years, drought has been responsible for causing lake levels to recede by staggering amounts; Lake Jindabyne exposing ruins from its past, like foundations from 'Old Jindabyne' dating back to 1967, in normal times, a usually submerged artifact.

Both lakes receive plenty of activity, especially during the warmer months, from water sports like wakeboarding and water skiing, swimming, boating and of course, fishing. Lake Jindabyne also boasts a pathway around the lake for enthused runners, walkers and mountain bikers, great for individuals and families alike. This significantly adds to the recreational experience on and around the lake.

Both lakes are home to brown trout, rainbow trout, brook trout and Atlantic Salmon, which are routinely stocked by Gaden Trout Hatchery near Jindabyne.

COME SPRING!

When spring arrives in the mountains, things begin to change very rapidly. It's widely believed that the larger 'browns' will drop back down to the comforts of the bottom post spawning, as they perhaps rest up and put on condition, while the 'rainbows' are becoming very active and beginning to 'look up.' As terrestrial life explodes with warmer outside temperatures and vegetation growth, rainbow trout are often seen jumping high out of the lakes trying to snatch dragonflies mid air. It's a sight to

