

Australian Lure Fishing Podcast Episode 282



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Wayne “Mr Freshwater” Dubois

Tackle Business Owner, Outflow Podcast Host

Wayne has been a freshwater fishing specialist forever and has fished Blowering Dam for Yellowbelly for over thirty years. He’s been in the tackle trade, spent some time as a fishing guide, written numerous fishing reports and magazine articles. He now runs Insanity Tackle, which specialises in a range of lures for Australia’s native freshwater species.



Wayne’s Lure Fishing Tips For Carp

- A great aspect of lure fishing for carp is being able to choose the fish you want to catch and sight cast to it. Skip catching the small fish and just target the big ones if you like, just like Wayne does.
- Wayne reckons carp are actually not bad eating and that Australians just have a mindset that they taste like mud. Greg’s not convinced but promises to give them another try.
- Lagoons, back eddies in creeks or big shallow bays in impoundments all hold plenty of carp. Clear, shallow water is important because the techniques that Wayne uses require the angler to see the carp and read its behaviour.
- Whilst carp are often looked down upon by sport fishers, they are strong fighters, challenging to tempt on lures and abundant enough that there’s always a target for honing your skills.
- Prime times for carp fishing on lures are definitely in the warmer months from October onwards – the warmer the water the better, afternoons often fish better than mornings as the

water has had greater opportunity to be warmed by the sun. Clear, calm conditions help to sight the fish.

- Stealth is important as you're fishing in clear, shallow water and carp are very sensitive to sound and vibration. When shore fishing, be sure and fire your casts out well back from the waters edge.
- Use a light drag to reduce the chances of the hook being pulled out during the initial strike and run. After a while you'll be able to read the fish's likely moves and be able to guide and work them away from structure with light pressure.
- Carp have four typical habits, but there's one that particularly signals they're likely to take a lure:
 - When fish appear to be resting, or hibernating and aren't actively moving, forget it, you're probably not going to have much success. This often looks like the fish are sleeping or moving slowly and lethargically. This is common during the cooler months.
 - Free swimming, mid-water carp or those moving just beneath the water surface can be caught with a perfect cast, but they're very difficult.
 - Carp will sometimes seem to move along the bottom whilst swimming on their sides in creeks or may even be observed side swimming in deeper water. It's not clear what they're up to, but they're nearly impossible to catch.
 - When fish are "head down, tail up" and active you can be sure they're feeding and that you're almost certain to catch the fish if you put in the right cast.
- Accurate casting is really important, as is landing the lure well away from the fish and working it back into their zone with small, subtle movements.

Wayne's Suggested Carp Fishing Tackle

- A good pair of polaroid sunglasses is essential for this style of fishing as it's necessary to see the fish take the lure to know when to set the hook.
- A standard bream/trout outfit that can cast light lures is ideal. A 7 foot, 1-3 kg rod 1000-2000 spin reel. 1-6 lb braided line is perfect, Wayne prefers Berkley Fireline Crystal as he's tried numerous brands and finds this line is less likely to form wind knots when fished on spin gear. A rod length of 4-6 lb Vanish leader completes the outfit.

Wayne's Carp Fishing Lures

- Wayne reckons you'll only need one style of lure to target carp, and that's very small soft plastic lures of 1 to 1.5 inches maximum length. Most styles will work, but curl tail grubs work best at slow speeds, which is what's required in this instance.
- Lure colour is not important to the fish, but it is important to the angler as you need to be able to see the fish take the lure. Wayne finds black or white lures give contrast and are highly visible to the angler.
- Jig head weights are critical. Use the absolute lightest weight jig head you can get away with. Wayne typically uses a 1g head with a size 6-8 hook, but if it's windy you might need to switch up to 2g – any heavier and you'll find that the fish will usually reject the lure.
- Scents aren't critical, but Wayne reckons that applying a little can get the carp to take and hold a lure.
- Usually landing a lure within a metre of a feeding carp will spook the fish. A better strategy is to watch the direction that the fish is moving and cast well ahead of it. Then gently and subtly move the lure to within a metre or even closer. If the fish doesn't move in and take it, move the lure with gentle 1-2 inch hops closer and closer to the fish. If fish still don't take the lure, try shaking the rod tip and you'll often see the fish light up and take the lure.
- Instantly when the lure is taken, don't strike the fish, but set the hook by just leaning back with the rod to tighten the line and drive the hook home.