



Karkarook Park



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Karkarook Park Lake is a man-made lake formed in the old sand quarry in Moorabbin. The park is situated just off the corner of South and Warrigal Roads, only about 15-minute drive from Dandenong.

Besides the lake the park has plenty of open grassed areas, as well as playgrounds and BBQ and picnic facilities. There is also plenty of parking around the park, however the park gates close at sunset.

Victorian Fisheries Karkarook lake with 'advanced yearling' trout prior to most school holidays, and at this size they are hungry and perfectly suitable for youngsters starting their fishing careers - or experienced anglers alike. Ex-brood stock trout to 15lb have also been stocked into the lake, so there are some proper thumpers to be caught.

While Karkarook is most well known for the trout fishing, the lake has also received stockings of estuary perch, golden perch and Murray cod, and has a population of redfin and carp also.

The lake is quite deep, with water 5-8m on average. The underwater terrain consists of mud and sand, reeds, rocky banks and thick weedbeds, so there is a good variety of habitat to support predator and prey alike.

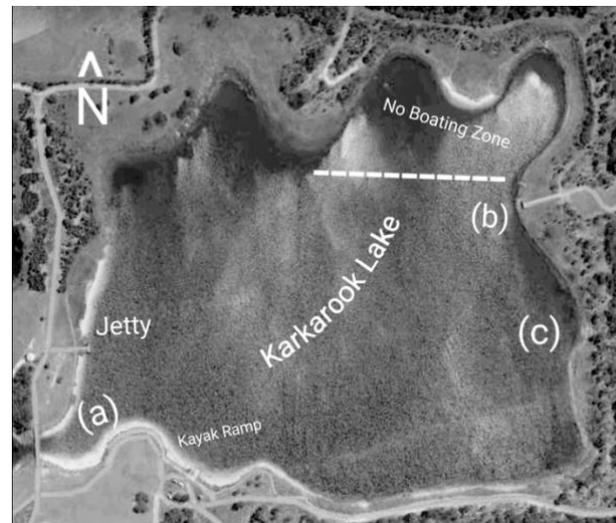
There is good access to the lake with most of it's shoreline accessible one way or another, with the only obstacles being reed stands.

Some of the noted areas to focus on around the lake are as follows;

- (a) – the inlet, good area for targeting fish moving around in the shallows.
- (b) – the platform, good access to northern bay and deep water.
- (c) – eastern flats, as the name suggest a large section of this area is a shallower flat or 'hump' 3m deep.

Jetty – good access to deep water 5m or so from the western shore.

Kayak Ramp – banks here offer gradual slope and are some of the most popular.



Productive Tactics

All manner of baits can be used here but by far and away the deadliest method here is to coarse fish with a 'dough' style bait. These dough baits are specifically made from the same ingredients as the hatchery pellets.

Why is this so important? As these fish are grown in the hatcheries they are fed on a pellet-based diet, and become accustomed to the scent of these, so any baits based of this type of hatchery scent work wonders.

The best baits to take with you to Karkarook are a specialized trout dough, and various forms of powerbait. Powerbait is a scented artificial dough-style bait that comes in various colours. Having a few different colours gives the fish the option, and like anything – options are good to have! The other massive advantage is that powerbait has a buoyancy to it, which when rigged correctly can help stay off the rocks and grass on the bottom – and where the fish can see it.

Presenting the bait correctly

Having the correct bait is only one part of the solution; getting it out there and fishing it correctly are also vital, and this is where we look at tackle and rigging.

The truly ideal outfit for this particular form of finesse bait fishing consists of a long and light threadline outfit. Having a light-tipped, parabolic action graphite rod in a length from 7'6" through to 10ft is the way to go – with the ideal length coming in at 9ft.

Having a more 'forgiving' action in the rod will help greatly in keeping soft dough baits on the hook during the cast; and setting fine gauge hooks on soft bites.

Spin reels in the 2000-2500 size spooled with fine mono in the 4 – 8lb strength. The extra stretch in the line will also help in keeping small hooks in.

Rigging up

For the best results at Karkarook we are using a modified 'running' rig. On our main line we first need an anti-tangle feeder cage boom, with feeder cage attached. Below this a small soft bead to absorb shock, then a tiny black rolling swivel. Black blends in on the muddy bottom, with less chance of spooking the fish. A light fluorocarbon leader of around a metre in 4 – 8lb is attached to the other side of this swivel. At the business end we are using either a ULT style treble, or a fine gauge 'dough' style hook. Be sure to mould your dough style bait around the hook so it stays on as securely as possible.

Fine gauge hooks are a critical inclusion to your rigging up here, as the ultra-fine wire will turn subtle bites and taps into hookups on the generally small size trout in the lake.

Berley brings in the fish

Berley and what we use for berley is vital for success. Throwing sinking trout pellets into the water will make a similar sound to when the trout are fed at the hatchery and they respond well to this – and this is one method of using this berley.

On top of this method another very effective use of these specialist pellets is to make a 'clay' consistency paste of it. Breaking these pellets down with hot water in a bucket and slowly adding a fine grit pollard style powder back in will thicken your mix up. Once you're happy with the consistency leave it to cool down.

When it comes time to deploy your berley at your chosen location, the best way is to use a berley spoon. The angle of this spoon lets the berley go where you want it to; and speaking of this, make sure you continuously cast your bait where this berley is going. You're 'preparing' the fish for your offering by berleying in one zone.

The other way to successfully use this berley is to pack your feeder cage with it. By doing this you are again sending a slow release berley to the area your bait is in.

Lure fishing at Karkarook

While coarse style bait fishing is a deadly method for the lake, many anglers prefer to walk the edges and cast a lure. There are many styles that the trout here will hit on any given day, but having a reasonable selection to choose from will ultimately give you more options if the fishing is slow.

A few good starting points for the lake are small trout spoons, vibes, shallow running hardbodies and 'creature' bait style soft plastics. The main decision is to look at what terrain you have around and select the lure that will suit it best. Using this thinking, a

good starting point for the deeper open water would be to slowly roll a small trout spoon back. Around the brush and grass, a lighter weighted soft plastic rigged with a weedless hook will give you much more fishability.

A final note to keep in mind is that if you are lure fishing without much luck, changing the profile or colour pattern of your offering can entice a bite. Using a Passive, Natural, Aggressive method when selecting colours is a very good way of giving the fish multiple different options to spark their interest.

For any additional information or specifics talk to us in-store.

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