

Noojee Streams Access & Fishing Notes

Author	Geoff Churcher (For use by Southern Flyfishers Members only)	Revised 13 Nov 2013
General Comments	The Noojee Streams are all tributaries of the Latrobe River located close to Noojee	Try Google Maps
The Latrobe River	<p>The Latrobe rises on the eastern slopes of the Dividing Range south east of Marysville. It parallels the Powelltown -Noojee Road for most of its flow above Noojee. The Latrobe starts as a freestone stream but quickly descends to the meadowlands to become a slower moving weedy River near and below Noojee with a silt/sand bottom. It progressively picks up sediment and is typically tannin stained and hard to sight fish for most of its length.</p> <p>There are many access points to the Latrobe in the Noojee Township and at the Alpine Trout Farm and at several Bridge crossings over the Latrobe River above and below Noojee.</p>	In my view, the Latrobe is not an attractive or particularly productive trout stream in the meadowlands sections
The Ada River	<p>This is the first major tributary for the Latrobe. It flows North to South through thick, steep forest to join the Latrobe in the Gentle Annie Region. Access is via a bridge on the Ada Tree Road, or further up stream by bush bashing into the River from the Ada Tree Road. The river is fast, 8 -10 feet wide & freestone for most of its length. There are many logs across the River and few clear casting places. This River is definitely Bow & Arrow Cast territory. The Ada is rarely fished but there are a few good 2lb + fish for the venturesome angler</p>	<p>Don't venture onto this River alone.</p> <p>This river demands good bushcraft skills and a reasonable level of fitness</p>
The Lock River	<p>This is similar in character to the Ada. However the Lock valley is more open and less steep. The River adopts the classic attractive pool- run-pool structure. The fish are small and plentiful, but very spooky. There are several access points. The best is right in Noojee. Cross over the bridge on the Latrobe at the Recreation Reserve. Take the first track to the left for 100m and it crosses the Lock at its confluence with the Latrobe. There is a good walking track up the true left bank (face downstream) for several kms up the Lock Valley</p> <p>There are other clear access points as you drive up the Lock Valley Road. One of the best is near a horse riding school on a public access track off the left of the main Valley Road.</p>	<p>A great summer dry fly stream.</p> <p>However the fish are small and spooky.</p> <p>Seine the River to see what nymphs are present</p>

<p>The Toorong River</p>	<p>This is the most popular and heavily fished River in the Noojee area. Given the fishing pressure, this is a remarkably productive trout stream. The first access point is via a bridge across the Toorong about 2 kms east of the Noojee Township. You cross one of the Latrobe River Bridges before you reach this first Toorong bridge. The first beat is downstream to the Latrobe confluence. The second long beat is upstream from the first Toorong Bridge. To reach the upper Toorong Valley, take the signed turnoff to the left about 1 km after you cross the Latrobe Bridge at the Noojee Recreation Reserve.</p> <p>There are a total of four bridges up the Toorong Valley. All give good access to different sections of the Toorong River.</p> <p>The top car park gives access to the Toorong & Ampitheatre Falls/Cascades via a steep track on the true left bank. In summer, most Cascade pools hold at least one hungry little fish. The Cascades are not an area to fish by yourself.</p> <p>A 1+ lb fish in the Toorong is a trophy!!</p>	<p>Typically easy wading and casting on a small freestone stream in a nice pastoral setting.</p> <p>In summer fish rise readily to dry flies like Stimulators, Royal Wulffs, Elk Hair Caddis, etc in 14s and smaller.</p> <p>Remember to seine regularly as the insect populations change from section to section</p>
<p>Casting</p>	<p>These are all small streams. Casts should be short "Leader Only" style to avoid spooking the fish you can't see. If the water is less than 10 degrees, stick to double nymph rigs and small 14,16,18 size nymphs (I always use Bellas)</p>	<p>Learn to build and cast a specialist Nymphing rig & leader.</p>
<p>The Specialist Nymph Rig</p>	<p>Reverse an old WF fly line so the light running line becomes the casting line. Whip and glue a very small loop in the end of the flyline with tying thread and Aquaseal. Find an old leader. Cut the butt and tip sections off to create a 5 foot tapered leader. Tie this onto the loop in the flyline with a 3 turn cinched blood knot. Tie a tippet ring to the thin end of the taper. Tie 5 feet of 6lb Fluro Carbon tippet off the ring. Tie a double surgeons loop in the end of this tippet.</p> <p>This becomes your permanent nymphing leader. Add double nymph rigs or dry fly & dropper rigs using loop to loop connections. Add indicators as needed but try and learn to strike by feel & changes to the bridge curve.</p>	<p>This rig allows you to create an "aerial bridge" between the rod tip ring and the indicator.</p> <p>The only thing on the water is the indicator and the tippet / nymphs</p>
<p>Stalking</p>	<p>Stalking is a key part of short line fishing. Casts are rarely more than the leader + 4-6 feet of flyline outside the rod tip. You must get close to</p>	

	<p>your target fish / drifts. Keep the rod tip low and behind you until you actually cast. Use knee pads. Kneel down and tuck yourself in under the banks / bushes to lower your profile. Stay out of the water wherever possible and wade very, very slowly. Use bow & arrow casts or flick casts rather than multiple false casts.</p>	
<p> Holding Water</p>	<p>90% of the fish live in 10% of the river. The key fishing skill is knowing which 10%! Look for slower water behind obstructions and at the edge of current seams. The best holding water is moving at slow walking pace between half and 1 metre a second. The critical skill is to cast steer you nymphs / indicators so they stall and drift slowly, drag free through tis holding water.</p>	

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