

'Super Bass' from Lake MacDonald

Just a couple hours from Brisbane, and right on the Sunshine Coast, Kim reckons all-electric Lake MacDonald is a big chance for a bruising encounter with bass on steroids, the occasional (big) saratoga - and a surf down at Noosa in the middle of the day!

Part 10, and the final instalment in our present series on freshwater impoundments & rivers written and photographed by Kim Bain with assistance from her Dad, Steve Bain.

Last month in F&B we visited Lake Borumba, an impoundment situated in Queensland's beautiful Sunshine Coast Hinterland. Located nearby, but closer to the coast towards Noosa, is another productive bass and saratoga fishery, Lake Macdonald.

Like most terminal water storages (Lake Macdonald supplies water to Noosa Shire) it is what is commonly referred to as 'electric only' which means only vessels powered by non-combustion engines may boat on the dam. (*electric only = electric power, sailing, rowing or paddling*)

Lake Macdonald is somewhat different to many other "electric only" impoundments in that you are allowed to leave your "big" engine (ie the petrol combustion engine) on the boat. This means that Lake Macdonald becomes an ideal day trip option if you're having an extended camping/fishing trip either to Lake Borumba or the Noosa region.

Macdonald is easily accessible to Sunshine Coast



Above: The dam wall (about twenty metres behind us) should be fished with care.

residents and is approximately a two hour drive from Brisbane.

MacDonald's Super Bass

There is one reason above all others why you would want to fish Lake Macdonald - and that's for the super beefed up bass which this environment supports. To borrow from a well used expression, there are bass and there are super bass.

My visit to Glenbawn Dam in NSW introduced me to super bass and let me tell you - Lake Macdonald in QLD has super bass too! Their bodies are broad and strong, allowing these bass to be powerful fighters.

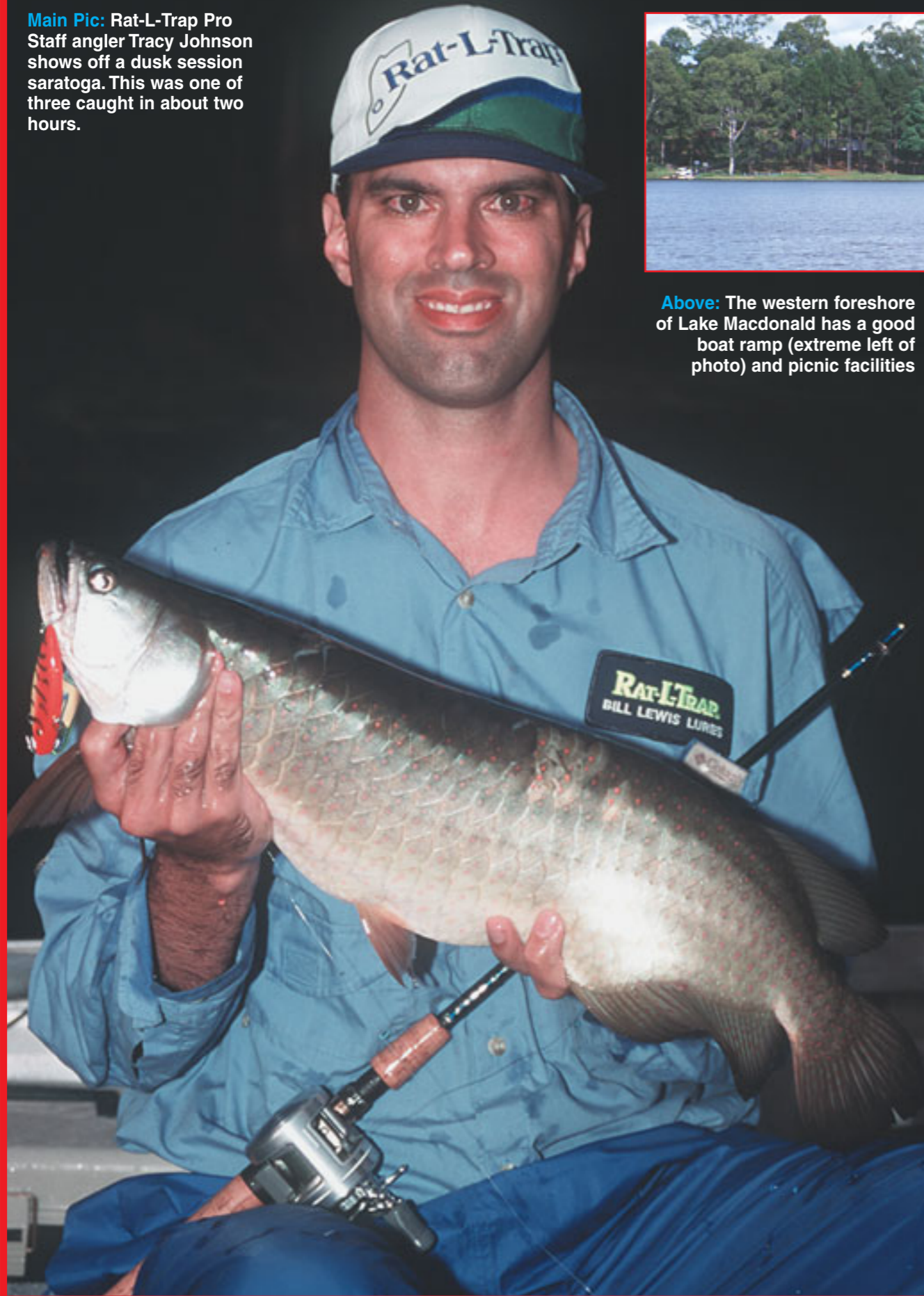
Macdonald bass hit like a freight train and possess the ability to bust you up on the strike (especially if the drag is a little sticky on light line). These hard hitters will

surprise you with their power, they'll slam your rod down until it is parallel to the water and use the half-metre of line that they've gained to brick you in the weeds. That thought should keep you on your toes - *it works for me!*

Fishing Lake Macdonald

By gathering the fishing experience of friends and family who have visited

Main Pic: Rat-L-Trap Pro Staff angler Tracy Johnson shows off a dusk session saratoga. This was one of three caught in about two hours.



Above: The western foreshore of Lake Macdonald has a good boat ramp (extreme left of photo) and picnic facilities

