

Current bass champion Harry Watson shows how successful flies can be at Moogerah Dam



Freshwater Fishing with Kim Bain

# The Moogerah Experience

Part 3 in our series on freshwater impoundments & rivers, written and photographed by Kim Bain

In the picturesque countryside, between Boonah and Aratula in southeast Queensland, lies Moogerah Dam. The dam, situated amongst the striking mountains of the Fassifern Valley, offers families a relaxing get away location, with a wonderful environment that is perfect for many outdoor recreations, including fishing, swimming, camping and all forms of boating.

When at 100 per cent capacity, the dam often impresses travelers. With a 92,500 ml capacity, 880 ha surface area and a mean depth of 10.5 m Moogerah is considered to be a medium sized impoundment.

The dam, which runs off Reynolds Creek, was constructed in 1962 for irrigation purposes. However, the dam now also hosts an excellent fishery for many of our Australian favourites. Aussie bass and yellowbelly are the most popularly targeted species.

The Maroon-Moogerah Fish Management Committee has stocked bass for approximately nine years and even longer for other species like golden perch and Mary River cod. The stocking association conducts an annual fishing competition to help fund their stockings for the dam, most of their other funding comes from chook raffles and the like. Moogerah can now boast big bass, bigger cod and impressive golden perch. The perfect reward for their hard work.



Kim with a brace of big, beautifully conditioned Moogerah bass. With fish like these on tap, no wonder the inland dam 'circuit' is booming!

Other species also present in the dam are silver perch, spangled perch, catfish and some lure munching serpent-like eels.

**Getting There** Moogerah Dam is an easily accessible destination for those wishing for a weekend away

(or perhaps even a week), as it is approximately an hour and a half drive from Brisbane.

From Brisbane, travellers can follow the Cunningham highway until they come to the Boonah-Fassifern Road that is just north of Aratula. Turn left onto the Boonah-Fassifern Road and then you will only need to travel a few km before taking a right hand turn onto the Lake Moogerah Road. This road will lead to the A.G. Muller Park where the caravan and camping grounds are situated.

If travelling from the Gold Coast area, drive to Beaudesert and then along the Beaudesert-Boonah Road to Boonah. At the big roundabout in Boonah exit westwards along the Boonah-Fassifern Road until you reach the Lake Moogerah Road as mentioned above.

**Camping Facilities** The camping facilities at Moogerah Dam's A.G. Muller Park are excellent. Both tent and caravan sites (powered or unpowered) are available, with tent sites available next to the water's edge if desired. To avoid disappointment booking a site is recommended, especially during peak times (like school holidays, Christmas and Easter).

**For booking contact the Lake Moogerah Caravan Park on phone: (07) 5463 0141 or fax (07) 5463 0197.**

Facilities at the park include toilets, plenty of showers (with hot water), playground, public phones and wood