

Glenbawn Dam, NSW

Glenbawn is a big dam up the back of the Hunter River in central NSW, an area deservedly famous for its red wines, racehorses and thumping big bass and goldens. For Kim, it was a chance to break out of QLD and take the long trip south to compete in the growing Pro Bass Tournament circuit.

Part 8 in our series on freshwater impoundments & rivers, this month written and photographed by Kim Bain

Over the past few months I have reviewed many south-east Queensland impoundments in a series dedicated to travelling families and keen freshwater anglers. This month my trusty Stessl Edgetracker and I head a little further afield to Glenbawn Dam in New South Wales for the second round of the Pro Bass Tournament circuit.

With the rumour mill running wild with stories of big bass to 10lb that bust you off in the timbers, we headed across the border with the hope of encountering one of these well conditioned bass.

Amidst the beautiful ranges of the Upper Hunter Valley, host to many reputable vineyards and horse studs, lies Glenbawn Dam on the Hunter River about twenty kilometres east of Scone on the New England Highway, New South Wales.

The Dam The original wall which dammed the upper reaches of the Hunter River was completed in 1956. However, in 1987 the wall was heightened and the dam's capacity tripled to a massive 750,000 million litres, almost three times the volume of Sydney Harbour! Today the wall stands 100 metres high and stretches to 1125 metres long. The lake itself is approximately 20 kilometres in length with an area of 2614 hectares and a



Facing page: Tim Stessl with a quality 470mm Glenbawn bass. (Mind you though, you'd have to see the size of Tim before you appreciated the size of the bass!) **Left:** The author with a solid 390mm bass caught during the first session of Australian Bass Tournament's round two held at Glenbawn Dam.

through Stanthorpe, Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Guyra, Armidale on the New England Highway and past Tamworth onto Scone. Once in Scone, head through town and follow the signs. There should be a brown tourist sign indicating the direction of Glenbawn Dam. This should lead you over a small causeway. Scone is the last town you'll be travelling through so if you need any supplies (there is a Woolworths), including gas or fuel,

maximum depth of 85 metres.

Additionally, the dam has an extra reserve capacity of 120,000 million litres to hold flood waters and reduce flooding in the river downstream.

The dam supplies water to the surrounding regions, as well being a power output which is connected to the main NSW power grid via a mini hydroelectric plant which was constructed in the dam wall in 1995.

How To Get There Travelling from Brisbane we headed south-west to Warwick. We then went south again

this may be worth a stop.

If you are travelling from the south along the New England Highway you will come through Muswellbrook and onto Aberdeen. In Aberdeen you will find another turn off to the Dam. Aberdeen is about 25km south of Scone. Glenbawn Dam is approximately two hours from Newcastle and three hours from Sydney.

Navigation On Glenbawn There are many hazards in Glenbawn Dam which boaters should be aware of. These

