

# FISHING IN WALCHA



The Trout fishing location map has been designed by the Walcha Bowling Recreation & Fishing Club and shows most of the water gazetted by NSW Fisheries in Walcha Shire.

**Please note: NSW Recreational Rules apply to all anglers in these waters.**

Property locations are approximate and errors or omissions are inadvertent.

This map does **NOT** entitle entry to private property, owners permission must be sought.

Please ensure that **ALL** gates are left as found and **ANY** rubbish is removed when leaving.

**Please note: Recreational Fishers now need a licence to fish in N.S.W.**

*(those under 18, holders of Commonwealth pension cards & Aboriginal people are exempt)*

**NSW Freshwater Recreational Fishing licences are available at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) or WALCHA NEWSAGENCY**

\$7 - for 3 days  
\$14 - for 1 month  
\$35 - for 1 year  
\$85 - for 3 years

## TIPS FOR THE FIRST TIMER

- ◆ Always let someone know where you are going and when you intend to be back.
- ◆ You may fish in any stream from a boat or while walking on the stream bed, regardless of who owns the adjacent land. However, you **MUST** get the owner's permission to cross private land to get to a stream.
- ◆ Try and be as quiet as possible when approaching the water. Trout are very aware of any changes in the scenery and the skyline, and that includes a group of people standing on the edge of their water hole. If you are wearing bright clothing and making a lot of noise, this makes your task a little harder.
- ◆ Trout generally feed at dawn and on dusk. You will probably see them 'rising' at these times which will indicate how active the fish are and even what they are eating. However you don't have to limit your fishing to these times, but if you are fishing in the middle of the day, try to fish in cool spots; in shade, in deep pools and at the base of runs, or even in the runs where the water is more aerated, as trout like to stay cool.
- ◆ Have a look around the area where you intend to fish.
  - ◇ Take note of any insects that are plentiful, as they could be what the trout are feeding on. If you are fly or lure fishing, try to choose the lure that is most similar to the insects that you find. If you don't have any bait with you, have a look around for a good spot to dig a few worms. And old fallen tree is usually a good supply of insect larvae and grubs.
  - ◇ It may sound silly, but try and imagine where you would be hiding if you were a fish. They like to sit in under the bank or in a little nook or cranny during the day to get out of the hot sun. However, at feeding time, they are closer to the surface and moving around more.
- ◆ Trout hate being hooked just as much as any fish, so prepare yourself for a bit of a fight when you catch one. It is a good idea to have a landing net with you because a lot of fish are lost attempting to get them out of the water.
- ◆ Obviously if your bait is being ignored, try something different.

**RIVERSIDE** (50km East of Walcha on the Moona Plains Rd)

**KEY REQUIRED FROM NPWS WALCHA - OPEN MON - FRI**

Eastern Australian Bass/Perch fishing has come to the fore at 'Riverside' trail which offers unique wilderness access at the Apsley River about an hour east of Walcha.

- ◆ **Bookings** can be made at the NPWS office in Walcha, 188w North St, **Ph: 02 6777 4700** The NPWS office is not open on weekends, if you require access on weekends you will need to pre-book.
- ◆ Your vehicle **MUST HAVE LOW RANGE 4WD**. When you obtain the key your vehicle will be assessed.
- ◆ **NO CARAVANS, TRAILERS or MOTORBIKES** of any description are to be taken down to 'Riverside'.

Price / Vehicle		
RIVERSIDE (4WD access only)	DAY Entry	CAMPING per night
General	\$20	\$30
Pensioner OR National Parks annual entry permit holder	\$12	\$20

## THINGS TO TAKE

- Bait (worms) or lures or both!
- Fishing rod, with line, sinkers and some hooks
- Landing net, pliers to remove hooks easily
- Sturdy footwear, hat and sunscreen
- Small knife or pocket knife to dress your catch
- Bag to put your fish in – ultimately an esky full of ice
- Camera – for proof of the 'one that got away'!!

The Walcha Bowling Recreation & Fishing Club is a non-profit body, all funds raised go to the restocking of our streams and rivers.

The Club runs an annual competition for members.

Weigh-in of fish (gilled and gutted) can be done at the Walcha Bowling Club. Membership is also available here.

The Club would ask that you return any undersized fish to the water unharmed.

*We wish you good fishing and an enjoyable time in Walcha.*

- ◆ There are a lot of Craybobs or Yabbies (small fresh water crayfish) and they will eat anything you put in the water, including your bait. There isn't anything you can do to stop them from stealing your bait. You may also catch a turtle or an eel, both of which will feel like a snag because they are so large.
- ◆ If there has been a lot of rain and the water is dirty and flooding, you may want to try again another day. In flood conditions the fish stay pretty quiet.
- ◆ If you are fishing small waters, try casting at the base of the 'runs' because there is food being washed into the water and your bait will easily be mistaken as a tasty morsel.
- ◆ Wear good shoes as snakes are active during summer.

## TROUT FISHING (Cool running waters of the highlands)

The cool, clear running waters of the highlands provide the perfect environment for trout populations to live and breed successfully and Walcha Bowling Recreation & Fishing Club ensures that there is always oncoming stocks by replenishing the streams annually.

Each season, tourists and keen anglers come from all parts of Australia and even from overseas to try their luck at catching one of these beautiful fish and you can join in the fun. The whole family can enjoy a day out fishing with trout waters easily accessible by car – some as close as 15 minutes from town.

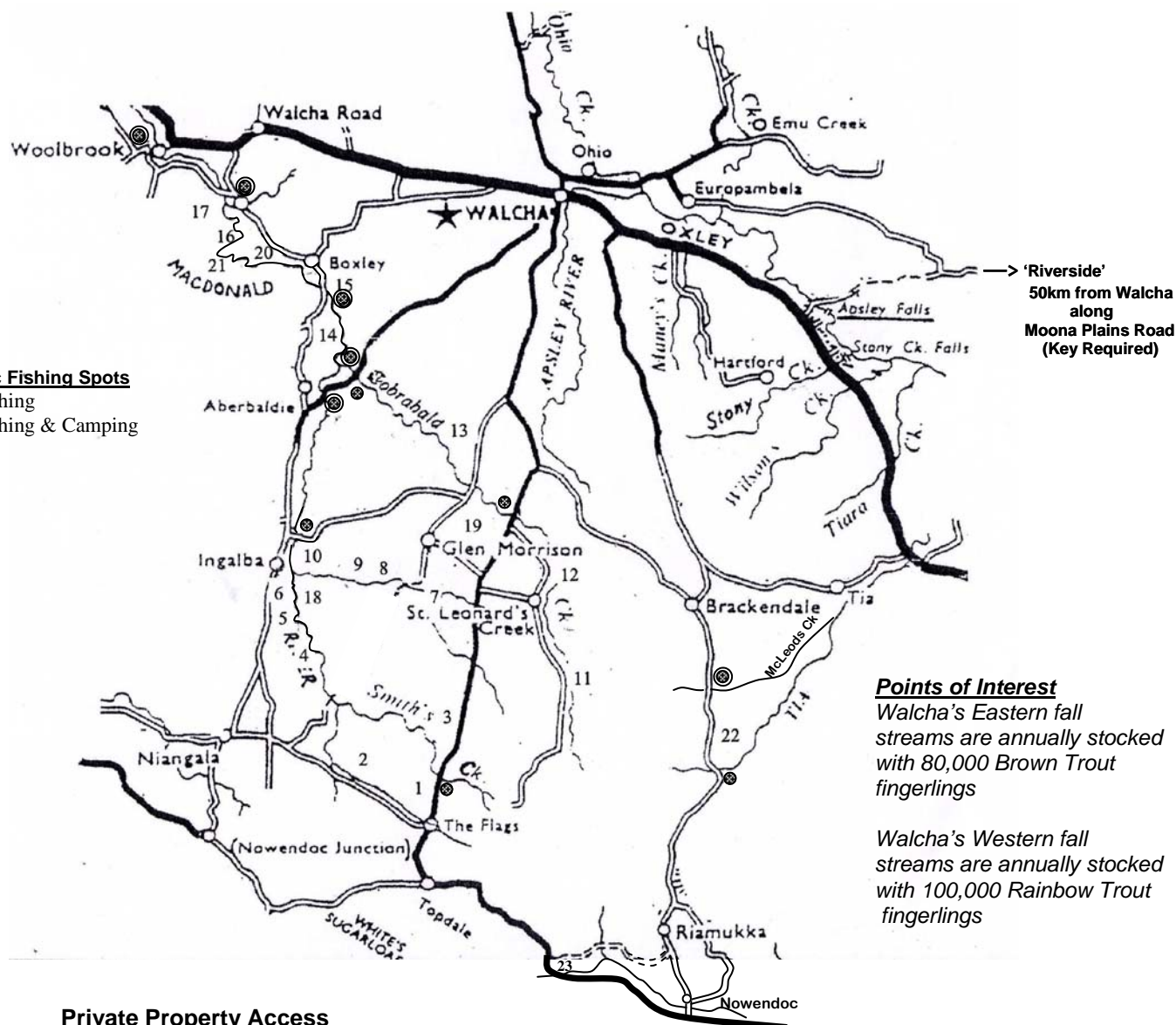
With some basic fishing gear and a little patience, you could be hauling in a decent fish for dinner as trout are an excellent table fish either whole or as fillets or cutlets. If you are camping out, it is recommended you have some foil and lemon handy. Nothing tastes better than fresh fish off the barbeque!

## EASTERN BASS (Riverside & Macleay Gorges Wilderness Areas)

Bass are surface feeders and are caught most prolifically with lures or flies with a bit of persistence. They have been known to take a worm but it depends on the season as to what they will be biting on. If you are lucky enough to catch one - hang on for dear life - as they usually like a fight, because of this and the larger sized fish you need to use a heavier line & hooks than what you would use for trout. Catch and release methods are encouraged in the Macleay Gorges Wilderness due to bass stocks decreasing as access to fishing areas increases.

### Public Fishing Spots

- Fishing
- ⊙ Fishing & Camping



### Points of Interest

Walcha's Eastern fall streams are annually stocked with 80,000 Brown Trout fingerlings

Walcha's Western fall streams are annually stocked with 100,000 Rainbow Trout fingerlings

### Private Property Access CONTACT NAMES & NUMBERS

1. Neil Brazel	6777 6441
2. David Ross	6769 2269
3. <i>Currently unavailable</i>	
4. Alissa West	6777 6521
5. Alan Kermode	6777 6537
6. Dean Lummis	6777 6516
7. <i>Currently unavailable</i>	
8. Michael Campbell	6777 6470
9. Alan Kermode	6777 6537
10. Alissa West	6777 6521
11. Jim Young	6777 6426
12. Peter Wauch	6777 6448
13. <i>Currently unavailable</i>	
14. Craig Ireland	6777 2250
15. Gary Olrich	6777 5852
16. <i>Currently unavailable</i>	
17. Don Scott	6777 5853
18. <i>Currently unavailable</i>	
19. George Pethard	6777 6462
20. Bruce Davidson	6777 5844
21. <i>Currently unavailable</i>	
22. Evan Dunn	6777 3980
23. Rob Laurie	6777 0954

### A FEW RULES TO FOLLOW

- Please take all your rubbish with you when you leave
- If you go through private property, please leave the gates as you find them, and it's probably best to leave your pets at home – PETS are NOT permitted in National Parks.
- You may NOT use a net, gaff, spear guns, spears, bows and arrows, poison, explosives, firearms or a light.
- It is illegal for recreational anglers to sell their catch.
- You are only permitted one rod or line per person for trout fishing, two attended lines are permitted for 'Bass'
- Rods and line must be attended – no more than 10m from you and in sight.
- No more than two hooks, lures or flies per rod
- You are permitted no more than 5 trout for your bag limit (or 10 in possession). Bass have a limit of two per day or four in possession and only one of the four can be over 35cm.
- The legal length for trout is 25cm. If you catch smaller trout, carefully remove the hook and gently return the fish to the water.
- Frogs and live fish are NOT to be used as bait.

**More Information: Walcha Visitor Information Centre**

**Ph: (02) 6774 2460**

**[www.walchansw.com.au](http://www.walchansw.com.au)**

