

Currawong Lakes

Trout Fishery and Game Park

by senior correspondent Jennifer Martens



Tasmania is known throughout the world for its beautiful scenery, unique wildlife and delicious food, but to keen outdoorsmen and women, it is also known for the abundant hunting and fishing opportunities. A favourite wingshooting destination for many is Tasmania's Currawong Lakes Trout Fishery and Game Park. Whether you are an avid wingshooter, a devoted fly-fisherman or a competitive clay target shooter, Currawong Lakes can make a weekend in the Tasmanian bush the perfect getaway.

Home to Australia's only traditional wild bird shoot, Currawong Lakes is nestled in state forest in the east

coast highlands between Lake Leake and Tooms Lake. It borders Long Marsh water reserve and Tooms Lake conservation area. The serenity afforded by the 3000-acre property is priceless; when you are there, the stresses of life in the city simply disappear. Currawong Lakes is the only shoot offering the opportunity to bag a wild bird outside of King Island.

Currawong Lakes' world-class clay target range allows you to fine-tune your shooting before heading into the bush. The range is designed for both novice and experienced shooters and offers 16 fully-automatic traps throwing challenging targets in a 5-Stand layout.

The fishery and game park is home

to three lakes, which are filled with trophy-sized rainbow and brown trout. Fishing is available all year round without a licence. If fly-fishing is something you have never done or you just need that little bit of help, tuition and guiding is available.

With the many restrictions facing wingshooters on the Australian mainland due to drought, Currawong Lakes is the ideal place to visit when you want to hunt birds. Partridge, bobwhite quail and ringneck pheasant can all be found flying over and around the bountiful Tasmanian grassland and cover crops.

Currawong Lakes breeds its own birds and has its own unique population of wild birds. It ensures there are



plenty of them and that they are properly provided for. Most of the shoots are free of bag limits. Wingshooting is available between May and August. During that time it can get quite brisk, with snow making frequent appearances. If you are looking for a unique wingshooting experience, this cold-weather pursuit will certainly fit the bill. For those who want to experience that extra level of service during their stay, Currawong Lakes provides a bird dressing and packing service.

All shoots are supervised by Currawong Lakes' experienced gamekeepers and dog handlers. The cocker spaniels, Springer spaniels and English pointers used on the hunts are fully trained

birddogs bred from full pedigree stock imported from Britain.

If you want to avoid all of the hassles typically associated with travelling with firearms, take advantage of one of Currawong Lakes many Miroku 12- or 20-gauge over-and-under shotguns on loan free of charge. Ammunition for the 12- and 20-gauge is also available to purchase.

After a full and successful day of fishing, hunting or shooting clays, you'll enjoy retiring to the privacy of one of Currawong's four-star self-contained cabins. Each is equipped with a full kitchen, dining area, television, electric blankets and wood fires. Currawong Lakes also has a

purpose-built sportsman's lodge and a fully equipped licensed restaurant to cater for visitors who do not wish to cook for themselves.

Currawong Lakes has it all: beautiful scenery, excitement, abundant wildlife, great food, tranquillity and comfort. It is suited to individuals, small groups and larger corporate events. For more information, phone Currawong's manager Fiona King on 03 6381 1148 or email trout@currawonglakes.com or Currawong's head gamekeeper Adam Churchill on 0438 683 481. If you are not already tempted, visit www.currawonglakes.com.au for a glimpse at what is waiting for you down in Tasmania. ●