



The Buffelsrivier Dam, Pringle Bay, near Cape Hangklip.

(Photo: From colour, G. M. Powis)

THE BUFFELSRIVIER DAM

By G. M. POWIS

THIS delightful reservoir is situated up in the hills behind PRINGLE BAY about 85 km. from Cape Town, and not far from Cape Hangklip, the eastern approach to False Bay.

To get there, proceed along Settlers Way to where the freeway starts opposite the Mowbray Golf Course and there set your trip-meter. Follow the freeway past the Airport straight on to the bottom of Sir Lowry's Pass. As the freeway starts to ascend the Pass at 45 km. turn right to Gordons Bay, about 5 km. from the freeway. When you reach Gordons Bay, turn left up the hill on to the Marine Drive.

The views from this drive are spectacular but the road must be negotiated with care. At 72 km. you will cross the ROOI ELS RIVER and proceed up a steep hill to reach the head of a valley 1 km. beyond. The road proceeds down the valley to the right, and at 76 km. you will come to a gravel road, turning back sharply to the left, which leads to the dam, about 1½ km. from the tarred road.

The key to the gate can be obtained either from Joseph, the Coloured on duty at the filtration plant which is the large dark green corrugated iron shed easily seen from the turnoff, or, alternatively, from Mr. Roy Ross, whose house, "Porto da Silva", lies just on the left of the tarred road beyond the turnoff at 79 km.

When you reach the dam the easiest place to park and turn is just below the wall where the road forks. One can, however, proceed up the steep "sleeper"-covered track to the top of the wall, where turning could be dangerous and is not advised.

A better plan is to proceed up over the wall and on past the dam and turn further up the valley. Be careful where the road is collapsing into the water.

The dam itself is about 500 ft. above sea level, and one can look down over Pringle Bay and False Bay from the wall. It is a little more than a kilometre long and varies between 200 and 300 metres wide.

The whole setting amongst the mountains is attractive and reminds one of a Scottish loch, particularly in conditions of cloud or early morning mist.

The water itself is brown and acid—not unlike that of Steenbras dam. The pH content is 5.6, which is low, which would point to browns doing better than rainbows whose anadromous tendency seems to become accentuated by these conditions with the result that they go over the wall and are lost as there is no return ladder. Already several have been found in the pools below the wall, all of whom subsequently died.

The daily bag limit is four fish of regulation size. Fishing hours are sunrise to sunset. The closed season shall be observed.

Cars entering the prohibited area shall bear the Society's green sticker.

The Society has been allocated the right to fish two rods per day, whilst four rods have been allocated to other parties by the Caledon Divisional Council, under whose aegis control of this water falls.

A rainbow trout of about 12 inches, leaping a six-foot weir in strong water. Eerste River, Stellenbosch.

(Photo: B. Manning)

