



Saratoga are absolute suckers for a spinnerbait and on this day, they really wanted that green and yellow Vortex!

green and yellow colouration. Oh well, what could I say? Surely the colour wouldn't make *that* much difference? Forcing a smile, I tied on a black version of the same lure.

Using a similar approach to the one we'd employed with the Bassrats and Scumfrogs, our spinnerbaits were cast deep in among the windows and gaps in the lilies, especially anywhere there was a reasonable line of semi-open water along which to retrieve them.

Starlo got straight into the action, and plenty of it. He was getting smacked by 'toga and small tarpon left right and centre, connecting to enough to keep him yahooping with delight. Meanwhile, my black spinnerbait didn't even register a bump. A bit annoyed that I'd been so nice to Starlo and let him have his choice, I cut the black-skirted lure off my leader and tied on a white version of the same.

At last I received a couple of bumps and finally hooked a few 'toga, but I certainly wasn't having as good a day as Starlo. Similar retrieve, lure cast in identical areas, but the fish were definitely responding more positively to the green/chartreuse colour. Eventually, Starlo's spinnerbait became

so bent and chewed that it barely had any action left and his strike rate declined. Interestingly, it was about then he kindly offered to swap his first choice for the white Vortex I was using... Nice.

## TAKES THE CAKE

Ah, victory is *so* sweet! But didn't she whinge and moan about me picking her favourite spinnerbait? Build a bridge and get over it, I say.

All this reminded me of the story about a big sister offering her little brother a plate with the last two slices of cake on it; one big and one small. Eagerly, the lad seizes the biggest slice and crams it into his mouth. Noticing his sister's crestfallen look as he chews, the boy is puzzled.

"Whad?" he manages to ask around the mouthful of moist chocolate sponge and creamy icing.

"Well," she replies, tearfully, "it's just that if you'd offered *me* the plate first, I'd have taken the smaller slice."

The lad finishes swallowing, burps, wipes his mouth with the back of his hand and says: "Well, what are you belly-aching about? You got it anyway!"

Women, huh? ■

To find out more about the various Reel Women Fishing Classics, read Starlo's column on page 18 of this issue, or visit [www.reelwomen.com.au](http://www.reelwomen.com.au), where you'll also find links to the Anglers' Choice Fishing Safaris site.

Also, check out the Northern Territory Fishing Guide, free with this month's *Modern Fishing*.

## Modern fishing PRO TIPS

- 1 Both weedless topwater lures (soft and hard-bodied) and spinnerbaits are extremely effective on billabong saratoga.
- 2 When targeting 'toga (and other fish) on snag-resistant offerings, allow the fish to turn away with the lure before striking.
- 3 Experiment with different lure choices and colours to discover what's working best on any given day.
- 4 Be prepared! Carry a range of different lure styles with you when you travel and don't be afraid to throw in some unusual or off-beat selections.
- 5 When you're offered first choice of lures from a shared tackle box, make sure you're *really* allowed to take the one you prefer!