

MEDIA RELEASE

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Communities bust carp in southern Queensland

Fisher men, women and children across southern Queensland will have the chance to attack European Carp this year, with the first Regional Carp Busters competition series beginning this weekend in Surat.

Six fishing clubs have joined forces with natural resource management organisation, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), to coordinate one of the biggest community pushes to control the pest fish in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Lavinnia Fiedler, Weeds and Pest Animal Technical Officer with QMDC, said "We've had huge success with local carp buster competitions over the past two years, so, this year, we're working with six fishing clubs and their communities to launch a more coordinated attack on the European Carp."

Surat, Thallon, Goondiwindi, Mungindi, St. George and Dirranbandi will all host linked fishing competitions over 2008, with local event prizes, and an overall grand prize of \$2000 cash for the most carp caught and destroyed across the six competitions.

"People who enter any of the six competitions will be rewarded points for their catches, and these points will accumulate for each competition they attend," said Lavinnia.

"Carp is one of the world's most widely distributed freshwater fish and has invaded a large section of southern Queensland's rivers, creeks and dams," she said.

"And the impacts it has on the cleanliness of the water and food sources can have really dire effects on habitat, vegetation, and our native fish species."

With the breeding potential of the European Carp being about 200,000 eggs per kilogram of fish, Lavinnia said that controlling the pest fish was becoming very important.

"The Regional Carp Buster competition series will be an opportunity for all those people who use and value the rivers to help combat this massive threat," she said.

The Regional Carp Buster competition series will begin in Surat this Australia Day weekend, 26 and 27 January.

"We're expecting a pretty big turnout," said Surat Fishing and Re-stocking Club president, Greg Richardson.

"Last year, we had nearly 500 people come from all over the place, and this year's competition, being linked like it is, should be even bigger."

Greg said that the two days would include a range of fun family activities, like rubber duck and raft racing.

"As well as the more serious business of educating everyone about the effects of carp, and getting rid of as many of them as we can," he said.

Registrations for the competition will open at 9am on Saturday, 26 January, and prizes have reached the thousands in dollar value, thanks to some generous sponsorship.

“Surat’s major prize for the adult category will be a three metre punt, with a 36lb MotorGuide electric motor, thanks to Waterskiers Warehouse in Toowoomba,” said Greg.

“And for the kid’s category, Boat, Bullet and Blade in St. George have donated a heap of camping gear as the major prize.”

All people registered for the Surat Carp Buster competition will go in the draw for the overall \$2000 cash prize.

For more information, contact the following:

- Surat Carp Busters – 26-27 January – phone Greg Richardson on 07 4626 5298
- Thallon Carp Busters – 15-16 March – phone Liz Spackman on 07 4625 9105
- Goondiwindi Carp Cull – 26-27 April – phone John Billsborough on 07 4671 4117
- Mungindi Carp Busters – 17-18 May – phone Red Trindall on 02 6753 2202
- St. George Carp Busters – 20-21 September – phone Kerry King on 07 4625 3636
- Dirranbandi Carp Busters – 18-19 October – phone Jack Taylor on 0428 989 728

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Images



Local angler, Aaron Prendergast, with a European Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). This year, fisher men, women and children across southern Queensland will be asked to catch as many carp as they can.