

MEDIA RELEASE

10 March 2008



Thallon set to bust some carp

Six fishing clubs have joined forces with natural resource management group, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), to coordinate one of the biggest community awareness programs for European Carp in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Surat, Thallon, Goondiwindi, Mungindi, St. George and Dirranbandi will all host linked Carp Busters fishing competitions over 2008, with local event prizes, and a grand cash prize of \$2000 for those who catch and destroy the most carp over all six competitions.

Surat held their Carp Busters event on 26 and 27 January with great success and now it is Thallon's turn to hold their event.

On 15 and 16 March, the Thallon Fishing Club will host Carp Busters on the banks of the Moonie River.

"We're inviting people from far and wide to pull as many carp out of our river as they can, and win some great prizes along the way, too," said Liz Spackman, from the Thallon Fishing Club.

"People can begin registering at 10am on the Saturday (15 March), and camping for registered anglers will be free at either the Thallon Showground, or on the river banks," she said.

"The fishing club will also be putting on a bar and BBQ, as well as some free entertainment, on the Saturday night."

Sponsors, QMDC, said that the day was a fun way for local communities to do something about one of the most serious fish pests in the Murray-Darling Basin.

"These events not only allow us to raise the awareness of the introduced European Carp, but to highlight a host of other issues surrounding the management of our river and creek systems, and reasons for native fish declines," said QMDC's Lavinnia Fiedler

"By raising awareness of these issues, we hope to encourage a coordinated, integrated approach to total river restoration, which will encourage the re-establishment of native fish species," she said.

If you are interested in finding out more, or want to register for the Thallon Carp Buster event, please contact Liz Spackman on 07 4625 9105.

ENDS

Media contact/s

Released by: Amelia Radford, Communication Officer, QMDC, 07 4637 6234

More information: Lavinnia Fiedler, Weeds and Pest Technical Officer, QMDC, 07 4622 8446
Liz Spackman, Thallon Fishing Club, 07 4625 9105

Images

Please see following page for thumbnail images. If you would like high resolution images, please contact Amelia Radford on 07 4637 6234, or ameliar@qmdc.org.au.



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.



A young angler gets his carp catch weighed and measured at the recent Surat Carp Buster event.