

MEDIA RELEASE

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Gundy set to bust some carp

The Goondiwindi Carp Cull, third in a six part series of Carp Busting competitions, will be on again this Anzac Day long weekend.

The Goondiwindi Fishing Club is one of six clubs to 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 prize of \$2000 in cash for those who catch and destroy the most carp over all six competitions.

Surat and Thallon have both held successful events, and now it is Goondiwindi's turn to do their bit in the management of this persistent pest.

Locals and visitors, alike, have been invited to register at the Goondiwindi Bowls Club from 5pm Friday, 25 April for the local Carp Cull, which will run on 26 and 27 April. People registering will need to purchase a three day NSW fishing permit from the Gundy Sports Centre in Marshall Street, which costs \$6.

A barbeque breakfast and barbeque lunch will be put on by the fishing club on Saturday and Sunday, and evening meals will be available from the Bowls Club on Friday and Saturday night.

Megan Purvis, QMDC Riverine Technical Officer said "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."

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

Last year's Goondiwindi Carp Cull attracted more than 150 anglers. John Billsborough, Goondiwindi Fishing Club president, said that he expected a good turn out this year, as there has been a renewed interest in fishing recently.

People interested in finding out more, or who would like to register, can contact John Billsborough from the Goondiwindi Fishing Club on 07 4671 4117.

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Aaron Prendergast lands a carp at last year's Carp Cull.