

MEDIA RELEASE

31 September 2008

"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"



Anglers line up in St. George to bust carp

More than 300 anglers lined up on 20 and 21 September for the annual St. George Carp Buster Competition, removing 216 European Carp from the Balonne River.

After nearly four months since the last Carp Buster event in Mungindi, St. George was the fifth community to host the event as part of a region-wide series, coordinated by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) and organised by fishing clubs from Surat, Thallon, Goondiwindi, Mungindi, St. George and Dirranbandi.

"Carp have become such a problem, their numbers are increasing and the degradation they cause is being compounded by drought, run-off, and water and land management practices," said QMDC's Lavinnia Fiedler.

"Interest from the community to do something about managing carp has been high after a number of Carp Buster events over the past few years around southern Queensland," she said.

As a result, QMDC partnered with six fishing clubs to combine six Carp Buster events into a regional series.

"The Regional Carp Buster Series was put together to raise community awareness about the damage caused by the feral European Carp and other issues adding to the degradation of river and creek systems and native fish declines, particularly in the Murray-Darling Basin," said Lavinnia.

Anglers have been accumulating points for every carp caught, and every event attended. The angler with the most points at the end of the final event, being held in Dirranbandi on 18-19 October, will win a cash prize of \$2,000.

St. George and District Fishing Club treasurer, Kerry King, said that the series concept had been embraced by the community.

"People have been travelling from all over the region to attend our event," she said. "It's been great for the town, for the fishing club, and for the cause, educating people about how we can take care of our rivers, and hopefully see the return of the native species we'd all prefer to be catching."

The final Carp Buster event will be held in Dirranbandi on 18-19 October. For more information, please contact QMDC's Maranoa-Balonne office in Roma on 07 4622 8446, or Jack Taylor from the Dirranbandi Fishing Club on 0428 989 728

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Images



Caption: Vawn Wilson, from St. George, pulled this 4.631kg carp out of the Balonne River during the recent St. George Carp Buster Event.