

# MEDIA RELEASE



23 October 2008

"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

## Anglers clean up in Dirranbandi for National Water Week

More than 130 people attended the 2008 Regional Carp Buster Series final in Dirranbandi on 18 and 19 October. The event was part of National Water Week celebrations, and saw 161 European Carp removed from the Balonne River.

Dirranbandi Fishing and Restocking Club President, Jack Taylor, said that the day had been very successful. "Carp is such a problem in our river, so it was great to see so many people come out and support the competition, and come and learn more about this and other threats to the health of the Balonne," he said.

More than 600 anglers participated in the six part series, which was held across southern Queensland since Australia Day, in January. Over 800 carp were removed from the Balonne, Moonie and Macintyre River systems.

Bruce Johnson, from Thallon, won the \$2000 cash prize, having attended the most events, and caught the most carp of any other participant.

Bruce said that his secret was in his specially prepared bait and carefully picking his fishing location. "We don't allow any bananas near our fishing boat, either," said Bruce, believing bananas to be very bad luck for anglers.

One of the organising sponsors of the Regional Carp Buster Series, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee, said that it 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.

"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.

QMDC partnered with fishing clubs from Surat, Thallon, Goondiwindi, Mungindi, St. George and Dirranbandi to combine six local Carp Buster events into a regional series.

"The series has been one of the biggest community awareness-raising programs in this area," she said. "We hope that events like this will encourage a coordinated and integrated approach to total river restoration, which will encourage the return of native fish species."

**ENDS**

### **Media contact/s**

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### **Images**



Tyrone Scriven, one of the junior anglers at the Dirranbandi Carp Buster event, with his catch.

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