

MEDIA RELEASE

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Carp Cull

The Goondiwindi Carp Cull attracted over 200 anglers with one of the successful competitors John Castle landing 18 carp from the town reach of the Macintyre River.

John attributed his success to a bit of local knowledge and plenty of persistence, he is planning to give the Gundy Guns and Outdoor Supplies kayak plenty of use, and was particularly impressed with the electric motor, which will leave his hands free for fishing.

Jamie White, President of Goondiwindi District Promotions was thrilled with the event and said, "This was a great event for Goondiwindi, with many local anglers attending and some even travelling from Redcliffe, Warwick, Dalby and Narrabri. The Goondiwindi Bowls Club proved a fantastic venue and the support we had from the Queensland Murray Darling Committee (QMDC) and the Invasive Animals CRC was instrumental in ensuring the success of the event".

Adam Logan of QMDC was excited with the outcomes saying, "There were plenty of carp removed from local waterways during this event. The profile of this pest fish has been considerably raised in the district. We are committed to working with the community to develop programmes that impact on carp, and we see carp cull as an integral part of the strategy."

Local Fishcare Volunteer John Billsborough manned the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries Boating Trailer throughout the event and was equally enthusiastic. "Events like this give us the opportunity to educate the community about fishing rules and safety. It was particularly pleasing to see so many children participating and enjoying this great pastime."

The event is also a component of the Invasive Animals CRC research programme. "The Goondiwindi Carp Cull is a valuable component of our research into carp management. The assistance of the organisers and participants helps us evaluate the impacts of carp fishing competitions and the role they could play in carp management plans," said Senior Fisheries Biologist, Andrew Norris.

Redcliffe angler, Mark Wisniewski, created a stir amongst locals and added international flavour to the Cull when he set up his "coarse" fishing outfit. Complete with 12 foot "poles" and a slingshot to deliver burley it was obvious from the outset that Mark was serious. Unfortunately for Mark he dropped the fish that really mattered, having a tagged carp almost in the net before it freed itself, and costing himself \$200 in the process.

Other winners on the day included Eve Prosser who scored herself (or maybe her Dad, Brett) the Waeco fridge from Beaurepaires; Tahnee from Pallamallawa who took off with the David Ford Auto Electrics Engel generator; the father and son team of Michael and Markus Heironymus who each took home an esky; and the very excited Aimee Sullivan who got the pink swag from Tom's Tarps. On the team front it was "The Wallys" who took out the major cash prize.

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