

MEDIA RELEASE



March 24, 2009

"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

Carp Busted at Thallon

Almost 300 anglers were in Thallon on the weekend for the first of the Carp Buster Series 2009 fishing competition.

Carp Buster Coordinator Nikki Pilcher said the second annual Carp Busters was part of the commitment of the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) and fishing clubs across the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin to raise awareness of exotic fish in regional waterways.

"In 2009, the fishing clubs in Thallon, Surat, Goondiwindi, Mungindi, St George and Dirranbandi are offering a prize pool of \$3000 with points awarded for the number of carp caught as well as the number of events entered," Ms Pilcher said.

In the first round of the 2009 series, held in Thallon on Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22, almost 300 competitors caught more than 300 carp.

"The Thallon event was a huge success with the Thallon Recreational Fishing Club congratulated by anglers for the professional organisation and running of the event which drew more than 180 adult and 100 junior entrants," Ms Pilcher said.

She said the heaviest carp was landed by Goondiwindi Fishing Club president John Billsborough with the 5.24kg fish well above the average of 477 grams.

Ms Pilcher said QMDC's display at the event to encourage anglers in the series to report sightings of exotic fish and water weeds was also well received.

"If new infestations are reported early, we can prevent these species from establishing larger populations," she said.

"The Carp Buster series is one of the biggest community awareness-raising programs in the area, encouraging a coordinated and integrated approach to river restoration which will encourage the return of native fish species."

Ms Pilcher said while the carp could not be considered good eating, the species was originally introduced in the 1800s as a "sport fish" and provided a challenge for anglers.

The remaining dates for the 2009 six-event series are:

- Surat Carp Buster – April 11-12
- Goondiwindi Carp Buster – April 25-26
- Mungindi Carp Buster – August 22-23
- St George Carp Buster – September 26-27
- Dirranbandi Carp Buster – October 17-18.

Media contacts

More information: Carp Busters Coordinator Nikki Pilcher, ph 0428 981 224.

Released by: QMDC Communications Officer Lisa Yorkston, ph 07 4637 6234 or 0427 468 861.

Please note: Photographs are available upon request.