

MEDIA RELEASE



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"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

Carp will be on the run for Anzac Day

The successful 2009 Carp Buster Series of fishing competitions moves to Goondiwindi this weekend.

Carp Buster Coordinator Nikki Pilcher said the event, hosted by the Goondiwindi Fishing Club, was expected to attract several hundred anglers on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26.

"Already in the 2009 series, about 500 anglers at the Surat and Thallon competitions have caught more than 400 carp from waterways in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin," Ms Pilcher said.

"What has been really great has been the number of junior entrants – more than 200 between the two competitions so far.

"These events – supported by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) and the six fishing clubs involved – are fantastic community awareness raising activities that allow us to highlight the full range of activities that impact on river health."

According to QMDC Weed & Pest Animal Technical Officer Lavinnia Fiedler, that includes ensuring everyone adheres to bag limits and catch sizes.

"The carp buster fishing competitions bring community members together for a fun family day where people can learn about these issues and the importance of responsible fishing and compliance with fisheries rules and regulations," Ms Fiedler said.

"The fishing competitions are an excellent way for us to explain that protecting and boosting native fish numbers requires a whole catchment-based approach to improving whole river health.

"QMDC has an information stand at every event where anglers and their families can learn about the importance of infrastructure such as fish ways to allow movement between areas and rehabilitating riparian areas to return natural features such as snags."

Ms Fiedler said while they might not appear significant, snags played a vital role for native fish as protected spawning sites, provided food for insects and crustaceans and protection from fast flows.

The six fishing clubs involved in the 2009 Carp Buster Series are offering a prize pool of \$3000 with points awarded for the number of carp caught as well as the number of events entered.

The remaining dates for the 2009 series are:

- 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.

For more information about the series, contact Nikki Pilcher on 0428 981 224 or for more about the Goondiwindi competition contact Goondiwindi Fishing Club president John Billsborough on 0428 714 117.

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