

MEDIA RELEASE



April 28, 2009

"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

Anglers haul in a mixed bag at Goondiwindi competition

The importance of continuing efforts to control riverine pests was highlighted at the Goondiwindi leg of the Carp Buster 2009 fishing competition on April 25 and 26.

As well as the European carp caught during the weekend event hosted by the Goondiwindi Fishing Club, one angler also hooked a goldfish, demonstrating the ability of any species to both survive and thrive in the region's waterways.

"It's really important that people don't simply dispose of unwanted pets into our rivers and ensure that their backyard ponds cannot discharge into waterways," Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) Weed & Pest Animal Technical Officer Lavinnia Fiedler said.

"The goldfish – one of a number of wild goldfish and hybrids caught during the Goondiwindi Carp Buster event – was 250mm and certainly capable of breeding."

Ms Fiedler said goldfish, from the same family as carp, escaped into waterways from ornamental aquaculture stocks.

"Wild goldfish often revert back to their natural olive-bronze colour and while they are sometimes mistaken for carp, they can be easily distinguished by their lack of barbells (whiskers) although interbreeding between carp and goldfish can produce hybrids resembling both species," she said.

Ms Fiedler said the anglers also caught carp ready for the upcoming spring/summer breeding season.

"One female carp caught was carrying 500 grams of eggs; just under a quarter of her total body weight," she said.

"Female carp mature between two and four years of age and may produce more than one million eggs each year which they normally shed on fibrous plant material in spring to early summer, during which time they can spawn several times."

Carp Buster Coordinator Nikki Pilcher said the event at Goondiwindi attracted 199 anglers who caught 256 carp during the two days.

"In all, more than 300kg of carp were caught," Ms Pilcher said.

"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."

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. Events have already been held in Surat and Thallon.

The remaining dates for the 2009 series are:

- 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.

Media contacts

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These photographs are available upon request:

280409QMDC1:

Liam Casten, from Goondiwindi, with the goldfish he caught during the 2009 Carp Buster event at Goondiwindi on the Anzac Day weekend. While goldfish weren't the target of the competition, the catch does highlight another introduced aquatic pest that exists in the system.

280409QMDC2:

QMDC Weed & Pest Animal Technical Officer Lavinnia Fiedler with about 500 grams of eggs removed from a pregnant carp caught during the Goondiwindi Carp Buster event. The female would have spawned in spring and early summer, possibly producing more than one million eggs.

280409QMDC3:

QMDC Weed & Pest Animal Technical Officer Lavinnia Fiedler with a Mirror Carp caught by a competitor in the 2009 Carp Buster event in Goondiwindi on the Anzac Day weekend.

280409QMDC4:

Sarah Horne from Brigalow Creek shows off the 4.5kg carp she landed during the Goondiwindi event of the 2009 Carp Buster fishing competition series on the Anzac Day weekend.

280409QMDC5:

Mates Callum Cain and Kane Pratt from Goondiwindi with their haul from the 2009 Carp Buster fishing competition at Goondiwindi on April 25 and 26.

280409QMDC6:

Seven-year-old Nicola Marchant from Goondiwindi inspects her catches from the 2009 Carp Buster fishing competition in Goondiwindi on the Anzac Day weekend.

280409QMDC7:

The weigh in area for the Goondiwindi Fishing Club's latest competition – part of the 2009 Carp Buster fishing series – got a real workout during the Anzac Day weekend event.

280409QMDC8:

Members of the Goondiwindi Fishing Club are keen to manage all of the factors that impact on native fish in their stretch of the Murray-Darling Basin, which is why they are keen supporters of the 2009 Carp Buster event.