Cannonsvale photography exhibition

THE Facebook Bowen and Whitsunday Photography Group is holding its inaugural photography exhibition today at the Whitsunday Regional Council Beach Library in Cannonsvale.

For more information about the event phone Anna Smith on 0419 709 997.

Competition winners back Maroons

LUCKY winners of a Mackay Airport State of Origin competition Justine Jackson and Alan Flanagan (centre) with Laura Fordby, of Harvey World Travel, and airport general manager and NSW Blue supporter Rob Porter.

Ms Jackson and Mr Flanagan flew out yesterday for last night’s game in Brisbane.

Motorist fined $2500 and disqualified

AVQON Trent Seaton was fined $2500 and disqualified from driving for 12 months.

He pleaded guilty in the Mackay Magistrates Court to five traffic related offences, including dangerous driving, which arose after he drove a high-powered vehicle at a police officer.

PEST PLAN: HOPE'S JUVENILE FISH WILL FEAST ON TILAPIA

Barra latest strategy

Gooseponds plan waiting for approval

June Bray

THE planned release of hundreds of young barramundi in Mackay’s Gooseponds to feast on the vermin tilapia will not usher in an open season.

Reef Catchment Fisheries biologist Tim Marsden agreed it would have more fishers but the barra could not make a tasty fish meal because they were too small.

An alliance of recreational fishing groups is putting up the cash to buy stocks of barramundi to let loose in the Gooseponds to devour the young fish.

Mr Marsden said any influx of people fishing there could not legally take the barramundi home because they would be undersize.

“Yes, you will see a surge of fishers but the barra we put in will be 300mm. They have got to be 300mm to take home,” Mr Marsden said.

“If kids go fishing for them then good luck to them but they must let them go,” he said.

Barramundi have a big bucket mouth and will eat anything going.

“If we can knock off these tilapia it will be one of the few times that we have not had to use poison.

“It is a solid plan. By stock- ing up on barramundi numbers as a biological control at

BARRA FISHING

GOOSE PONDS

I THINK I’VE CAUGHT SOMETHING ALREADY

"Barramundi have a big bucket mouth and will eat anything going."

— Biologist Tim Marsden

the very least we will slow their (tilapia) spread.”

Mr Marsden hopes Queensland Fisheries will give the go-ahead to put in barramundi. Although the barramundi also will have an impact on native fish stocks, he said they would quickly breed up again.

Winter temperatures would not be low enough to kill off tilapia as the species can survive as low as 7°C, he said.

A Queensland Fisheries spokesperson said a permit was required to release barramundi fingerlings.

“Stocking of barramundi is unlikely to eradicate tilapia from waterways,” she said.

Said: YOUR SAY

www.dailymercury.com.au

A positive story, you’ve made my day with this news.

— Queensland, Marian

Finally some community involvement to improve the Gooseponds.

This is such a wonderful asset for our area. I’ve often wondered why the aquatic pests weren’t removed more often.

— Vicki Pien, Cairns

Now for a small jetty and row boats for hire and an annual catch and release fishing comp.

— Koowales, Moore Plains.

Oh, more Queensland stupidity.

Bit like the core read isn’t it? Introduce in my control it past without research, and you get another past.

— Viv Ying, Cairns

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