

Local News

Help eradicate fish pest

Jackie Murray

FITZROY River researchers have the invasive fish tilapia firmly in their sights. Through funding from the Queensland Government, the Fitzroy Basin Association has secured the services of Catchment Solutions to conduct electrofishing and eDNA surveys to determine the extent of the fish's distribution from known sites of incursion. The researchers will record any signs of impact observed at sites where tilapia are present. The fish, which are native to eastern Africa, were confirmed present in the Fitzroy River around Bajool, Rockhampton and Moranbah earlier this year. Fitzroy Basin Association CEO Paul Birch said once tilapia became established in a waterway they rapidly colonised both up and down stream and were extremely difficult to eradicate. "Tilapia are like cane toads of the waterways, they are highly successful breeders and have broad environmental tolerances," Mr Birch said. "We hope this information will help us contain the invasion and prevent further spread of this damaging and serious pest."



ON THE HUNT: Matt Moore and Trent Power from Catchment Solutions electrofishes for tilapia in the Fitzroy River. Inset: A tilapia. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Mr Birch is urging the community to learn how to identify tilapia and report any sightings. It is illegal to keep or release a tilapia or to move them from one body of water to another. "If caught tilapia, must be humanely killed and the body

disposed of by burying it away from the water's edge or by wrapping it and placing it in the rubbish bin." Mr Birch said if it was not practical to immediately bury the tilapia, the fish should not be scaled, gutted, or filleted and kept at normal air temperature until the body

can be disposed of. Tilapia have two reliable identifying features: they have a single complete dorsal fin with no dent or gap; and they have pointed dorsal and pectoral fins, whereas native fish have rounded fins. If anyone sees a fish with these two identifying

features, take a photo of the fish, record the date and location of the sighting, dispose of the fish correctly and report it to Fisheries Queensland. Sightings can be reported to Fisheries Queensland on 13 25 23 or www.daff.qld.gov.au/fisheries.



TAKE AIM: Gun licence trainer Paul Fowkes shows a trainees how to shoot.

Shooters on target with doing the right thing

CENTRAL Queensland's need for gun licensing is high and the number of farmers "doing the right thing" by getting a licence is growing, according to Theodore gun licence trainer Paul Fowkes. He said guns were essential for animal control on farms, but licensing was needed to keep safety standards high. "It's strict, but everything is there to try and keep the idiots out," he said. "There have definitely been more people doing the right thing by getting a licence. There are some people who are doing it properly and then there are some who go out shooting by themselves and take excessive risks." He said while laws and the need for licensing were put in place for a reason, some organisations were trying to limit gun use on farms. "There is a lot of negativity surrounding gun use for animal control," he said. "The greensies, who follow an anti-gun movement, say feral animals are taking over, but at the same time they want to take guns off people."



UNLUCKY: A stingray caused some issues for Peter Manderson's boat on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP/MARWAN NAAMANI

Stingray brings boat to a halt

WHEN Peter Manderson heard his boat propeller jam on the Fitzroy River, he thought it was a piece of wood causing the trouble. But when he went to look, he found a stingray stuck between the propeller and rudder post of his 46ft (14m) boat, King Cnut.

"It made a hell of a bang (when it hit)," he said. Peter was 10kms downstream from Nerimbera boat ramp on Sunday when the stingray became caught. It took some effort to find out what it was, Peter said. "It wasn't even that big, only about 10kg, but still

enough to jam the propeller. The coast guard was called, but due to their flotilla undergoing repairs, they couldn't get the stranded boat back to shore until Tuesday. Peter said he'd never heard of a stingray causing this sort of trouble.



Stylish furniture at an affordable price.

Giftware & Decorator items

Quality Pre-loved Furniture

Do you need to re-decorate?

Come see Classy Seconds for all your new & second-hand affordable furniture



WOODEN DESK WITH INLAY
\$255



ENGLISH OAK SIDEBOARD
\$1100



NEW BUFFET/HUTCH
\$755



QUEEN BED FRAME **\$385**
PILLOW TOP MATTRESS **\$365**
PAIR **\$720**



11 DRAWER TALLBOY
\$499



DRESSER
\$525



ASSTD ORIGINAL OILS
P.O.A.



NEW SETTEE & POUFFE (OTTOMAN)
\$515

Beds & Mattresses both new & Secondhand

173 East Street, Rockhampton (opp the Post Office)

OPEN 6 Days

PH (07) 4927 2830

Mobile 0417 502 901

"Classy Decorating Products For The Cost Conscious"

Friday, August 15, 2014

The Bulletin