

Plenty of fun at the circus

When Dave Palmer (pictured here in yellow) first thought of the idea that was to become the Fish Circus, he couldn't have imagined just how successful it would be.

The inaugural event, organised by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and held on Hughes Creek near Avenel on Saturday, was just that.

Between 300 and 350 people took advantage of the fine weather and participated in everything from electrofishing and experts' tips on fishing and endangered species to activities for children, turtles and the answer to the question Mr Palmer asked that started the whole thing off — what to do when you catch the carp that dominate the creek?

He was delighted with the result.

"What a day," he said.

Mr Palmer also paid tribute to the GBCMA employee who made it all happen.

"Christine Glassford did all the hard work putting the day together and she is to be congratulated for her efforts; she organised all the activities and made it the success it was," he said.

"One of the most amazing things on the day was the lack of rubbish. Believe it or not, we never had to pick up a single piece of litter, for that the crowd who attended should be congratulated."



Action from the inaugural Fish Circus.

Pictures: Chalpat Sonti

You may have already seen it, but I have attached the article from the Seymour Telegraph that featured the event last week.

I have received a great deal of positive feedback and interest in running a similar event annually. Will see how that goes, but at this stage can confirm of the 140 people recorded at the CMA display, consisting of 47 groups, 10 of these came from Melbourne or other towns with more than 1 hours travel. If this is representative of the overall attendees, 20% of people were from outside the local region. This does suggest we did a good job of promoting the event, in particular through email networks, Facebook and word of mouth. The posters, radio and local papers were also often cited as how they learnt of the event. Thank you and well done for your help with this aspect.

We have estimated overall that at least 300 people attended for some time of the day. Renae Ayres of ARI confirmed she counted 4 rows of cars with 60 vehicles in the front row. As per our record sheet, almost everyone attended in parties of 2 or more individuals, often families of 4-5, so I therefore think we can quite confidently claim to have had around 300 or more visitors.

I know everyone had fun on what proved to be a sunny day at a lovely spot on the Hughes Creek, as many people provide this advice and said 'do it again'. I was initially less confident that we were successful in conveying our key messages, however over the past week, I have heard from many people about conversations since had with people present, and have learnt that we did achieve this aim. People have been engaged and are thinking about Macquarie perch and river interactions, so well done to all that contributed toward this end.

The Youtube clip of the event is available on our website. I still hope to coordinate a small follow up event in autumn to build on this interest, so will keep you posted on how this progresses.

Hughes Creek Project Update

In the meantime, I am progressing agreements for onground works with several landholders in the region, which will further our cause to protect and improve the riparian vegetation and help reduce sand mobility. All working to 'Help Native Fish Thrive'.....catchy? At least 'Clean Up Carp' seems to be getting some motion.

Kind regards,

Christine Glassford

River Health Officer