

Freedom for fish, fun day for families

Thousands of fish fingerlings were given their freedom on Saturday, released into the Namoi to boost the native population.

The fish, Golden Perch and Murray Cod, had been bred at Narrabri Fish Farm.

The release of the fish at The Crossing Theatre was part of a bigger overall restocking program.

About 80,000 fingerlings have been released at Burren Junction, Pilliga, Wee Waa and Boggabri as well as several locations along the Namoi in and near Narrabri.

Saturday's fish release was a community fun day as well.

"We thought we would make an event of it" said Narrabri Fish Farm proprietor Rick Cunningham.

This was the inaugural fish release fun day, but it will probably be an annual event, said Rick.

Kids and families joined in the big release of 7,500 fingerlings, 5000 Golden Perch and 2,500 Murray Cod, and enjoyed a barbecue, yab-bie racing and casting competition and a carp throwing contest.

The thrown carp weren't real, they were specially made for the event by Murray Knight.

Local businesses supported the day with donations towards the cost of the fingerlings and the Narrabri Fish Farm donated \$10,000 worth of fish matched by a \$10,000 contribution from North West Local Land Service (LLS.)

"We thank the North West Local Land Service for its great support" said Rick. "We approached the chairman Mr Conrad Bolton and he discussed the idea with the general manager Mr Ken Flower and the fingerling purchase went ahead.

"And LLS community relations manager Fiona Cutler was here on the day to help out as well."



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