

# inarrabri

**FREE**  
LOCAL MAGAZINE



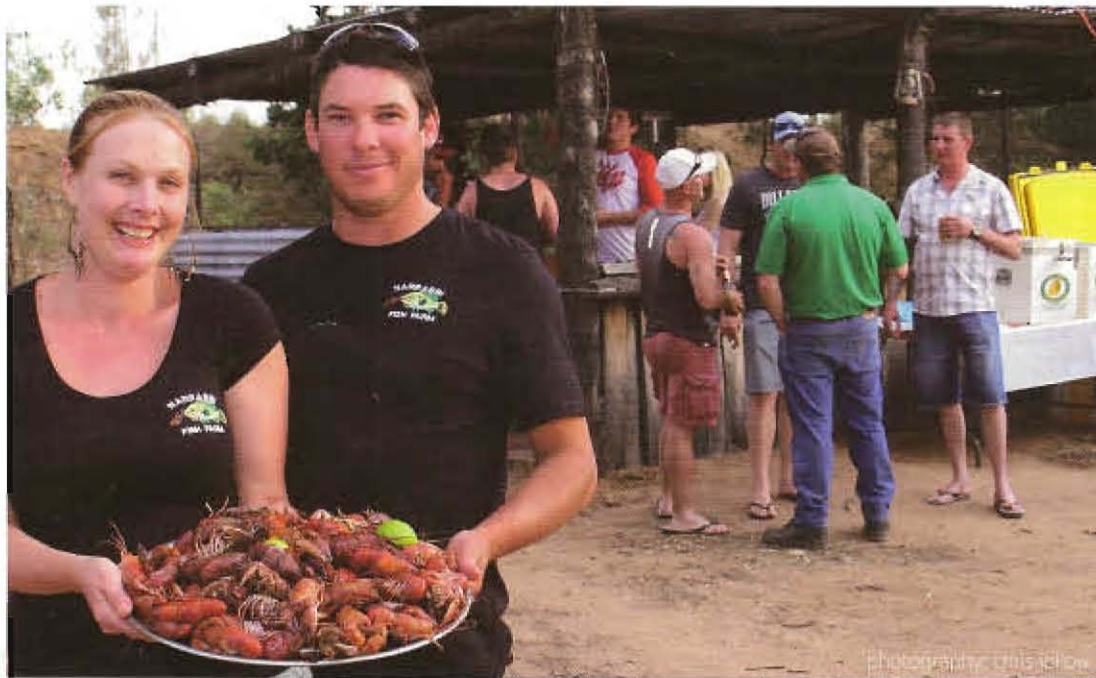
## yabby dabba doo

fish farmers, rick & sharmaine cunningham are perched for success and have claws to be breaming with confidence...

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## RICK CUNNINGHAM - NARRABRI FISH FARM

**You've recently purchased the fish farm - why the interest?**

I've always loved my fishing. From a young age I have always enjoyed camping out by the riverbank, catching fish and relaxing by the campfire. When the opportunity came up I jumped at the chance. I love every minute of it, it's the perfect job for me.

**Just how big is this enterprise and how do you go about running the farm?**

The farm is 250 acres and has 48 ponds. I drag yabbies for bait, do water exchanges, breed and feed fish. I could go on for hours, there is always something to do.

**How do you protect your fingerlings from predators?**

Constant monitoring of ponds to scare away birds. Comerants are the worst but Shags, Night Herons, Spoonbills and Ibises can also get stuck in. My dog, Ziggy, keeps all the thieves away!

**What sort of local and wider commercial possibilities do you see?**

I would like to supply local restaurants with produce, and grow fish that are worthy for tourists to come out and catch. We aren't there just yet but I would like people to come out in the New Year, pay a surcharge for their rod and bait and once they catch their fish they will have the option to take it home. They will be able to catch Murray Cod, Golden and Silver Perch as well as Catfish. We will also make

yabbying available.

I would also like to host functions and parties for locals to enjoy the fish farm atmosphere. We have a beautiful, rustic bush setting surrounded by water.

I would also like to restock the local river systems with good quality fingerlings.

**How do you get your product to the market and how can locals access your products?**

I supply bait yabbies to the BP Narrabri and also to surrounding towns. I also travel to Sydney once a fortnight and supply fingerling and eating yabbies to the Sydney markets, aquariums and restaurants. Customers should feel free to drop out to the farm to purchase

stock. I'm also only a phone call away for deliveries. You can call me on 0428 749 606 or visit our website at [narrabrifishfarm.com.au](http://narrabrifishfarm.com.au)

**Aside from breeding local native fish do you breed anything else?**

Just the yabbies, in the future I hope to breed shrimp... I'm still working it out.

**Rick, your father, Don, is a keen fisherman and no doubt possesses many piscatorial skills. What knowledge has he brought to the table to assist you in this venture?**

Spider has had his hand in everything in life and helps me out whenever he has a spare second, he calls me with advice daily and lends me a helping hand whenever he can. I could not ask for a better father and mate.

**How do you see yourself expanding the business?**

There are so many different avenues that I want to go into - from fishing tours, restocking rivers, to bait and fish sales. I also want to build cabins and an amenities block so tourists can stay and enjoy the serenity that the farm has to offer.

**People who work at Cadbury's sorting chocolates tell me they rarely eat them after a week at the sorting table. How about working with fish?**

To tell you the truth I love fish but never been too phased on eating them on a weekly basis. It's more the fun of catching them that I love. Up until now it was catch and release, now I have to catch and keep the good ones for breeding purposes. Still, I'll never say no to a feed of fish.

**Favourite way of cooking fish?**

Freshly caught and cooked on the coals around the camp fire.



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