



Fishing competition to target Tilapia

Grab a fishing rod and help catch Tilapia - one of Australia's worst invasive fish species, on Sunday 21 October at Yeppen Lagoon in Rockhampton.

Fitzroy Partnership for River Health is hosting a Tilapia Terminator and Wetland Care day, offering individuals and families an opportunity to connect with nature, have some fun and learn a bit about their local area.

Fitzroy Partnership for River Health Executive Officer Nathan Johnston said the event highlights the importance of looking after our waterways and wetlands in order to preserve recreational activities, the environment and our Great Barrier Reef.

"We have a number of activities and practical demonstrations lined up, including water quality sampling, the national waterbug blitz, fish identification and the tilapia fishing competition with a great prize for most caught, followed by how to humanely dispatch of any we catch," Mr Johnston said.

"Tilapia outcompete native fish for habitat and food, are prolific breeders and cause a decline in water quality. This has serious flow-on effects on our fishing and the reef."

"They are cunning and can be difficult to catch but we hope to make a dent in their population as reducing their numbers and slowing their spread is important to the health of creeks and rivers where they have been found."

"If fishing isn't your thing or the kids just love waterbugs, come along for the National Waterbug Blitz instead, get up close and view these creatures under the microscope while completing a national species count!

"There will also be the opportunity on the day to discover the work that's being done in the Yeppen Lagoon and listen to experts as they share their knowledge on our waterways and their future," he said.

This event is part of ReefBlitz 2018 and is hosted by Fitzroy Partnership for River Health in partnership with Fitzroy Basin Association, CQUniversity, Rockhampton Regional Council and Keppel Bay Sports Fishing Club.

Morning tea and lunch is provided, to register your attendance please send your name, number of attendees and any dietary requirements to samantha.hall@riverhealth.org.au by Monday 15 October.

The event runs from 8:30am - 1pm along the banks of the Yeppen lagoon, best access is via Normanby and Blackall streets.

Participants need to wear sunsmart clothing and closed-in shoes and bring a water bottle, chair and fishing rod.

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times during the event.

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