



23 October 2018

Tilapia terminated to help our native fish

Worms and corn were at the ready to catch one of world's worst invasive pest species, tilapia, at the Yeppen Lagoon on Sunday.

Fitzroy Partnership for River Health Executive Officer Nathan Johnston said more than 30 native fish were caught and released including barred grunter and catfish and three tilapia were permanently taken out of the waterway.

"Over 100 people attended the tilapia terminator and wetland care day, hosted by Fitzroy Partnership for River Health to highlight the importance of looking after our waterways and wetlands and take action against tilapia," Nathan said.

"7 year old, Benjamin Hartman, took home the rod and reel combo prize for catching the first tilapia of the day and was very excited to have made a difference.

"Although we didn't make much of a dent in the tilapia population, people are more aware that if they catch tilapia they cannot release them, they need to be humanely killed and buried away from the water or disposed of in a bin. This is a great outcome for our waterways in the fight against this pest.

"Attendees learned more about the work our event partners including Rockhampton Regional Council's environment and sustainability and pest teams, Fitzroy Basin Association, Infofish Australia and CQUiversity researchers are doing relating to fish, water quality and other environmental projects.

"We also teamed up with CQUniversity to take part in the National Waterbug blitz to identify and count waterbugs found in samples we took from the Yeppen Lagoon.

"The kids and adults enjoyed looking at the waterbugs under the microscope. Some of the bugs found had very high sensitivity tolerances and therefore indicate the water quality in the Yeppen Lagoon is good. There were mayflies, nymphs and small fry found just to name a few," he said.

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

If you would like to see more from the event or find out about the health of your local waterways please visit www.riverhealth.org.au or find Fitzroy Partnership for River Health on Facebook.

The Fitzroy Partnership for River Health includes members from government, agriculture, resources, industry, research and community and has released seven waterway health report cards since it was formed.

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