

**Partners/Sponsors** Natural Heritage Trust, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Gippsland Lakes Future Directions and Action Plan, Gippsland Water, South Gippsland Water, Southern Rural Water, TRU Energy, Loy Yang Power, Grand Ridge Plantations, SGS Environmental Services, ESSO Australia.

**Monitoring Information** 111 groups, 313 participants, 205 sites. **Education Participation** 6725 participants.

**Coordinators** Louise Blerch, Nadine Cranenburgh, Greg Gilbert, Tammy Dawson, Tanya Cowell, Marni Speed, Jo James.



## West Gippsland



**T**he West Gippsland Community has made a significant contribution toward reducing the problem of carp in our waterways, by turning out in their hundreds to the annual West Gippsland Catch-A-Carp Day at Lake Narracan.

Carp are often described as the rabbits of our waterways, and have infested the lower reaches of most rivers in Gippsland. Carp are a problem because they affect water quality, damage aquatic habitat and compete with native fish.

The Catch-A-Carp Day attracted 400 keen anglers and succeeded in removing over 300kg of Carp from the local waterway. The biggest Carp caught was a massive 3.4 kg while the smallest was a tiny 2 grams.

# Angling for awareness



All fish were put to good use as part of an Honours project for a Victorian University student investigating the distribution of intestinal parasites in carp. The carp were also used by K&C Fisheries for cooking demonstrations, for garden fertilizer and crayfish bait, and some participants decided to take their catch home for a meal that night.

An important feature of the event was the integration of various carp control measures such as how individuals can help to prevent the spread of carp by cleaning aquatic plants from boats and trailers before going to other waterways.

***“Getting people actively involved and informed about how they can help to tackle the problem, and motivated to take action, is crucial if we are to control this invasive species,”*** said Regional Waterwatch Coordinator Nadine Cranenburgh.

Participants left the event happy with their individual and collective achievements and more informed about the problems associated with carp. Some lucky ones left with fantastic prizes donated by TRU Energy.

Colin Bermingham, a West Gippsland Waterwatch volunteer, said ***“I learnt more about Carp and really enjoyed the atmosphere of the event - the camaraderie of all who came to do their bit, and the friendly competitiveness at the weigh-in station.”***



**Top** A couple of kids show off their catch. **Centre left** A few of the carp were kept on ice, awaiting a cooking demonstration at Lake Narracan.

**Centre right** What a beauty! Some large carp featured on the scales.

**Above** Only just big enough to lift the rod, this little fella showed everyone can get involved in eradicating carp.