



Membership only
\$27.50 per family per
year

Sooty Grunter

May 2005

Teemburra, Eungella & Kinchant Dams

In the Heart of Queensland

Newsletter of Mackay Area Fish Stocking Association
Incorporated
PO Box 2012, Mackay 4740.

Chairman Jeff Eales – Vice Chairman Gavin Swan –
Secretary Peter McLaren – Treasurer Keith Day
Hatchery Director Russell Bilney
Newsletter Editor Gavin Swan

Well another year is flying by and as the temperatures start to drop so does our stocking efforts. Low dam levels and river flows have dictated a cautious amount of stocking so far this year. It was decided in February to hold over our SIP allocation for Kinchant and Eungella Dam until water levels improved. A big thankyou to these people who have helped in getting the amount of fish listed below into Teemburra Dam. A lot of these fish were grown out in the hatchery, putting the recent upgrades to the test. It's good to see the smiles on faces when a lot of hard work creates something that actually works very well.

Stockings 2005

3rd January 2005 – 2000 Barramundi released into Teemburra Dam at a length of 89mm. These fish were grown out in the hatchery from 50mm.

24th March 2005 – 14,000 Barramundi released into Teemburra Dam direct from Gladstone at 65mm in length.

23rd April 2005 – 3,700 Sooties breed in the hatchery, released in Teemburra Dam at 40mm in length.

17th May 2005 – 3000 Barramundi, grown out in the hatchery from 25mm to 85mm were released into Teemburra Dam. *100 of these are still in the hatchery for later release.

Hopefully we can add to this list later in the year!

MAFSA SIP funds for this year have been allocated for the stocking of our Dams and are broken up as follows:

Kinchant - \$8,279.00 Teemburra - \$15,930.00 Eungella - \$7,816.00

Hatchery News

All members please remember to sign the hatchery register whenever you visit the hatchery and if you are working with the fish please wash your hands.

Thankyou to Neil Cunnington for his kind donation of a small chest freezer to help keep the fish feed longer.

Both systems at the hatchery have been given a good clean out thanks our to the dedicated team.

Dam Levels

Kinchant Dam – 33% (as of 9th May 2005)

Teemburra Dam – 28% (as of 5th May 2005)

Eungella Dam – 20% (as of 9th May 2005)

Fishing Reports

If anyone has a report on a recent fishing trip that they would like to share with the rest of our members please let me know so I can include it in our newsletter. If anyone has any secrets to catching barra at Teemburra at the moment I would like to know. I've never seen so much Barra activity around the dam and yet not been able to get them interested in taking a lure.

Darren Jennings and Neil Cunnington recently enjoyed a weekend at Eungella Dam fly-fishing for sooties catching 27 fish ranging from 360mm to 490mm.

There have also been some barra caught at Eungella recently with Jeff Eales landing a 930mm fish at Easter.

It is rumoured that Bob Sutherland is considering a career in ballet, after a recent display of the splits between boat and trailer, unfortunately there was only one place left to go and that was the lake. Maybe he's practising for Swan Lake.

Upcoming Events

Sunday 22nd May 2005 – Social BBQ at shoal point picnic area @ 12.00pm. This is a friendly get together to catch up and maybe discuss MAFSA's goals for the following year and thereafter. We may even wet a line after lunch. Lunch is BYO. However MAFSA will supply some sausages.

Northern Stocking Group Workshop - A number of members will be travelling to this year's workshop, which will be held at Ayr on the 4th of June. If you wish to have any input at this workshop let us know.

Annual General Meeting – This years meeting will be held on Thursday 18th August at 7.30pm at the Gordon White Library, North Mackay. All positions will be vacant, so if you're interested in any of these positions we would be glad to hear from you.

Surveys – We have two surveys planned for later in the year. The first is for those who love winter fishing and this is at Eungella Dam on the 29/30th July 2005. The second survey is to be at Teemburra Dam on the 11/12th of November 2005.

Memberships

A reminder that if you wish to vote at the AGM, you need to be a financial member and all memberships are due at the 30th June. New members are always welcome.

New Permit

MAFSA has now been issued with a permit to stock Barramundi in our three Pioneer River weirs. Dumbleton, Marian and Mirani. Stocking will take place as soon as funds and fish become available. This is another great fish habitat that we can try and improve through our association.

Enviro Fund Project

Darren informs us that the fishway at Oonie is installed with some more planting and digging out during the dry season yet to be carried out. The next project in the pipeline is St Helens creek.

Website

As you probably know our website has been out of action for a while now however Darren has been working hard to get it up and running again and hopes to have a basic website running within a couple of weeks.

Next General Meeting

If you wish to find out all the information that's happening with the association, we would like to see you at our next meeting on the 19th May 2005 at the Gordon White Library, North Mackay @ 7.30pm.