

Barramundi Fingerling Restocking

Our club has made a commitment to restocking the Haughton River with barramundi. We believe that this is something that all fishing clubs should do. We are assisted by the Burdekin Fish Restocking Society and we thank them for their assistance. The restocking is an annual event and we set aside \$1000 which purchases about 400 fingerlings. These are tagged and released into fresh water at the Giru weir. Club members are encouraged to assist with the tagging of the fish. The tag numbers are sent to Bill Sawnock at Sunfish in Rockhampton where a data base is maintained. Any of "our" fish recaptures that are made and reported to Bill are reported back to the club.

The Haughton River has not flooded since 2011 and this means that our fingerlings would still be in the Giru weir. This year a significant flood event took place and as expected some of our fish have been washed over the weir wall. We know this because three fish have been recaptured from our 2015 release and reported to Sunfish. Sunfish has sent the club certificates to verify this and one of these certificates is provided with this article. It describes a barra that has grown to a healthy 780 mm. The anglers who caught these fish have released them back into the river. Of interest is the fact that these barra were the same size when released but now have lengths which vary from 640 mm to 780 mm.