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Media Release:

Fingerlings release snags a crowd

Over the weekend, over 100 Blackwater locals tackled the annual task of releasing over 60,000 Golden Perch (Yellowbelly) fingerlings into Bedford Weir ahead of the Saratoga Spectacular on 2-3 October 2021.

This event forms part of Yancoal Australia's Yarrabee Coal Mine partnership with the Mackenzie River Fish Stocking Association (MRFSA) to sponsor this event for several years. The MRFSA undertake the annual release of the fingerlings to ensure the ecosystem and fish stock numbers remain healthy.

The Yarrabee team were on hand for the release of the Yellowbelly fingerlings along with many other fishing enthusiasts.

Yarrabee Coal Operations Manager, Cris Shadbolt, was thrilled to support the event.

"Fishing is a fantastic sport that is open to all ages. Fishing is healthy for the mind and body, being outdoors and active, and the Saratoga Spectacular always brings the fishing community together for a competitive yet fun event.

"Releasing the Yellowbelly fingerlings was a fun and great start to what should be a popular and strong competition, as well as a crucial aspect to the health of the river," said Cris.

Andrew McSherry, President of the MRFSA, said, "The health and quality of the Mackenzie River, especially at Bedford Weir, allows fish fingerlings such as these Yellowbelly to grow quickly and healthily. Natural flows and fish movements within the river system help distribute the fish throughout the Mackenzie River, including into the Greater Fitzroy River. Fish that have been released at Blackwater's Bedford Weir have been caught as far away as Rockhampton and the mouth of the Fitzroy River to the ocean," said Andrew.

The funding support is part of the Yancoal Yarrabee Community Support Program, which aims to make a difference in the community and to the lives of the people who work and live in the areas where it operates.

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