

Longreach Yellowbelly Classic Fishing Competition
August 29th – 31st 2008

Dear Sponsor,

I'd like to tell you a little about our successful competition this year with the help from your business.

680 keen anglers nominated for the Longreach Yellowbelly Classic fishing competition held on the banks of the Thomson River in Longreach. Competitor's numbers once again exceeded committee's expectations with an increase of 130 over the previous year.

Several participants entered the Friday evening entertainment. The Terry's Marine Centre Cup yabby race was hotly contested with no. 13 owned by Gilly only just completing to cross the line by a flipper first over runner up yabby no.17 owned by David Brewer (our Coca Cola sponsor). The Simstock Rural Agencies Challenge was as close a race as the first. Miss Katy Maggoffin's no. 9 must have been listening to the shouting comments at her yabby to have him cross the line first whilst Tanya Morton's jumping & yelling improved her No. 7 yabby to wiggle faster as a close runner up both winning their owners cash. The junior roll the swag competition was won easily by Terry McLachlan yet the adults was a very close call between brothers Ron & Mick Fehlhaber of Emerald. The decider race had Ron stumble to the ground and Mick successful to the finish line.

Saturday morning anglers would have been cursing the persistent wind but keen anglers still managed to find some sheltered water and with the wind easing as the day progressed, more and more fish were being measured in with a total of 150 throughout the weekend.

Saturday evening yabby auction was successful with a record yabby paying \$26 to "The Syndicate" who at the end of the race was the runner-ups with lucky number 13. Butch Cassidy and number 19 were the winning combination of the The Yellowbelly Classic Cup. Race 2 was slowly contested. The yabby's needed waking up a few times on the race mat however number 10's owner young Aimee McNamara won herself \$50 and no.7 part of the Emerald Fishing Group come in as the runner up for \$25. The yabby's have now retired to breeding stock.

Several heats were held for junior roll the swag competition with a handicap going to our youngest competitor Miss Brittany Boundy who won by a 2 second lead. Congratulations Brittany. Leon Penny just led the way in each of his heats and final. He really knows how to roll his swag in a hurry! The junior hand reel casting competition saw 13 entrants but was contested heavily by brother & sister Amy & Daniel McNamara. Amy however was the better of the 2 on the night at a distance of 5metres. 16 adults contested the hand reel casting competition to win them \$50 and after a long tournament Wayne Rhea won the Mondooley!

Sunday morning all could see the wind was gone, the heat was warming up the water and fish were on the snap. Record catches were brought in for some, none for others, but by 12 noon our winners had been recorded and travellers had packed up camp ready to head home but not before all the lucky draws.

The drawing of the junior major prize of a Scamp Kayak couldn't come quick enough to little local boy Ty Jesberg with ticket no. 42. The drawing of the adults major prize (a Stacer 350 Proline boating package) kept the audience captivated at the end of competition until ticket number 376 Graham Baldwin of Longreach was called.

Raffle results:

Litre bottle of Bundaberg Rum: (Blue D1) Pat Mehan

60 Litre Ice Box: (Black B91) Ron Rogers

1 Weeks Cabin Accommodation at 1 of 40 Discovery Holiday Parks Australia Wide: (Orange A72) Jo Rabnott.

Junior results:

Longest Yellowbelly – Braith McCullagh (Mackay) 52cm

Longest Catfish – McKenzie Green (Longreach) 48.6cm

Longest Bream – Zakkaree Clark (Longreach) 34.8cm

Longest Barcoo Grunter – Jake Lambert (Rockhampton) 32.1cm

Heaviest Yabby – Matthew Worland (Longreach) 362grams.

Adult results:

Longest Yellowbelly – Jacob Balke (Longreach) 52.5cm;

Longest Catfish – Robert Schweitzer (Augathella) 47.4cm;

Longest Bream – Greg Spackman (Thallon) 37.2cm;

Longest Barcoo Grunter – Kevin Smith (Longreach) 31.1cm;

Heaviest Yabby – Tony Mawhinney (Gunalda) 382grams.

