

REAP THE REWARDS OF RECREATIONAL FISHING – GO FISHING IN VICTORIA

In 2006 the Victorian State Government committed \$3.2 million over four years to the Go Fishing in Victoria (GFIV) initiative, which is improving recreational fishing facilities and infrastructure at selected sites; promoting opportunities for fishing as a family activity, and increasing the utilisation of Victoria's fisheries by local and interstate anglers.

Victorian anglers, ranging from newcomers to seasoned anglers, are truly reaping the benefits of this initiative as it moves towards its final year.

Premier Lakes

Victoria now boasts five Premier Lakes which have been developed to encourage families and new anglers to go fishing. These lakes offer access for anglers of all ages and abilities, and feature facilities such as toilets, barbecues, picnic tables and playground equipment.

The five Premier Lakes are:

- Lillydale Lake
- Eildon Pondage
- Kennington Reservoir (Bendigo)
- Jubilee Lake (Daylesford)
- Hyland Lake (Churchill)

Premier Lakes are stocked at least four times per year (subject to suitable water conditions) with rainbow trout of varying sizes. These include advanced yearlings (approx 200 g) and larger 'Premier' rainbow trout (> 1 kg).

Go Fishing in Victoria Products

A wide range of informative products have been designed to assist budding fishers and experienced anglers to make the most of Victoria's wide range of recreational fisheries.

These include:

Family Fishing Guide – everything you need to know to fish for rainbow trout in Family Fishing Lakes (including Premier Lakes).

2009 GFIV Calendar – incorporating key messages for fish friendly farms, mixed with recreational fisheries management messages.

Let's Go Fishing Cards – A series of eight illustrated cards designed for kids and less experienced anglers with information on popular freshwater, marine and estuarine species.



Let's Go Fishing in Port Phillip Bay – a guide to some popular family orientated fishing locations.

Let's Go Fishing in Western Port – a guide to some popular family orientated fishing locations.

Family Fishing Festivals

Each of the five Premier Lakes hosts an annual Family Fishing Festival – a fun-filled day where families and kids can learn to catch a fish.

A typical festival includes informative workshops by Fisheries Officers, casting and knot tying clinics, fishing guided by local angling clubs, cooking demonstrations, entertainment and displays.

These festivals are planned and run in partnership with VRFish, shires, local angling clubs, Fishcare volunteers and other stakeholders.

Over 2000 children have participated in these festivals since they commenced and many children have caught their first ever fish as a result.

Evaluation results indicate that these events have been very successful in providing participants with an increased interest in recreational fishing. All five Premier Lakes will hold Family Fishing Festivals in 2009 and 2010.

Premier Rivers

To cater for more experienced anglers, sections of three Victorian rivers are being developed in partnership with local stakeholders and are being promoted as Premier Rivers. The three rivers are:

Hopkins River

Located between Warrnambool and Allansford in south-western Victoria, the estuarine section of the Hopkins River is known for producing quality fishing for species such as black bream, estuary perch and mulloway.

Goulburn River

The Goulburn River offers a wide range of fishing opportunities and challenges including a productive trout fishery between Eildon and Alexandra and exciting fishing for Murray cod and golden perch around Shepparton.

Kiewa River

The Kiewa River flows through the picturesque Kiewa Valley in north-eastern Victoria. The cooler sections below Mount Beauty provide quality trout fishing and Murray cod can be targeted in the lower section around Wodonga.

Funds are being invested into on-ground works along the three nominated rivers to improve access for anglers and provide additional recreational fishing facilities.

Once completed, an information package will be developed for each of the river stretches identifying key access points and the type of fishing experience and facilities that they provide.

Want to know more?

Call the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/gofishing

