



# Remembering a time #BC – Before Carp

A collection of stories from Australians who have been impacted by Australia's worst freshwater pest fish – the Carp!

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**Remembering a time #BC – before carp  
2017/063**

2017

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In submitting this report, the researcher has agreed to FRDC publishing this material in its edited form.



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# Acknowledgements

The project team would like to thank all those who took part in the project and gave their time to share their stories with us.

The project leader would specifically like to thank John Thistleton who travelled around the east coast of Australia to collect the stories and interview the many Australians who took part.

# Executive Summary and Introduction

With a major investment in carp control by the Australian Government, it is an opportune time to enhance public awareness of the issue and create a social licence to operate.

While it is easily assumed that everyone knows that European carp are a problem for our waterways, there can still be opposition against their control due to a lack of understanding regarding what their current impact is, what our waterways used to be like prior to Carp establishing and what will be the impact if we do nothing.

There is an urgent need to enhance the public awareness and understanding of what our waterways could be if carp were better controlled and what our waterways were like prior to carp.

This project, led by the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, collected a series of short stories from Australians who remember what life was like #BC - Before Carp.

Project staff interviewed a number of Australians who remember a time before carp and created a series of short stories to share. Stories encompass the jurisdictions of NSW, ACT, VIC and SA and focus predominately on the waterways that connect with the Murray Darling Basin.

Male and female voices are heard, along with 2 indigenous Australians. Stories also encompass those who used to fish for recreation and those who use the waterways to maintain their properties.

The major goal from this project is to galvanise the support needed for action on carp and to enhance the social licence to use a biocontrol agent - which can have a negative connotation.

The project concept, based on sharing short stories and vignettes of Australians, is based largely on similar projects which have proved successful using this format such as Faces of CSIRO - <https://faces.csiro.au/> or the popular Humans of New York blog - [www.humansofnewyork.com](http://www.humansofnewyork.com).

The aim is now to share these stories as widely as possible via digital mechanisms such as social media, blogs and websites to enhance knowledge of what life could be like if we successfully control carp in our waterways.

# Objectives

1. Awareness raising around the issue of carp and the need for carp control
2. Enhancing traffic to the NCCP website through the creation of a blog series
3. Enhancing traffic to the NCCP Facebook page through the use of compelling and fresh stories\*

\*This objective was planned prior to the NCCP Facebook page being disabled, so might require further discussion as to how it will be achieved through alternative social media pages.

# Methods

1. In partnership with the NCCP staff, the project team identified a number of Australians who would be suitable candidates to interview about the topic (i.e. those who met the brief of remembering a time before carp and had compelling stories to share).
2. Over the course of 6 months (May-October 2017), the project team travelled to locations within NSW, the ACT, Victoria and SA to collect these stories.
3. Interviewees were asked a number of questions which focused around their experiences and memories of what the river systems were like in the area they resided before carp existed.
4. Interviews were video recorded, and photos were taken to coincide with the story. All interviewees were requested to sign a media consent form to allow use of their story, name and imagery for public dissemination.
5. Interviews were then consolidated as a 300 (or more) word feature story for showcasing online.
6. All stories, raw video footage and images were provided to the NCCP via Sharepoint.

# Results

A total of 12 stories were collected featuring 15 Australians who remember a time before carp.

Each story contains:

1. Unedited raw video footage of the interview
2. At least a 300-word (or more) short story tailored for digital media
3. At least two feature images to coincide with the story
4. At least a 50-word (or more) post for social media sites such as Facebook

Stories encompass the jurisdictions of NSW, ACT, VIC and SA and focus predominately on the waterways that connect with the Murray Darling Basin.

Male and female voices are heard, along with 2 indigenous Australians. Stories also encompass those who used to fish for recreation and those who use the waterways to maintain their properties.

All interviewees have signed a media consent to approve us using their name, images and to publish stories about them. These have been supplied as part of the package via Sharepoint.

**Table 1: Feature story interviewee details and deliverables**

Story interviewees	Interviewees background	Region	Story	Facebook post	Photos	Raw Footage
Charlie Diedo	Fishing as a young boy in Lake Burley Griffin	Canberra, ACT	355 words	74 words	2 files	4 files
Bob Seaman	Fishing in the 1950s catching multiple native fish	Goulburn, NSW	338 words	62 words	2 files	5 files
Kate Wilson Jeremy Wilson Jan Grubb	Two farming families, neighbours – returning waters to its natural state	Yass, NSW	437 words	73 words	7 files	7 files
Peter Stuckey	Fishing a young boy in Tumut River	Tumut, NSW	364 words	75 words	3 files	3 files
Greg Hallam	Sheep grazier with creeks running through property	Gunning, NSW	301 words	74 words	2 files	3 files
Kevin Laughton	Fly fisherman	Orange, NSW	358 words	93 words	4 files	7 files
Russell Spencer Charlie Haynes	Fishcare volunteers, long time fishing mates, descendants of indigenous Wiradjuri people	Forbes, NSW	445 words	60 words	2 files	2 files
Kevin Rubie	Irrigation farmer	Forbes, NSW	369 words	84 words	3 files	7 files
Rob Tamblyn	Fishing a family affair, and member of local angling club	Bendigo, VIC	351 words	71 words	3 files	2 files
Garry Von Bertouch	Good memories as young boy fishing, less so now.	Berri, SA	520 words	70 words	2 files	2 files
Glen Drogemuller	Fishing for a family meal was part of life, now its catch and release	Berri, SA	409 words	97 words	4 files (2 archive)	2 files
Peter Teakle	Fishing as a boy – he was hooked ever since. Wants young Australians to experience this	Renmark, SA	393 words	80 words	2 files	4 files

# Conclusion

The project has delivered a series of 12 short stories from Australians who remember a life before carp (the stories include a blog, a video and an image).

The stories will build the fundamental brickwork for media stories in the future which can be used as a way of promoting real-world stories of what life in our waterways could be like if carp were to be managed effectively, along with other water management solutions.

# Extension and Adoption

The outputs from this project will be promoted digitally to Australian publics to promote real-world stories of a life before carp.

The outputs will be promoted via the NCCP website, driving traffic to the website.

The outputs will also be of interest to media, enhancing further awareness of the NCCP.

Those featured in the stories, can also be used as future community champions on the topic.

# **Project materials developed**

All project materials have been supplied via SharePoint.

# FRDC FINAL REPORT CHECKLIST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Remembering a life #BC – Before Carp		
<b>Principal Investigators:</b>	Dr Ian McDonald Mr John Thistleton		
<b>Project Number:</b>	2017/063		
<b>Description:</b>	The project has delivered a series of 12 short stories from Australians who remember a life before carp (the stories include a blog, a video and an image).		
<b>Published Date:</b>		<b>Year:</b>	2017
<b>ISBN:</b>		<b>ISSN:</b>	
<b>Key Words:</b>	Community Engagement, Carp, Carp Control		

Please use this checklist to self-assess your report before submitting to FRDC. Checklist should accompany the report.

	<b>Is it included (Y/N)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Foreword (optional)</b>	N	
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	Y	
<b>Abbreviations</b>	N	
<b>Executive Summary</b>		Combined exec summary and intro
- <b>What the report is about</b>	Y	
- <b>Background – why project was undertaken</b>	Y	
- <b>Aims/objectives – what you wanted to achieve at the beginning</b>	Y	
- <b>Methodology – outline how you did the project</b>	Y	
- <b>Results/key findings – this should outline what you found or key results</b>	Y	
- <b>Implications for relevant stakeholders</b>	Y	
- <b>Recommendations</b>	Y	
<b>Introduction</b>	Y	
<b>Objectives</b>	Y	
<b>Methodology</b>	Y	
<b>Results</b>	Y	
<b>Discussion</b>	N	This was not required
<b>Conclusion</b>	Y	
<b>Implications</b>	N	This was not required
<b>Recommendations</b>	N	This was not required
<b>Further development</b>	N	This was not required
<b>Extension and Adoption</b>	Y	
<b>Project coverage</b>	N	This was not required
<b>Glossary</b>	N	

<b>Project materials developed</b>	Y	
<b>Appendices</b>	N	