

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

AQUATIC LIFE

1867:

Thirty-five pound Murray Cod from the "Little River"

The following is from the Ovens Constitution: —"About six weeks back, Mr. T. Ellis, of the Yackandandah Saw-mill, was on the bank of the Little River, when he saw at the bottom of a pool of clear water an enormous fish. He threw out his line, properly baited, but the fish treated all offers with supreme contempt. Mr. Ellis determined to wade in. Accordingly he did so, and a little boy who was with him followed. As the pool was surrounded by a bank which the water scarcely covered, there was no chance of the fish escaping, and accordingly he began to show fight, and for one mortal half-hour fisherman and fish went at it like Sayers and Heenan.

Twice the fish got the best of it, and gave his opponent severe blows on the leg with his tail. At length Mr. Ellis, who is a powerful and determined man, managed to catch hold of the fish by the gills, flung him out of the water, and brought him in triumph to Yackandandah. On being weighed, his fish, a fine Murray cod, was found to be more than thirty-five pounds in weight."

Source: SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1867. (1867, May 11).
The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), p. 4.
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article5766599>

22nd February 1939:

Many Codfish die

Ashes and other rubbish washed by rain from the fire burnt ranges into the Kiewa River have been responsible for high mortality among fish. Mr. W. Keat, of Gundowring discovered seven dead cod fish totalling in weight more than 100lb. Other landholders abutting the Kiewa River report similar mortalities.

Source: *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957) 22 Feb 1939: 7.
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12099800>

1897:

Trout stocking of Kiewa River

The Yackandandah Shire Council is trying to stock the streams of the Kiewa Valley with trout, the best of the fresh water fish of the old country. At its last sitting an application was authorised for a grant of their fry, from the hatching kept by the Fish Acclimatisation Society, Geelong. Councillor Crosthwaite, the President, undertook to go down to Geelong and take charge of the fry.

Since his return he has placed them in different running streams of Kergunyah, Gundowring and Dederang. Trout fry has been placed in the rivers and creeks twice already, and some of them grown into good-sized fish have been seen several times in different parts of the river and the streams.

Source: "KIEWA." *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* (NSW : 1896 - 1938) 22 Oct 1897: 15.
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article99419302>

1903: Murray Cod Catch

Bright.—Messrs. O. V. Briner and M. J. Dowling paid another very successful angling trip to the Kiewa River, at Gundowring, from Friday to Monday last, and secured 84 pound weight of fish. The haul would have been much better had the weather conditions been more favourable.

Fourteen cod weighed 56 and a half pounds., including two which turned the scale at 21 pound; 10 perch captured weighed 2 and a quarter pound each, two one and a half pound. each, and two one pound each. Another party, consisting of members from the Pioneer mine, paid the same locality a visit, and secured about 30 pound weight of fish.

Source: REPORTS FROM RIVERS, &c.
(1903, March 28). *The Australasian*
(Melbourne, Vic. : 1864 - 1946), p. 2
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article138682416>

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

AQUATIC LIFE

1868: FISHING IN THE MURRAY

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN.

Sir, If you have ever fished in the Murray, and before the establishment of your valuable paper - landed a fine Murray cod, weighing from 6lb. to 601b, you would feel sadly disappointed with the sport, or rather the absence of sport, on this river now. Not only the Murray but other rivers also are I believe, remarked as becoming each year less abundant in fish. Conjecture, probable and improbable, and theories of all kinds, are uttered and hazarded to account for the evident yearly diminution of fish In our principal rivers.

The scarcity of fresh fish, and such fish as we were in the habit of hooking in abundance in the Murray, is no small matter of regret to persons resident 200 miles from the sea. That fish are becoming scarcer every year, and that this scarcity is a matter of regret, not only on account of the sport formerly enjoyed by many in catching them, but also for reasons affecting the health and pockets of the residents on our formerly fish yielding rivers, are facts, and it becomes a subject well worthy our serious thought how to arrest this falling off in our supply of fish.

Breakfasting a short time since at the hospitable table of a friend, resident not far from the Kiewa river bridge, I partook of Murray cod that had been hooked in the Kiewa. The fish served up was a delicious one, of apparently about 14lb. in weight, fresh from the stream and alive with roe. Here, I thought, is an answer to the much asked question, how is it fish are getting scarcer every year?

If people will hook up fish just at the moment they are in the ordinary course of nature about to supply successors to themselves in abundance, the result may be easily guessed.

With the large and increasing populations on our rivers, many of 'whom are fond of sport,' and all like a change of diet, who fish at all seasons, we must expect in a few years that, if this is continued, a Murray cod will be as great a wonder here as a wild emu would now be on Keiler Plains, that is, if everyone continues, as at present to fish just when a fish or a little sport is desired.

Our fresh fish is not to be despised, and if our well-to-do and intelligent colonists would assist at their preservation at the proper season; and promote their increase by stocking freshwater lakes with some of the best of them, we might hope to still have a sufficiency of fish for sport and the table in years to come.

It only requires to be taken in hand, and the thing will be done. Our country populations have sufficient love of sport and respect "for the general Interest" of all to abide by any 1 -rule or regulation devised for staying the depopulation of our fish rivers.

Yours, sc.,

Belvoir, Dec. 12. JAMES JEFFERS

Source: "FISHING IN THE MURRAY."

The Australasian (Melbourne, Vic. :
1864 - 1946) 19 Dec 1868: 11.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article138060074>