



**PRESS RELEASE JANUARY 2014**

**Murray Cod perfect bait for anglers**

“The solution to any problem –work, love, money, whatever –is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be.” so said American writer and fisherman John Gierach. The Long Paddock can certainly provide some solutions - if not for all your worries then at least to finding some of the best fresh water fishing in Australia.

It is fitting that December 1 marks both the opening of the Murray Cod season and the beginning of summer. For many visitors on The Long Paddock the two go hand in hand. Long summer days spent trying to catch the elusive Murray Cod across the Darling, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, Edward and Murray Rivers. It seems they are the perfect bait for anglers from across Australia to try their luck in the iconic brown waters of NSW.

For many fisherman (and women) the annual fishing competitions in the region provide a great excuse to get away from it all with the promise of coming home with some great prizes. The Deniliquin XXXX Fishing Classic is recognised as one of the best and biggest in NSW. The two day event (15 – 16 February ) is held on the Edward River and this year promises to be better than ever with three boats on offer as prizes and an extra 20km of river to fish.

The Mathoura Fishing Classic is also one for the diary. With over \$40 000 in prizes this family friendly event, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year is a great way to get the kids hooked. From Friday 28 February to Sunday 2 March the little township on the Murray River uses the funds raised to restock the river each year.

Like many country towns, the annual Hay Fishing Competition, this year held on 22-23 March also serves as a fundraiser for the local AFL & Netball club. The competition is all about fun and a chance to fish some of the prettiest parts of the Murrumbidgee River.

Each of the towns swell in population as anglers from all over NSW, Victoria and even Queensland try and land the big one, with most hoping to hook a Murray Cod.

For those who like to fish away from the crowd, the Billabong Creek at Wanganella, the longest creek in Australia, is just perfect for a weekend away. The Wanganella Creek Camp has great facilities for camping or the caravan and access to some of the best fishing along the route. The Darling River at Wilcannia also provides some brag worthy fishing experiences.

Fishing is a way of life on The Long Paddock and all of the towns and villages are set up to meet your fishing needs from bait to license. Although you might struggle to get the directions to the best fishing spot from the locals, they will happily listen to your stories once the day is done.

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## **About the Long Paddock- Cobb Highway Touring Route**

The Long Paddock – Cobb Highway Touring Route follows The Cobb Highway (named for the famous coach company) from Echuca Moama on the Victorian border, through to Wilcannia leading to the iconic outback towns of Bourke, Broken Hill and White Cliffs.

The Long Paddock includes 47 road side information panels, located at various sites of significance along the route. These tell the stories and history of the region in words and images and are a great way to get to know the area.

Five great rivers, major museums, National Parks, Red Gum forests, wetlands and waterways, the flattest, natural open plains on Earth and one of the world's oldest geological landmarks – welcome to The Long Paddock.

[www.thelongopaddock.com.au](http://www.thelongopaddock.com.au)

### **Things to see and do on the way**

#### *Take The Long Paddock touring route*

Visit the 47 information panels tell the story of the Long Paddock in words and images

Stop and take a photo of the 11 large scale public artworks located along the touring route

[www.thelongpaddock.com.au](http://www.thelongpaddock.com.au)

#### *Visit the Back Roads Trail*

Just off the Cobb Highway at Moama – visit paddock to plate producers including Pacedon Pork (traditional English pork products and Barham Avocados

[www.backroadstrail.com.au](http://www.backroadstrail.com.au)

#### *Stop at the Murray Valley National Park*

At Moama stop in at the brand new Murray Valley National Park – Mountain Bike Track. Including a skills and pump track this is a must for all bike enthusiast

At Mathoura Stop at the Murray Valley National Park and view the internationally renowned Reed Beds Bird Hide

[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Murray-Valley-National-Park](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Murray-Valley-National-Park)

#### *Drop in to Deniliquin*

Visit the Peppin Heritage Centre in Deniliquin which includes a full replica of an 1880's school room and visiting exhibitions

[www.denitourism.com.au](http://www.denitourism.com.au)



Indulge your taste buds at The Long Table Cafe - an on farm restaurant, showcasing local produce

[www.longtablecafe.com.au](http://www.longtablecafe.com.au)

*Capture the amazing sunset the Headless Horseman Sculpture located at the Black Swamp*

Afterwards stop in to the Royal Mail Hotel for a quick drink

*Have a great time in Hay*

Throw a line in the Murrumbidgee River at Hay with some of the best Murray Cod fishing in Australia

Pick up a free bike from the Visitor Information Centre and explore the town

Head out to the historic One Tree Pub to take in the flattest land in the southern hemisphere

[www.hay.nsw.gov.au/visithay.aspx](http://www.hay.nsw.gov.au/visithay.aspx)

