



## CATCH LIMITS

Barramundi – no closed season for Lake Awoonga but seasonal limits apply:

| Season           | Open 1st Feb - 31 Oct                         | Closed 1st Nov - 31st Jan           |
|------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Size Limit       | 58cm min / 120cm max                          | 58cm minimum                        |
| Possession Limit | Five (one of which can be greater than 120cm) | One which can be greater than 120cm |
| Other Rules      | Only one can be over 120cm                    | No special tagging required         |

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Sea Mullet    | Minimum 30cm / no maximum / bag limit of 20              |
| Mangrove Jack | Minimum 35cm / no maximum / bag limit of 5               |
| Other Fish    | DAFF fishing regulations govern capture of other species |

|               |               |                       |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Catch Records | Barramundi    | 36.1kg (136cm approx) |
|               | Mangrove Jack | 4.5kg approx (61cm)   |
|               | Sea Mullet    | 4kg (80cm approx)     |



**Barramundi**  
*Lates calcarifer*



**Mangrove Jack**  
*Lutjanus argentimaculatus*



**Saratoga**  
*Scleropages leichardti*



**Sea Mullet**  
*Mugil cephalus*

## FISH SPECIES @ LAKE AWOONGA

|                       |                       |                 |                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Agassiz's Glass Perch | Fly-specked Hardyhead | Mangrove Jack # | Snub-nose Garfish |
| Banded Grunter        | Forktail Catfish      | Mouth Almightly | Sooty Grunter #   |
| Barramundi            | Cudgong               | Saratoga #      | Spangled Perch    |
| Boxy Bream            | Hyrtl's Tandani #     | Sea Mullet      | Yellowbelly #     |
| Eastern Rainbowfish   | Long-finned Eel       | Silver Perch #  |                   |
| Eeltail catfish       | Longtom               | Sleepy Cod #    |                   |

# Present in low numbers



## Accommodation

Lake Awoonga Caravan Park (07) 4975 0155

## Boating and Leisure Hire

Australia by Seaplane (07) 4972 1940  
Lake Awoonga Boating & Leisure Hire 0457 929 889 or 0413 148 476

## Club/Groups

Gladstone Bowhunters www.gladstonebowhunters.com.au  
Gladstone Ski and Barefoot Club 0411 271 212  
Port Curtis Scout Group 0407 784 522

## Fishing Charters

Jamie Bein 0407 434 446  
Lake Awoonga Guided Fishing Tours 0429 723 757

## Tourism Information

GAPDL Gladstone Information Centre (07) 4972 9000



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**Lake Awoonga Rangers**  
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**Fishing & Fishing**  
Native Flora & Fauna

**Lake Awoonga**  
GLADSTONE QUEENSLAND

# Fishing @ LAKE AWOONGA

## FISHING AND BOATING

Fish stocking of Lake Awoonga began in the early 1980s, and was carried out by local stocking groups and under the former Queensland Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Recreational Fishery Enhancement Program. Restocking at this time saw almost 250,000 fingerlings (baby fish) released into Lake Awoonga.

Because this stocking effort met with limited success, in 1991 Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) commissioned consultants to survey the lake, and to make recommendations on future stocking. The consultant's report concluded that stocked species were not a significant component of the fishery and highlighted the large number of predators present, which presumably were reducing survival rates. The recommendations from this were that barramundi be stocked as the principal species due to its rapid growth, high survival potential and competitive nature. After consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), the decision was made to establish a hatchery to supply the large number, and genetic strain, of fingerlings required. In 1996, the first barramundi were released into Lake Awoonga.

GAWB (supported by the Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited) operates a modern marine fish hatchery for the purpose of supplying fingerlings to restock Lake Awoonga, Gladstone's principal water storage. The hatchery is one of the largest breeders of barramundi fingerlings in Queensland. It also breeds mangrove jack and sea mullet. Over 4,140,000 barramundi, 526,000 sea mullet and 70,000 mangrove jack fingerlings have been released into Lake Awoonga.

## FISH STOCKS

Approximately 400,000 fish are released each year including 300,000 barramundi, and some sea mullet and mangrove jack. By March 2015 a total of over 5 million fish had been released into Lake Awoonga including 4.14 million barramundi, 562,700 sea mullet and 70,600 mangrove jack. These fish were bred at GAWB's Fish Hatchery facility.

## BE AWARE OF HAZARDS!

At full supply level of 40m above sea level, the total capacity of Lake Awoonga is 777,000 megalitres. Because of fluctuating water levels, boat users of the lake should be aware that submerged hazards exist. The waters of Lake Awoonga are controlled by Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and Queensland Water Police under the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, enforced to prevent potentially dangerous activities. The onus for safety is on the owner and master of a vessel.

Maps of the lake are available from the Lake Awoonga Caravan Park or Lake Awoonga Boating & Leisure Hire.

## Vulnerable or Endangered Bird Species

### Southern Squatter Pigeon

(*Geophaps scripta scripta*)

- Length 290mm approx
- Wingspan 450mm approx
- Weight 212g approx

Medium-sized and heavily built, the southern squatter pigeon is a ground-dwelling bird that lives in open, tropical dry sclerophyll woodlands and plains of north-eastern Australia.

Preferring to live close to permanent waterholes, it builds its nest on the ground, often sheltered in short dry grass or bushes. Created from a shallow depression, the nest is lined with leaves and grass. Its diet includes insects, and a wide range of seeds from herbs, legumes, grasses, shrubs and trees, and this varies according to the season.

### Red Goshawk

(*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*)

- Length 600mm approx
- Wingspan 1350mm approx

The red goshawk is listed as endangered in Queensland and vulnerable throughout Australia. Unlike other birds of prey, it is the female that is the larger of the two and more powerfully built. Usually a solitary bird, the red goshawk can occasionally be seen in family groups or pairs in its home range of up to 220km<sup>2</sup>.

Preying on larger birds such as kookaburras and black cockatoos, the red goshawk also eats insects, reptiles and mammals and will cleverly watch out for bushfires and take animals when they are flushed out.

Breeding from August to November, its nest is a large platform of dead sticks lined up with green leaves and twigs, usually built in the fork of a tree up to 20m above the ground. Each year, the red goshawk will use the same nest.



# Native Flora & Fauna



### LOCAL WILDLIFE

Lake Awoonga and the surrounding land provide natural habitat for a wondrous array of plants, animals and birds. Whiptail and pretty-face wallabies can be easily found throughout the recreation area. You may also encounter skinks, frogs, turtles, platypus, possums, echidnas, butterflies, bats, koala, geckos and a multitude of insects and plant life.

The Yellow-Bellied Glider and the Grey-Headed Flying Fox can be found in the region and are both listed as vulnerable.

Lake Awoonga is arguably one of the most important near-coast bird refuges on the east coast of Australia, with over 220 species, or more than 27% of Australia's bird species found in the region.

The Southern Squatter Pigeon is listed as vulnerable and the Red Goshawk is listed as endangered, while a further 27 species are listed on international migratory conservation agreement lists.

Further flora and fauna information can be found on the GAWB website at [www.gawb.qld.gov.au](http://www.gawb.qld.gov.au).

### SURVEYS OF FLORA AND FAUNA

Both the lake and the entire length of the Boyne River have been extensively surveyed. Numbers of microinvertebrates and other water dwelling creatures found in surveys are consistent with a healthy lake and downstream valley.

### FAUNA REFUGE

Feathered, furry or scaled, Lake Awoonga is home to a thriving array of native animals, several of which are of conservation significance.

The lake and surrounding lands provide habitat for plants and animals in and adjacent to the clear, fresh waters created by Awoonga Dam. The plants in the water and on river banks maintain a wondrous array of small animals (insects, beetles, worms, shellfish, bugs, shrimps, etc) which support the fish, eels, turtles, platypus and birds.



### BIRD SPECIES @ LAKE AWOONGA

|                                       |                                    |                                    |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Apostlebird                           | Bush Hen                           | Little Black Cormorant             | Scarlet Honeyeater               |
| Australasian Grebe                    | Bush Stone-curlew                  | Little Button Quail                | Sharp-tailed                     |
| Australasian or Blue Winged Shoveller | Caspian Tern +                     | Little Eagle                       | Sandpiper +                      |
| Australian Brush Turkey               | Cattle Egret +                     | Little Egret                       | Shining Bronze-Cuckoo            |
| Australian Bustard                    | Channel-billed Cuckoo              | Little Friarbird                   | Silver Gull                      |
| Australian Darter                     | Chestnut Teal                      | Little Grassbird                   | Silvereye                        |
| Australian Grey Teal                  | Chestnut-breasted Manikin or Mania | Little Lorikeet                    | Singing or Australasian Bushlark |
| Australian Hobby or Little Falcon     | Cicadabird                         | Little Pied Cormorant              | Southern Booboo +                |
| Australian King-Parrot                | Clamorous Reed-warbler +           | Little or Rufous Shrike-thrush     | Spangled Drongo                  |
| Australian Magpie                     | Cockatoo                           | Little Tern +                      | Spectacled Monarch +             |
| Australian Owllet                     | Collared Sparrowhawk               | Maggie Goose                       | Spotless Crake                   |
| Nightjar                              | Comb-crested Jacana or Lotus Bird  | Maggie-lark                        | Spotted Pardalote                |
| Australian Pelican                    | Common Starling                    | Marsh or Bailion's Crake           | Spotted Turtle-dove              |
| Australian Pratincole                 | Common Bronzewing                  | Masked Lapwing                     | Square-tailed Kite               |
| Australian Raven                      | Common Greenshank +                | Mistletoebird                      | Southern Squatter Pigeon #       |
| Australian White Ibis                 | Common Kool                        | Nankeen or Australian Kestrel      | Straw-necked Ibis                |
| Australian Wood or Manded Duck        | Common Mynah                       | Nankeen Night Heron                | Striated Pardalote               |
| Azure Kingfisher                      | Common Starling                    | Noisy Friarbird                    | Striated Thornbill               |
| Barking Owl                           | Cotton Pygmy-goose                 | Noddy Miner                        | Striped Honeyeater               |
| Barn Owl                              | Crested Pigeon                     | Nutmeg Manikin                     | Stubble Quail                    |
| Bar-shouldered Dove                   | Dollarbird                         | Olive-backed Oriole                | Sulphur-crested Cockatoo         |
| Bar-tailed Godwit +                   | Domestic Goose                     | Osprey +                           | Swamp Harrier                    |
| Black Bittern                         | Double-barred Finch                | Pacific Baza                       | Tawny Frogmouth                  |
| Black Falcon                          | Dusky Honeyeater                   | Pacific Black Duck                 | Tawny Grassbird                  |
| Black Kite                            | Dusky Moorhen                      | Pacific or Eastern Golden Plover + | Topknot Honeyeater               |
| Black Swan                            | Eastern Curlew +                   | Painted Button-quail               | Torresian Crow                   |
| Black-chinned Honeyeater              | Eastern Reef Heron                 | Pale-headed Rosella                | Tree Martin                      |
| Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike             | Eastern Whipbird                   | Pallid Cuckoo                      | Varied Triller                   |
| Black-faced Monarch +                 | Eastern Yellow Robin               | Peaceful Dove                      | Wandering Whistling Duck         |
| Black-faced Woodswallow               | Emerald Dove                       | Peagrass Falcon                    | Wedge-tailed Eagle               |
| Black-fronted Dotterel                | Eurasian Coot                      | Pheasant Coucal                    | Weebill                          |
| Black-necked Stork or Jabiru          | Fairy Gerygone                     | Pied Cormorant                     | Welcome Swallow                  |
| Black-shouldered Kite                 | Fairy Martin                       | Pied Currawong                     | Whimbrel +                       |
| Black-tailed Godwit +                 | Fan-tailed Cuckoo                  | Plumed Whistling Duck              | Whiskered Tern                   |
| Black-winged Stilt                    | Forest Kingfisher                  | Plum-headed Finch                  | Whistling Kite                   |
| Blue-faced Honeyeater                 | For-tailed Swift +                 | Powerful Owl                       | White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike      |
| Blue-faced Honeyeater                 | Fuscous Honeyeater                 | Purple Swamphen                    | White-bellied Sea Eagle +        |
| Blue-winged Kookaburra                | Galah                              | Rainbow Bee eater +                | White-breasted Woodswallow       |
| Brahminy Kite                         | Glossy Black Cockatoo              | Rainbow Lorikeet                   | White-browed Scrub-wren          |
| Brolga                                | Glossy Ibis +                      | Rajah Shelduck                     | White-eared Monarch              |
| Brown Cuckoo-Dove                     | Golden Whistler                    | Red Goshawk #                      | White-faced Heron                |
| Brown Falcon                          | Golden-headed Castle               | Red-backed Fairy Wren              | White-naped Honeyeater           |
| Brown Goshawk                         | Great Crested Grebe                | Red-capped Plover                  | White-necked Heron               |
| Brown Honeyeater                      | Great Egret +                      | Red-kneed Dotterel                 | White-throated Needletail +      |
| Brown Quail                           | Green or Southern Figbird          | Red-necked Stint +                 | White-throated Nightjar          |
| Brown Thornbill                       | Green Pygmy-goose                  | Red-tailed Black Cockatoo          | White-throated Treecreeper       |
| Brush Cuckoo                          | Grey Butcherbird                   | Cockatoo                           | White-winged Chough              |
| Buff-banded Rail                      | Grey Fantail                       | Red-winged Parrot                  | White-winged Triller             |
|                                       | Grey Shrike-thrush                 | Restless Flycatcher                | Willie Wagtail                   |
|                                       | Grey-crowned Babbler               | Richard's or Australasian Pipit    | Wonga Pigeon                     |
|                                       | Grey-tailed Tattler +              | Rock Dove or Feral Pigeon          | Yellow-billed Spoonbill          |
|                                       | Gull-billed Tern                   | Rose Robin                         | Yellow-faced Honeyeater          |
|                                       | Hardhead Duck                      | Rose-crowned Fruit Dove            | Yellow-camped Thornbill          |
|                                       | House Sparrow                      | Royal Spoonbill                    |                                  |
|                                       | Indian Peafowl                     | Rufous Fantail +                   |                                  |
|                                       | Intermediate Egret                 | Sacred Kingfisher                  |                                  |
|                                       | Jacky Winter                       | Satin Flycatcher +                 |                                  |
|                                       | Latham's Snipe +                   | Scaly-breasted Lorikeet            |                                  |
|                                       | Laughing Kookaburra                |                                    |                                  |
|                                       | Leadbeater Flycatcher              |                                    |                                  |
|                                       | Lewin's Honeyeater                 |                                    |                                  |
|                                       | Little Bittern                     |                                    |                                  |

+ Listed on international migratory agreement lists  
# Listed as vulnerable or endangered