

**MEDIA RELEASE**

31 October 2024

**Gladstone family wins the Lake Awoonga Scavenger Hunt!**

The incredibly popular Lake Awoonga Scavenger Hunt has wrapped up for another year, with the \$3000 grand prize won by a local Gladstone family.

The 2024 Lake Awoonga Scavenger Hunt is an initiative of Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB), which owns and operates Awoonga Dam.

The free community-focused event encourages families to visit Lake Awoonga and hunt for our elusive mascot: “Barry the Barramundi”, with the help of useful clues.

Almost 350 entries were submitted for this year’s scavenger hunt, which GAWB CEO Darren Barlow said was a sign of the event’s popularity.

“The Lake Awoonga Scavenger Hunt was established last year as part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, and its tremendous success prompted us to make it an annual event,” Mr Barlow said.

“Children, adults and families have really supported the 2024 event, and their feedback is clear the scavenger hunt is fun and enables participants to explore the natural beauty of Lake Awoonga.

“Lake Awoonga is a wonderful place to spend the day, with new and expanded recreational areas recently opening at Riverston Bay, and the immensely popular Aquaculture Gladstone interpretive display just a short drive up the road.

“GAWB is very proud of the Lake Awoonga Scavenger Hunt and we look forward to running the event again in 2025,” he said.

The scavenger hunt runs for four months and challenges participants to find clues for the hunt on GAWB social media channels and via our media partners: 4CC and Gladstone News.

After following the clues and finding Barry the Barramundi, participants can scan a QR code and submit their entry.

This year, GAWB randomly selected a lucky participant every month to receive a \$500 gift card. With the scavenger hunt officially closing on 23 October 2024, the grand prize winner was drawn on Saturday 26 October, as part of the Lake Awoonga Adventure Race.

The winning family, who live in Gladstone, won a \$3000 gift voucher from Departure Point Travel, and the family are delighted.

“The scavenger hunt on its own is a great event, but it’s fantastic we are able to draw the grand prize winner at the Lake Awoonga Adventure Race, where almost 300 locals watched the draw,” Mr Barlow said.

“The Adventure Race is always a highlight for locals who are keen to test their fitness in the water with kayaking, and on the land with running and cycling.

“We send our thanks and congratulations to the Adventure Race coordinators for another successful event.

“We also thank Hammo and the team from 4CC, who carried out an outdoor broadcast at the event and have been our media partners for the Lake Awoonga Scavenger Hunt.”

GAWB has proudly sponsored the Lake Awoonga Adventure Race for the past six years.

For details on GAWB’s community investment, or the Lake Awoonga Scavenger Hunt, please visit [www.gawb.qld.gov.au](http://www.gawb.qld.gov.au)

Gladstone Area Water Board, as a Queensland Government Bulk Water Supply Authority, delivers safe and reliable water services which promote economic development and enhances the lifestyle of regional Queensland. Gladstone Area Water Board owns and operates Awoonga Dam on the Boyne River, along with a network of delivery pipelines, water treatment plants and other bulk water distribution infrastructure.

**ENDS**

For further media enquiries, contact Peta Leveritt-Baker on 0474 137 295 or email [media@gawb.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@gawb.qld.gov.au).