

MEDIA RELEASE

June 2025

Barry the Barramundi is back to bust holiday boredom at Lake Awoonga

Get ready to ditch the school holiday slump and dive into the fun — the 2025 Lake Awoonga Scavenger Hunt is back from Friday 20 June!

Proudly hosted by the Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB), this free, family-friendly adventure invites locals and visitors alike to explore the beauty of Lake Awoonga in search of everyone's favourite finned friend, Barry the Barramundi.

GAWB Chief Executive Officer Darren Barlow said the scavenger hunt has become a much-loved tradition.

"In 2024, more than 350 entries poured in — a clear sign the community is hooked," Mr Barlow said.

"Families told us they had a blast solving clues, exploring the lake, and, of course, finding Barry.

"We're proud to offer a fun and free way to connect with nature right in our backyard," Mr Barlow said.

Once you've tracked down Barry, there's still plenty to enjoy — relax with a picnic at the upgraded Riverston Bay recreation areas, cool off at the swimming pontoons, or swing by the Aquaculture Gladstone interpretive display just up the road.

The 2025 Lake Awoonga Scavenger Hunt kicks off on Friday 20 June, with monthly \$500 prize draws and a major \$3,000 prize to be announced at the Lake Awoonga Adventure Race on Saturday 25 October. That's a total prize pool of \$5,000 — just for having fun!

How to join the hunt:

1. Find the monthly clue on GAWB's social media channels or website, or via media partners 4CC and Gladstone News.
2. Head to Lake Awoonga and solve three clues to find Barry's hiding spot.
3. Scan Barry's QR code and submit your entry via email — easy!

The hunt runs from 20 June to 21 October 2025. It's open to all ages, free to join, and all you need is your phone and a sense of adventure.

Lake Awoonga isn't just for scavenger hunts — with picnic areas, boat ramps, BBQs, playgrounds, and the Boynedale Bush Camp, it's the perfect year-round escape.

The hunt begins on 20 June — Barry will be waiting!

Visit www.gawb.qld.gov.au for more information – terms and conditions apply.

Gladstone area Water Board provides recreational facilities at Lake Awoonga for the community to enjoy for free, including boat ramps, picnic areas, barbeques, playgrounds and the Boynedale Bush Camp.

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB), as a Queensland Government Bulk Water Supply Authority, delivers safe and reliable water services which promote economic development and enhance the lifestyle of regional Queensland. GAWB owns and operates Awoonga Dam, along with a network of pipelines, water treatment plants and other distribution infrastructure. GAWB also owns and operates Aquaculture Gladstone, a fish hatchery and interpretive display at Lookout One at Lake Awoonga.

To ensure long-term water security for customers, the 117-kilometre Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline (FGP) is under development. When delivered, the FGP will become part of the GAWB network and provide enhanced water security and reliability for the region. For more information about GAWB and the FGP, please visit www.gawb.qld.gov.au

ENDS

For further media enquiries, contact Grace Duckham on 0438 673 776 or email media@gawb.qld.gov.au.