

Parkland Fish

This fact sheet provides general information on the various fish that inhabit the Parkland lake.

While some visitors may like to feed the fish if they sight them in the lake, feeding is not permitted as it may cause the fish to become dependant on an artificial food source which is not healthy for them.

If you see a sick or injured fish, please contact Parkland Security on 3006 4525 or 0417 609 992.

Silver Perch



Eight full size silver perch were released into the lake at the official opening of the Parkland in April 2001 by the then Premier of Queensland, Peter Beattie and the honourable Robert Schwarten, Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology.

In December of the same year a further 500 fingerlings of silver perch were released into the lake.

Bidyanus bidyanus

Identification

Adults are often silver-grey on top with dark scale margins and a white belly. Top can vary to greenish, brown or golden colour.

Growth can be to 40cm in length and 8kg in weight however, more commonly seen at 30cm and 1.5kg in weight.

Interesting facts

Native to Australia, this species can be found in freshwaters throughout the Murray-Darling Drainage of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. It prefers fast flowing waters but is also known to inhabit rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

Silver Perch feed on Shrimps, Yabbies and aquatic insects, but believed that larger fish change to a mainly vegetarian diet feeding on weed and algae.

The lake does not provide a breeding habitat for this species as they require floods or running streams to lay their eggs.

Fresh Water Mullet

In January 2003, 500 fingerlings of fresh water mullet were released into the lake.

Trachystoma petardi

Identification

Greenish brown on top with silvery sides and belly. The fins are dusky coloured and this species has a deeply forked tail and a small head.

Growth is up to 80cm in length and 7.5kg in weight.

Interesting facts

Native to Australia, this species is found in freshwater coastal streams, as well as estuarine and coastal waters from southern Queensland to southern New South Wales.

They can often be seen near the surface of the water, swimming in small schools.

The lake does not provide a breeding habitat for this species.

Queensland Lungfish

Nine of these pre-historic fish were relocated from the Sandgate Lagoon (a northern suburb of Brisbane) and released into the Lake in December 2003. When released, they were approximately 1.2m in size.

History

The Australian lungfish belongs to a very ancient group Sarcopterygii (fleshy finned fishes). Fossil members of this group have been dated at over 400 million years. The Australian fossil record shows up to seven species. Fossils identical to *N. forsteri* found in northern New South Wales have been dated at 100 million years, during the early 'Cretaceous Period', making this species a member of the oldest extant vertebrate genus.

Neoceratodus forsteri

Identification

Adult Lungfish have a heavy elongated body, wide flat head, large bony overlapping scales, small eyes and pelvic and pectoral fins resembling flippers. Colour varies from olive-brown to dark brown with irregular dark blotches on the sides and back. The belly is pale to deep salmon-pink.

Adult Lungfish can grow to 1.5m but are more commonly seen at 1m.

Juvenile Lungfish have a more rounded head and skin pigment is dull compared to an adult. The colour patterns provide good camouflage for small Lungfish.

Interesting facts

The Queensland Lungfish are fully protected and are regarded as a species at risk because their habitat is now so restricted and their fecundity (fertility) is so low.

The Lungfish is normally found in still or slow flowing pools in river systems of south-eastern Queensland and naturally in the Burnett and Mary River systems.

Mostly carnivorous, consuming frogs, tadpoles, small fish, molluscs, freshwater shrimp and earthworms. It has, however, also been observed to eat some aquatic and terrestrial plant material.

Lungfish have gills and lungs for gaseous exchange. Most of the time, the Lungfish uses its gills, employing their single lung when they are actively hunting for food at night or during the spawning season. The lung is also used when their habitat is in flood and the water is laden with silt. When surfacing to empty and refill its lung, the Lungfish exhales with a noise resembling a blast from small bellows.

Spawning occurs between August and December and involves single pairs in the shallows among aquatic plants. There is a possibility that the Lungfish could breed in the lake if they find their way into the wetlands.

Pacific blue-eye



200 fingerlings were released into the wetlands areas in December 2004.

Pseudomugil signifer

Identification

A semi-transparent body which can vary in colour from pale olive, yellow to bluish with a silvery colour underneath and a series of pearly spots along the side of the body. The iris of this species is blue (as the name depicts).

During breeding, the fins of the male can become brilliantly coloured.

Growth of males is up to 88mm and females up to 63mm.

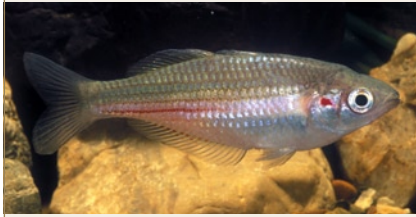
Interesting facts

Can be found naturally living in clear, fast flowing streams and also in mangrove regions of estuaries. This species occurs along the eastern coastline from Cooktown, northern Queensland to Narooma in southern New South Wales.

They feed on mosquito larvae and other insects.

The lake will hopefully provide an ideal breeding habitat for this species.

Duboulay's rainbowfish



200 fingerlings were released into the wetlands areas in December 2004.

Melanotaenia duboulayi

Identification

Olive-brown on top with silvery sides including a dark stripe along the side and a red spot on the upper flap covering the gills. There is white on the belly and their scale margins are brownish in colour.

Males show a series of red stripes along the sides and red spots on the dorsal, anal and caudal fins. Females and juveniles have clear fins.

Growth can be up to 9cm in length, but 6 – 7cm is more common.

Interesting facts

Native to Australia, this species can be found in coastal freshwaters from southern Queensland to northern New South Wales.

This species feeds on microscopic aquatic life and small aquatic insects and are good at keeping mosquito numbers down.

The lake will hopefully provide an ideal breeding habitat for this species.

Firetailed gudgeon



200 fingerlings were released into the wetlands areas in December 2004.

Hypseleotris galii

Identification

Colouration of this species varies with age, habitat and season. Generally grey to bronze body with black scale margins. During breeding, males can be almost black with intense red-orange fins. Females are distinguished by the black around the anal area which is usually brown on males.

Males grow to 5.5cm and females grow to 4cm in length.

Interesting facts

Native to Australia, this species can be found in freshwater coastal streams from southern Queensland to northern New South Wales.

This species feeds on aquatic invertebrates.

This species should breed quite well in the lake environment.

Flyspecked hardyhead



200 fingerlings were released into the wetlands areas in December 2004.

Craterocephalus stercusmuscarum

Identification

Golden yellow to deep green on top and white on the belly. A dusky silver stripe runs from the snout to the tail and the body is covered with black dots.

Interesting facts

Native to Australia, this species has a widespread distribution in some freshwater streams in the Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

This species feeds on mainly mosquito larvae and aquatic insects. It will also eat crustaceans and has been observed eating algae.

The lake will hopefully provide an ideal breeding habitat for this species.