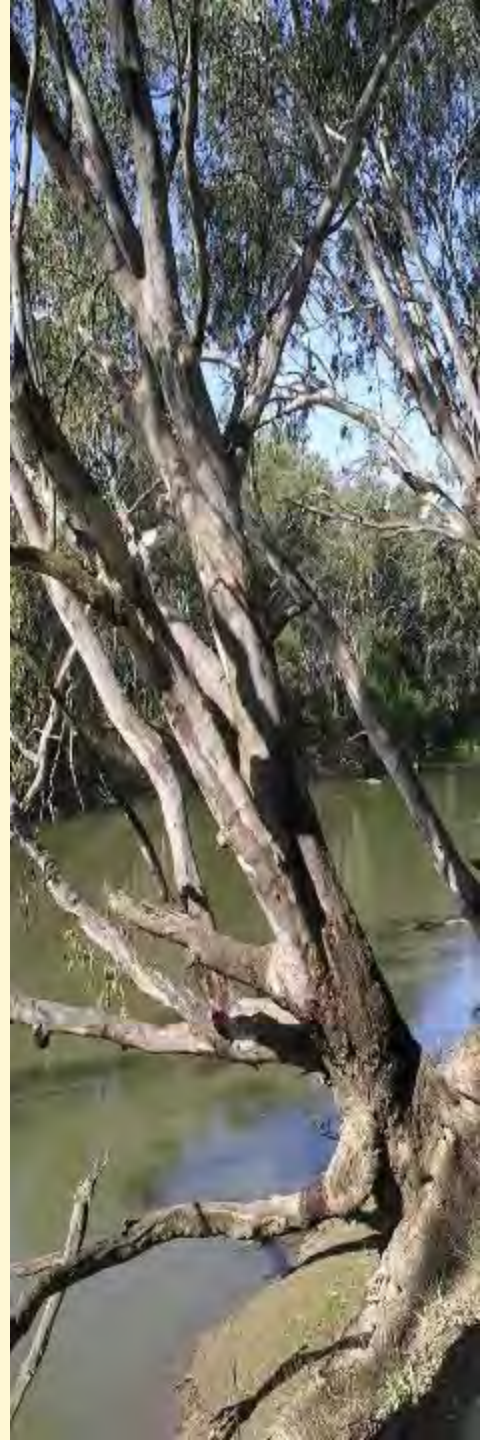


Talking fish



Photos: S Nichols, L Pearce, Berri Baramera Local History Collection, Berri Library & Information Centre

Making connections with the
rivers of the
Murray-Darling Basin



When did you first learn to fish?

Who taught you?

Where did you go to fish?

What is your favourite fish?

Do you still go fishing?

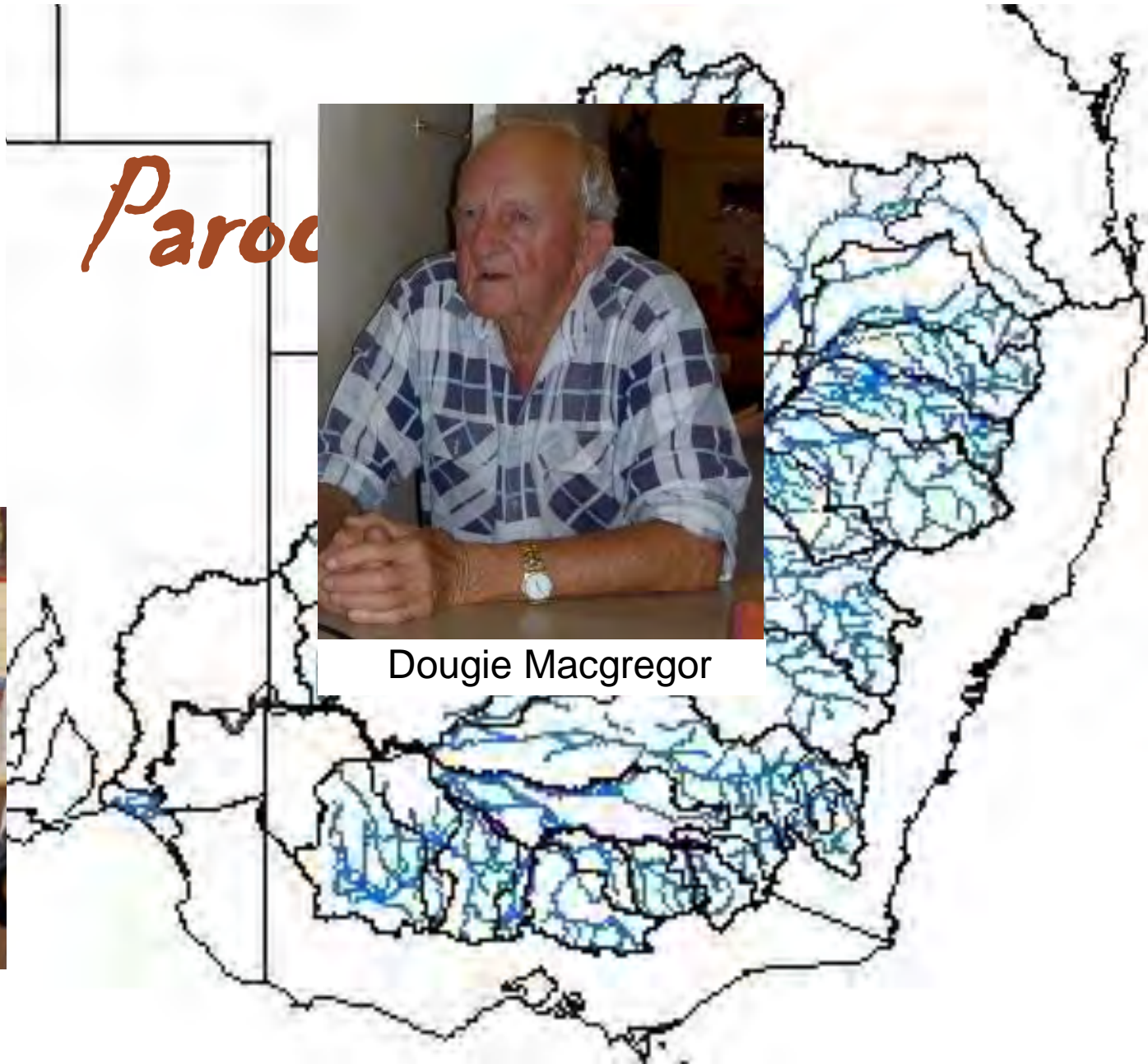


What changes have you seen?

Paroo



Dougie Macgregor



Talking fish

***When the carp first hit here,
the kids were down near the
weir and we were shovelling
them out with pitchforks,
that's how thick they were.***

Dennis Lean, Yarrawonga



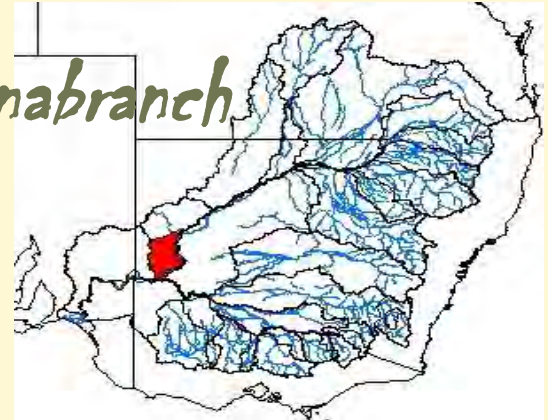
When the carp came that put paid to the catfish.

Talking fish

Before my time there were heaps of catfish apparently.

My uncles and my father talk about them being in pest proportions...It's hard to believe that in one generation it can change.

Darling Anabranch



Clayton Sharpe, Mildura

Talking fish

Upper Murrumbidgee

...at the right time the silver perch would be just roaring up the river....They'd end up with piles and piles of silver perch...



Adrian Brown, Murrumbidgee

Now you go there, you won't get one.

Talking fish

Coorong & Lower Lakes

The old fishermen and duck shooters say that there was a tiny little snail that lived in the water weed...like a cockle or mussel...



Terry Sim, Milang

When the weed was killed off by the sea water intrusions, that little snail died and then the ducks disappeared.

Talking fish

*The **water** being beautifully **transparent**, the bottom was visible at **great depths**, showing **large fishes** in shoals, floating like birds in mid-air.*

From the journal of Thomas Mitchell, while camped on the Darling River, 1st June 1835

Talking fish

...Murray cod ...at Renmark and Loxton this fish was so abundant last season that people used it to feed fowl and pigs!



The Advertiser, Wednesday 11 September 1912

Talking fish

The [Macquarie] perch..have the upstream inclination.... shoals of them congregated in the whirlpool...

I estimate that three-quarters of a ton of fish was landed about Nagambie weir on the opening day.

Talking fish

Between Lock 4 and Loxton... about 50 large snags were removed...

...Cod and large crayfish dropped out of holes in the logs – which ... had been on the river's bottom for half a century or more.

Talking fish

...on the Barwon and Namoi Rivers, catching perch and cod by the score.

***'But with them is a strange fish we have never seen before. We have named it the
New Australian.'***

The Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday 27 February 1952

Talking fish

Concept – Creeping Normalcy



Photo: S Nichols



Photo source: M Gordos

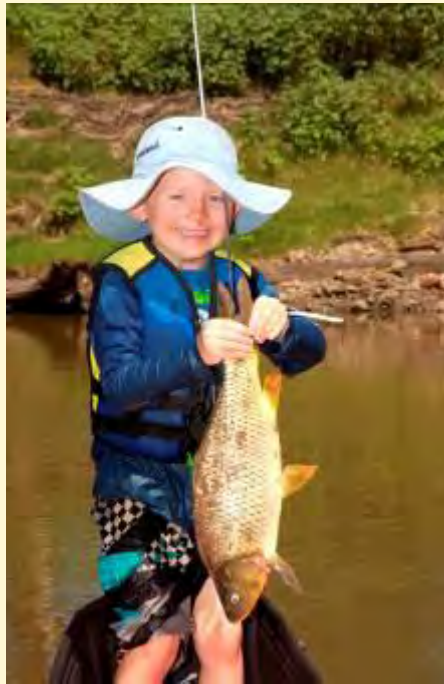


Photo source: M Hobson

Photo: J Frawley



Talking fish

Aim:

To engage recreational fishers & encourage involvement in restoring fish and fish habitat



Photo source: Narrabri and Districts Historical Society

Talking fish

Times have changed and so have people's opinions of fish.

What you can do and what you should do are two different things...

Keeping fish is not the best thing for them...I couldn't catch them again...

Namoi



Jason Simpson, Narrabri

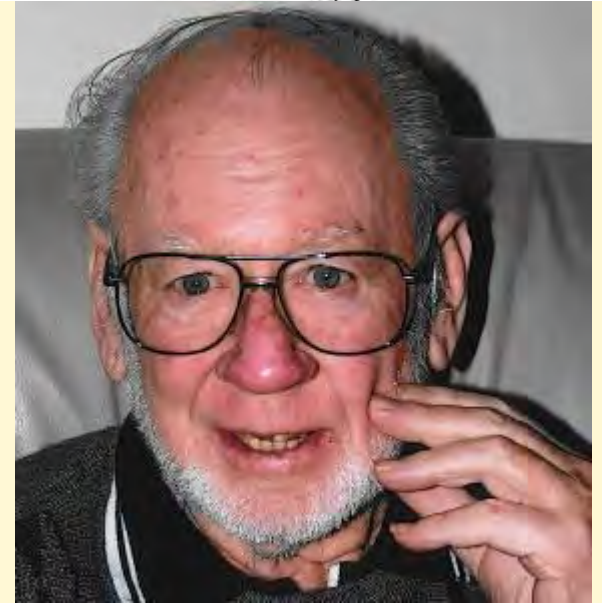
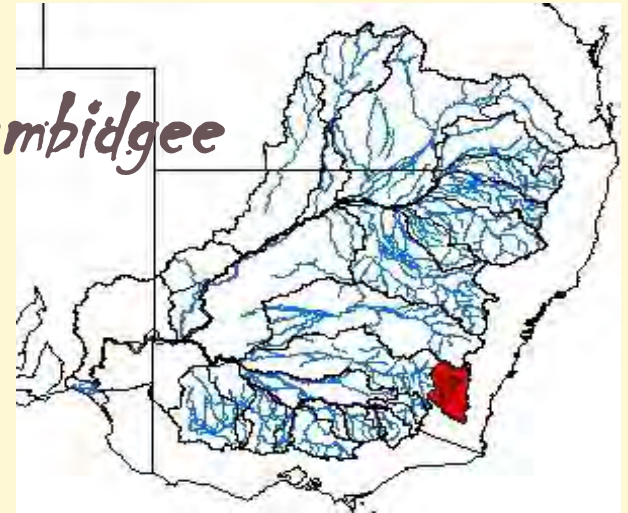
Talking fish

Upper Murrumbidgee

***Simple things like resnagging...
was absolute heresy years ago.***

***We knew snags were important
because when you go fishing for
Murray cod...you home in on the
snags.***

That's where the fish are.



Bryan Pratt, Queanbeyan

Talking fish

Upper Darling

***We don't touch the lagoons.
That's been passed down that
the lagoons are the fish's
breeding ground.***

***That's your bread and butter
for future fishing.***



Dwayne Willoughby, Bourke

Talking fish

Darling Anabranch

We can't live without that river and the Nguku in the river.

'Nguku' means water in the Paakintji language.



Jenny Whyman, Menindee

Talking fish

Paroo
Talking fish
Making connections with the
Murray-Darling Basin

Culgoa - Balonne
Talking fish
Making connections with the
west of the Murray-Darling Basin

Upper Condamine
Talking fish
Making connections with the
west of the Murray-Darling Basin

Darling & the Great Anabranch
Talking fish
Making connections with the
Murray-Darling Basin

Upper Darling
Talking fish
Making connections with the
west of the Murray-Darling Basin

Namoi
Talking fish
Making connections with the
west of the Murray-Darling Basin

Katarapko
Talking fish
Making connections with the
west of the Murray-Darling Basin

Coorong & Lower Lakes
Talking fish
Making connections with the
west of the Murray-Darling Basin

Murray
Talking fish
Making connections with the
west of the Murray-Darling Basin

Upper Murrumbidgee
Talking fish
Making connections with the
west of the Murray-Darling Basin

Goulburn
Talking fish
Making connections with the
west of the Murray-Darling Basin

Ovens
Talking fish
Making connections with the
west of the Murray-Darling Basin

Ovens
Talking fish
Making connections with the
west of the Murray-Darling Basin

Talking fish

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