

ANGLERS of all ages have a better understanding of the importance of healthy waterways and wetlands to local fisheries after attending the recent World Fish Migration Day celebration.

Organised by the NQ Dry Tropics and held on the banks of Lillesmere Lagoon near the Kalamia State School, the day attracted a good turnout of young families.

Activities included games for the kids, free raffles, a sausage sizzle and softdrinks and the chance to get up close to some of our native wildlife.

NQ Dry Tropics teamed up with a number of community groups including Lower Burdekin Landcare, Wilmar Sugar and Burdekin Fish Restocking Group to stage the day.

Volunteers (including children from the Kalamia State School) raised a sweat planting 480 trees along the lagoon bank.

NQ Dry Tropics explained that, when grown, the trees would shade the edge of the waterway, cooling the water and maintaining healthy oxygen levels which is so important for a healthy waterway and a prolific fishery.

Of course, the key focus on

for fish life to survive. Today, after a number of years of ongoing work by a number of local groups, the weed problem is largely under control.

Complementing this achievement is the recent construction of a fishway structure in the creek, allowing fish (such as local favourites, barramundi and mangrove jack) to make their way upstream unhindered.

The day wouldn't have been complete without a talk and demonstration by the Burdekin Fish Restocking Group and the kids certainly enjoyed the chance to help release 200 barramundi fingerlings. This group has done much to improve our local barra fishery.

They are a small group whose activities are limited by available funding, but each year they restock between 60,000 and 100,000 barra fingerlings in Burdekin waterways. With healthy waterways and a dedicated restocking group Burdekin barramundi fishing should only get better.

If you have a fishing photo or story you would like to see published in this column, drop it into the Advocate office, or email



Restocking is fun for anglers of all ages.