



## **FISHING LEGEND STARLO RETURNS TO COPETON WATERS HOLIDAY PARK FOR FISHING FEST**

**Iconic Australian fishing legend Steve 'Starlo' Starling will be staying at Inland Waters Holiday Parks (IWHP) Copeton Waters this weekend to take advantage of the near perfect fishing conditions the dam is experiencing this winter.**

Copeton's incredible cod fishing draws fishermen from all over eastern Australia with arguably the 'codfather' of fishing Steve Starling and his wife Jo currently back for their second visit this winter.

IWHP Copeton Waters Manager Dave Allan said Steve and Jo were cutting a trip short from Harvey Bay to return to the park because the fishing has been so good.

"The fishing power couple, who are regulars at IWHP Copeton Waters, landed three massive beauties over a metre when they fished here earlier this winter, which makes up for their disappointment last year when they didn't quite crack a fish over the magic metre," Mr Allan said.

"I'm positive Steve is coming back to try and out-fish Jo who caught and released two fish measured at 106cm and 115cm. While Steve managed to lift his PB to 104cm I'm sure he'll be wanting to even the score."

The winter cod fishing at Copeton Waters has been a major draw for fisherman from Mackay in northern Queensland to Melbourne in the far south. These fishermen are prepared to travel thousands of kilometres to test their skills against Australia's premier freshwater sportfish, the mighty Murray Cod. Michael Guest (*Reel Action TV*) David Green (*Fishing World magazine*) and Dean Norbiato (*FishLife & Modern Fishing*) are also regulars at Copeton.

Mr Allan said the fishing through the winter was a boom for Copeton Waters Holiday Park and brought tens of thousands of dollars into the local community. "The visitors to Copeton Waters are spending time and money in Inverell and enjoying what the area has to offer," he said.

To honour the amazing fishing conditions at the dam, IWHP Copeton Waters is running a *King and Queen of Copeton* Competition with great prizes for the biggest fish caught between now and 31 November 2016. The competition is open to all and involves posting your catch on the park's Facebook page. The catch must be measured and photographed on an approved brag mat.

Mr Allan said his personal best was a 118cm Murray Cod caught on a surface lure, casting from the bank of the dam which shows that you don't need expensive gear or a boat to catch the big ones.

"Every time you cast a lure or bait in Copeton you have a very real chance of hooking the fish of a lifetime," he said. "A Cod over a metre in length is the benchmark and it is getting to the stage where a lot of fishermen are now setting their sights on a 1.2metre fish as their next goal."

Dave writes a regular fishing report for Fishing Monthly Magazine and his fishing tales and latest park updates can be found on the Copeton Waters park page at <http://www.inlandwaters.com.au>, as well as a full list of activities, accommodation and rates. The park's Facebook page also posts Dave's local fishing and park news.

**#Ends#**

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**Photos Attached**

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**Editor's Note:** Additional copy provided below.

Please attribute to IWHP Copeton Waters Park Manager Dave Allan

*Copeton Dam is proving itself as the most reliable and consistent producer of big Murray Cod in Australia. Nowhere else comes close to Copeton for the average size of fish caught either. The winter surface bite seldom sees a fish under 70cm caught and the average would be around 83-85cm which depending on their condition will weigh between 10 & 15kg. Where else can boast an average fish weighing 25lbs plus?*