

Hooked on Shepparton

Information for Participants and Guidelines

Location: Victoria Park Lake

Date: Friday, 23rd January

Time: 4-9pm

Winners announced and presentation of awards: 8.30am

How do I register?

All participants will need to be registered which you can do via TryBooking. Please refer to map to locate registration area. Entry is free and open to all ages. Fishing begins at 4.30pm and ends at 7.30pm

Why do I need to register?

We need to ensure all participants are registered so we can manage numbers and communicate any changes to the event. Everyone who is registered for the event will go into the draw to win one of two vouchers which will be announced at the conclusion of the event.

Do I need a Fishing Licence?

A Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) covers all forms of recreational fishing in all of Victoria's marine, estuarine and fresh waters.

Unless you are exempt, an RFL is required when taking, or attempting to take, any species of fish any method including line fishing, bait collection, gathering shellfish, yabby fishing, prawning, and spear fishing.

Who is exempt from holding a Fishing Licence?

You will not need a licence to fish if you are:

- Under 18 years or over 70 years of age;

Or as a holder:

- a person identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander;
- Victorian Seniors Card or interstate equivalent;
- Veterans' Affairs Reparational Health Card coded (TPI);
- Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Card;
- Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Car coded either DSP, DSP Blind, AGE, AGE Blind, or CAR.

Where can I get a Fishing Licence from?

You can purchase one online at Services Victoria or at one of many local fishing stores. Go to the link below to purchase a fishing licence:

<https://service.vic.gov.au/find-services/outdoor-and-recreation/buy-a-victorian-recreational-fishing-licence>

What if I'm under 18?

All participants 14 years and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Anyone under the age of 18 must have permission from a parent or guardian to register and attend the event.

What fish are in Victoria Park Lake?

The lake has been restocked with trout before the event. You can also find Golden Perch, Murray Cod, Redfin, and Carp. Australian native fish have been stocked in the past and size limits apply and bag limits also apply.

What bait and lures should I use?

Specific trouts bits – Berkley power baits, worms, maggots, home made dough baits, mud-eye, small yabbies. There are many lure options – bladed lures, spoons, soft plastics or bidded lures (minnows and crankbaits). All of these lures in the smaller sizes can work.

Where is the closest place to buy bait and lures?

There are a number of local bait and tackle shops in Greater Shepparton. There will also be bait available to purchase on site on the day.

What should I bring?

We recommend you bring:

- Fishing rods (2 rods per licence holder) and reels
- Fishing line
- Bait (there will also be some available to purchase on site)
- Tackle such as hooks, sinkers, bobbers (floats), lures
- Line cutter or pliers
- Eski / cooler bag
- Measuring device
- Chairs
- Appropriate clothing for the weather (sunscreen, hat, jacket etc.)
- Snacks and water
- Hand towel if handling fish

What should I do if I catch a fish?

Any fish caught can be kept – bag and size limits apply. If you would like to enter the fish in the competition, then please follow this link shepp.city/fish

to enter it. If you are having trouble or need assistance uploading your entry flag down a staff member who will be identifiable in high-vis vests.

What should I do if I catch a carp?

Carp are a noxious species, so if you catch a carp, you can keep it and consume it, or you can dispose of it. You must not return it to the water alive. Do not leave the dead carp on shore at the fishing location. Dead carp can be returned to the water, but you must cut the carcass so that it sinks.

Will there be food and drinks available?

There will be a BBQ, food trucks and drinks available to purchase on the day.

Will there be any other activities available?

There will be a range of fun and educational activities available for all ages.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at events@shepparton.vic.gov.au or call one of our team on 5832 9700.

Being a responsible fisher (VFA guidelines)

Gear selection

- **Use tackle that is appropriate for the size and type of fish (light gear can result in a fish dying of exhaustion or stress soon after its release).**
- **Use circle hooks to increase a fish's chance of living once it is released.**
- **Stay with your gear to ensure that fish are retrieved as soon as they are caught (minimises stress and potential injury).**

Removing hooks

Whenever possible try to remove the hook while the fish is still in the water (try not to remove the fish from the water).

- **If the fish is hooked in the jaw or mouth, remove the hook using a hook remover or long-nosed pliers.**
- **If the fish is hooked deep in the stomach leave it there and cut the line as close as possible to the mouth.**

Unwanted fish

When you catch a fish:

- **out of season**

- outside of legal limits (size, bag, possession)
- that you do not wish to keep (e.g. toadfish, rays, native seastars, nontarget species) release it immediately and with the least amount of damage or injury (i.e. the least amount of handling).

Handling fish

A fish's body has a slimy protective coating, which can be damaged by excessive handling. Incorrect handling damages fish and reduces their chances of survival after release. Fish can also suffocate (lack of oxygen) and suffer internal soft tissue injury (organs are crushed) when lifted incorrectly or inappropriately handled.

If you must handle a fish (to check its identity or size) reduce damage by:

- using a dip/landing net without knotted mesh
- using wet hands or a wet towel to handle it
- placing the fish on cool and wet surfaces (not on hot and dry surfaces).

Releasing fish

When releasing fish, hold the fish horizontally and gently under the water, if possible. Wait until it revives then release your hold so it can swim away.

Do not release noxious fish species – [this is illegal](#). You must kill noxious species, such as carp. To dispose of carp, cut up the carcass and put into the water, or take the carcass away with you.

Dispatch fish

It is good practice to immediately kill the fish you intend to keep.

- Dispatch them with a quick blow to the head.
- Place dead fish in an ice slurry and store them away from sunlight (preferably in a moist bag or cooler).

Cleaning your fish

Some species must not be filleted while you are fishing. This is to ensure that size and catch limits for key species are adhered to. Before you clean your fish remember to check if the species you have caught is to be kept in carcass form or not.

Disposing of old fishing line and fish waste

Dispose of old fishing line in bins. If no bins are provided, take it home, cut it up and dispose of it in general domestic waste.

Put fish waste (carcasses, frames, guts, etc.) in bins. If no bins are provided, take it home and dispose of it in general domestic waste. Don't throw fish waste into the water on beaches or near cleaning tables because it can attract sharks and rays. Do your bit - please leave your fishing spot cleaner than you found it.