



Title Trout Foundation Newsletter

OCTOBER 2016

PRESIDENTS REPORT

by Terry George

The ATF have had an interesting and fairly hectic year in the trout industry; some of the activities included:

STOCKING ISSUES

It was decided to re-submit proposals that were previously supported at the 2015 Vic Stock Meetings for the following streams: The Kiewa, Buckland & King Rivers plus Eurobin Creek. In addition, a submission was made for the lower Ovens River below Porepunkah which did not receive any trout in the 2014 successful submission and after reports by Anglers stating that they had not encountered one fish in that section.

Unfortunately, as last year, final decisions were delayed pending the outcome of the Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program. This program involves stocking of the Howqua and Upper Goulburn Rivers with fin clipped brown trout for 3 consecutive years and monitoring their movements via electro surveys. There's one more stocking to be done next year and we may not have the

results of the program for some time after.

On a more positive note, after negotiations with Fisheries, the ATF, together with Fisheries, carried out a trial of the Jordan Scotty incubators in the Hopkins River this spawning season. Five incubators, each holding 1,000 ova sourced from Snobs Creek, were placed in the Hopkins with the assistance of the Warrnambool Fly Fishers Club and a very pleasing hatch rate was achieved. See Ray Buckland's article on page 3 for further details.

Since then, Fisheries have agreed to a bigger trial next season, however, the extent of such trial is still be negotiated and agreed upon.

We have suggested a number of streams with the input of some Angling Clubs and we have endeavored to initiate further discussions with Fisheries and will continue to do so as a matter of urgency. We need to ascertain how many incubators we shall need to

acquire and get a purchase order underway as soon as practicable.

We have had good feedback from Angling Clubs regarding the Jordan Scotty's with offers of funds and assistance in installation and monitoring activities.

SIZE AND BAG LIMITS

I'm sure you are aware that the ATF has been pursuing a minimum size limit and reduction of bag limits for the last 2 years. Fisheries have produced two draft recommended scenarios; neither being close to what our 2014 survey revealed.

Accordingly, we are currently conducting a new Angler Survey, details of which are set out on page 2, you are urged to complete this survey now.

I wish all trout anglers a successful and enjoyable season and would appreciate fishing reports and photos for our face book page.



TALK WILD TROUT 2016

Fisheries Victoria in collaboration with recreational fishing organisations is proud to once again present the Talk Wild Trout conference in Mansfield.

Hear from experts on numerous Trout related topics, see the results from year two of the three-year study, and a great chance to ask questions and **voice your opinion** on the state of our trout fisheries.

ATF President Terry George will be a guest speaker and if that's not enough...Its Free

Seating is limited and participants must register.

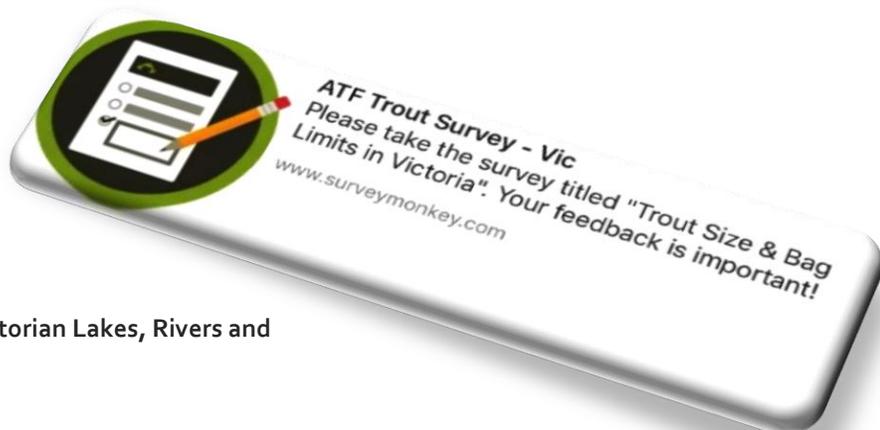
When: Saturday 5 November 2016, from 9.30am until 4.30pm.

Where: Mansfield Performing Arts Centre, 15 View Street.

For online registration go to www.mansfieldmtbuller.com.au/twt

There is more information on our website as well www.atfonline.com.au/news/newsdetail/65

ATF SURVEY



The ATF has been pursuing a minimum size limit and reduction of bag limits for the last 2 years.

Currently there is no minimum size limit for trout in Victorian Lakes, Rivers and Streams.

Following the results of an Angler survey in 2014, we proposed to Fisheries a minimum size limit of 25cm and a bag limit of 2 fish per day.

Fisheries have produced two draft recommended scenarios; neither being close to what our 2014 survey revealed. Accordingly, we are currently conducting a new Angler Survey, so that we can provide Fisheries and other Stakeholders with the results as soon as practicable.

All Victorian trout fishers are urged to complete this survey regarding size and bag limits for trout across the state.

You can find the survey via our Facebook page or the ATF website.

www.facebook.com/troutfoundation/

www.atfonline.com.au/home/page/2016-ATF-Survey

Technology + Partnerships = Our Fisheries' Future

By Ray Buckland

Over the last five years (or so) the Australian Trout Foundation has been working hard to test the current pulse of our fishery and ways to improve it. The big leap began a couple of years ago when President Terry George and Secretary Tony Borrack sent out questionnaires to individuals and clubs to inquire about the state of the fishery from the angler's point of view. The results were from dire to poor in many historically fine fisheries and the declining numbers in creel tallies was general and alarming state wide.

Liaising with Fisheries Victoria, it was decided to initiate some strategies to improve the fishery. Initially our research uncovered the effectiveness of incubators in minimising the mortality rates of eggs and fry from 5 – 20% to 90%.

We believe the Scotty Jordan incubator designed by Fred Jordan, a salmonid technician, and improved with research and development by Scott Plastics was ideal for our purposes. We purchased ten of these and the wheels began to turn.

The Jordan Scotty incubator has pairs of plates loaded with fertile eggs and the fry can only leave the incubator when the egg sac has been exhausted. This method minimises predation, fungal infections and silt suffocation. The result is minimal loss of eggs and fry because they are protected for the vulnerable early period of their lives.



Then nature takes over fish management.

The incubators are sited in the stream gravel beds where there is a good flow of water through the cells and underlying gravel beds. It is imperative that optimum flows of oxygenated water flow through the holes for maximum effect. The incubators are submerged, covered with 8 centimetres of gravel and anchored. They must be monitored regularly.



Okay, there's the concept and now for the application.

We liaised again with Fisheries Victoria and a partnership was born for this experiment. The consultation resulted in an agreement between ATF and Fisheries to place a number of the incubators into the Hopkins in south west Victoria as a trial site.

Five incubators were placed into the river at various locations and we all waited with anticipation. When Troy Duthie and Colby Bowden from Fisheries checked the three incubators under Framlingham Bridge, 90% of the eggs were liberated and some fry with egg sacs were still present. The incubator at Kent's Ford Bridge revealed similar excellent results.

We believe if we can assist higher survival rates in every stage of development of our trout and natives' populations, a better fishery is the consequence.

What about the future of our wild fishery?

The solution to a diminishing fishery is simple: **Partnerships.**

The partners should include all interested parties: Fisheries Victoria, the Australian Trout Foundation, Native Fish Australia, VRFish, the Council of Victorian Fly Fishing Clubs, district fishing clubs, scientists from Snob's Creek and the Arthur Rylah Institute, fishing suppliers and the 'Fishing Media.'

It is imperative that we coordinate these groups into a cohesive unit with a long term vision for our sustainable fishery so it can be rejuvenated to its best potential.

We just want our children and grandchildren to experience the joy of catching a leaping, surging wild trout or native species in the pristine, wild country rivers and lakes this magnificent state has to offer.

Let's take up the challenge!

You can also find this article and others on our website

www.atfonline.com.au/home/page/Scotty-Jordan-Incubator-Boxes

SNOBS CREEK FIN CLIP

And whilst we are on the subject of Partnerships and taking up the challenge, that's exactly what members from the Mansfield and district fly fishers, Southern fly fishers, ATF, VR fish, and the Fisheries team at Snobs creek did.

Over a two-day weekend in August, the team clipped the left pectoral fin of 17,000 trout destined for Lake Eildon. Earlier in the season a similar amount of trout with a different clipping where released into the upper tributaries of Lake Eildon.

The fin clipped trout are for a study to determine any possible migration patterns to and from Lake Eildon and its tributaries. The results of this study will help guide future stocking strategies.



AGM

by Terry George

The minutes will be distributed in due course and I would like to thank the previous Committee members who made the decision not to nominate this year for various reasons.

Rod Barford – Rod needs no introduction as he served for a number of years as President and worked tirelessly for our cause, he has earned my respect and that of countless others for his efforts in this arena.

Merv McGuire – Merv's main role was as project manager for a number of ATF projects, the major one being the successful North East Rivers' Access tracks with appropriate signage

Colin McMillan – We thank Colin for his willing and active participation; in particular, for acting as Secretary during Tony's absence. Colin will still attend in his "Delegate" capacity thank goodness.

Peter Wilmott - Peter willingly participated at Committee meetings and Sub-committee meetings and offered his sound and valuable thoughts on many important issues.

Terry Preston & Mark George – Unfortunately, both Terry & Mark were unable to participate in many meetings this year, accordingly, they decided not to nominate this year but have stated that they would be interested in participating in the future when time permits.

We are fortunate to welcome 3 new Committee Members of the younger brigade; Erhan Cinar, Adam Cox and Martin Lampitt, all members of Southern Fly Fishing Club.

Their enthusiasm to be involved in ATF matters has been rewarded by being appointed to important roles within the Committee.

Our Focus

The main aims for this year include the stocking and bag & size limits issues mentioned in my Presidents report, plus building our membership base via promotion of Angling Club membership as well as individual membership.

We shall continue our efforts with our recommendations for changes in bag and size limits and will provide Fisheries Victoria and other Stakeholders with the results of the current survey.

We will continue to liaise with Fisheries and Angling Clubs regarding further trials of the Jordan Scotty incubators.

With the current stocking policies in place, this method of stocking our wild trout streams by using wild trout ova is one way available to enhance trout populations.

The other way of course is for the ATF to get involved in habitat and riparian zone restoration projects. It is intended to be active in liaising with Anglers and Angling Clubs to identify habitat and riparian projects and to assist in any way we can.