



AUSTRALIAN TROUT FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017

ATF Survey results

The ATF wishes to thank all those who took the time to respond to this survey.

The Victorian's Government's Target One Million initiative made a commitment to review current trout size and bag limits.

The ATF have recently been involved in discussion's and used the survey results to provide Fisheries Victoria with real trout fishers' independent opinions.

Stay tuned for more information regarding this important issue.



Gippsland trout removal to protect endangered Galaxia

ATF members have raised concern regarding part of a recent Government media release stating that trout were to be removed from some streams in Gippsland to protect endangered galaxias.

- trout removal from remote upland streams to protect Gippsland populations of Galaxias

Link to Full Media release.

<http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/urgent-works-funded-to-save-our-threatened-species/>

The ATF made some enquiries with fisheries and were advised that the media release was in regards to a previous project that the ATF assisted with to save the barred galaxias.

There are six or seven small creeks where no trout fishing occurred (generally only a couple of feet across) that hold populations of galaxiids and the initial project relocated trout downstream of a barrier to protect them.

Over time a small number of trout may have found their way above the barrier, and can eat or compete with the galaxiids, putting increased pressure on the survival of the species.

This new projects aim is to capture those trout using electrofishing, and move them downstream of the barrier. The trout are usually only 150 mm long or less. In some of the areas trout don't find a way over the barrier but given the importance of these small populations, they need to be checked out to make sure.



Due to ill health, Tony Borrack our hard working secretary has unfortunately decided to resign.

So we are looking for an enthusiastic and passionate individual for the secretarial role on the ATF committee.

If you have a passion for protecting and enhancing our trout fishery, we could help put your enthusiasm to good use.

For more information,

Please contact

ATF president Terry George.

Ph : 0418 332 744

E president@atfonline.com.au



Helping our wild trout in hot weather

In association with the ATF, VRFish young leaders have published a very informative and useful guide to help anglers avoid putting wild trout under stress.

This is a fantastic and proactive initiative and fully supported, its great to see the young people taking the lead.

Also can be found at <http://www.vrfish.com.au/trout>



Representing
Victorian
Recreational
Fishers

Victoria's peak
body representing
838,000 fishers.



helping our

wild trout in hot weather



Here are some handy hints and key facts on increasing your chances of success whilst also protecting our wild trout from the effects of extreme summer heat ...



✔ Measure the water temperature ...

12-14°C Optimal growth conditions. Trout will be actively feeding.

19°C Growth ceases and trout become stressed.

> 24°C Trout are extremely stressed and potentially lethal. Avoid fishing.

✔ Rest your river ...

As water temperatures increase above 19°C during the day, trout will cease feeding to find shelter. Limit your fishing between the hours of sunrise and 11am whilst the water is still cool and the trout are not under stress. This will greatly increase your chances of success and give the fish the best possible chance of survival if practicing catch and release.

✔ Keep them wet and use a net ...

Using a landing net minimizes handling, and allows you to keep the fish wet whilst unhooking. This gives the fish the greatest possible chance of survival in extreme heat if practicing catch and release.

✔ Support habitat and river restoration projects ...

The effects of climate change will continue to have negative impacts on our trout streams into the future. You can help minimize this by supporting river restoration projects that increase trout habitat and restore riparian zones.

Report any illegal activities by calling 13 3474

www.vrfish.com.au

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Club Membership

The ATF has re-opened club membership to all Angling Clubs in Victoria.

In so doing the ATF extends an invitation to your Club to join our ranks and to assist us in protecting, building and promoting Australia's trout fishery.

In recent times the ATF has been involved in quite a number of activities relating to fishing in general and Trout fishing in particular.

Some of these activities include:

- Representation at Vic. Fish Stock meetings
- Representation on Bag and Size limit proposals.
- Review of current stocking practices.
- Purchase of and trials of Scotty Jordan Incubator boxes (in partnership with Fisheries Vic)
- Habitat protection and improvement works.
- Establishment of the Victorian Inland Fishing Alliance (VIFA) with Native Fish Australia.

We believe that by including Clubs as members of the ATF we will strengthen the voice and capabilities of our foundation in working towards improving trout fishing throughout the country for the benefit of all trout Anglers.

In extending this invitation to your Club to join the ATF, we advise that all of your members will automatically become "associate members" of the ATF. Your Club will have one full voting right as a member, however your Club's members as "associates" will not have a direct individual vote.

Fee structure for Clubs

1 - 50 members \$50 per annum

51 – 100 members \$100 per annum

101 plus members \$200 per annum

All memberships are valid from 1st Sept. to 31st August each year.

For more Information or a membership form

Email info@atfonline.com.au

Not an ATF Individual Member?

Membership is open to any person with an interest in trout fishing, whether you fish with fly, lure or bait.

It only costs \$20.00 per year to be an individual member and you will be helping to ensure that trout fishing in Australia remains alive and well for future generations to come.

To apply for membership or refinance your subscription go to:

<http://www.atfonline.com.au/home/page/membership>

Jordan scotty incubator trial update

The ATF has been working closely with Fisheries over the Christmas and New year period and we are getting closer to agreement on further trials of the Jordan Scotty Incubators.

We will then be seeking Angling Clubs in various regions to volunteer to assist with the installation and monitoring of the incubators.

Fisheries have also agreed to source WILD TROUT OVA for the incubators and it is extremely important for everyone to know that we will be stocking wild trout into existing wild trout populations.

So stay tuned for further exciting news.



Jordan Scotty incubator being setup

Didymo Report

Whilst fishing Shaw's Creek on the Dingo Hill Track, Shane Houston, a Yarra Valley Fly Fishing club member came across a potential algal growth that looked a lot like didymo aka Rock Snot.

Shane promptly reported this to fellow club member and ATF Vice President Ray Buckland.

The ATF then contacted Matt Bowler from the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority advising of the possibility of didymo being present in Shaw's creek.

Matt then made contact with all the relevant departments at

Parks Victoria, Agriculture Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Biosecurity Victoria.

Swiftly a team was sent to the site where they found mostly stingy green algae.

To be extra certain, specimens were collected and submitted to Scientists at Agriculture Victoria's biosciences research for identification which thankfully were not consistent with Didymo either in macroscopic observations or under microscopic analysis all proved negative for didymo.

Parks Victoria staff were informed of the physical features and impacts of the species, so if anything turns up in the park they will be aware of what it is in the future as many of the creeks in that part of the park would be perfect didymo habitat.

Thank you to Shane for reporting the suspect site, regular users of waterways can be our best eyes and ears and generally the first to notice changes.

The situation has certainly made us greatly aware of the necessity to continually be on the lookout for new invasive threats, and the need to further educate and alert our Anglers to the potential risks, and the correct procedures to reduce the risk of Didymo entering Australia.

DEDJTR Biosecurity Victoria are the appropriate first port of call if you suspect a potential outbreak.

They can be reached at: DEDJTR Customer Service Centre on **136 186** or email: highrisk.invasiveanimals@ecodev.vic.gov.au



Habitat Restoration Projects

One of the major focuses of the ATF is habitat restoration, and we have been busy working closely with all relevant parties to get the ball rolling on habitat and river riparian projects this year.

ATF representatives have met and discussed two prospective sites that are urgently in need of habitat improvement.

Appropriate sites, scope of works, resources required, are currently being worked through.

This is exciting news for trout fishers on the back of the announcement at the Talk Wild Trout Conference 2016, that the Victorian Government will be providing \$1million over four years for the "Angler Riparian Partnerships Program". The funding will be used for partnerships between the Catchment Management Authorities (CMA's) and recreational angling groups to deliver riparian improvement works in areas of local priority for anglers.

This will give local angling groups the ability to work directly with CMA's on riparian areas that are important to them and improve fishing in their favourite fishing streams.

Once again, stayed tuned for an update coming soon.

The Australian Trout Foundation has a facebook page with current news, announcements and updates.

Like us on
facebook 

New freshwater invasive species

The Smooth Newt

Smooth newts are not native to Australia and pose a risk to native species if they were to establish and breed. Part of the salamander family, smooth newts are likely to compete for food and habitat with native frogs and fish, and are potential carriers of chytrid fungus, which has decimated frog populations worldwide.

A population of Smooth newts has been identified in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs. The specific source of the population remains unknown but the most likely source is via the illegal pet trade. The illegal keeping and trading of Smooth newts poses one of the greatest risks of the species establishing in Victoria.

The newt secretes a toxin through its skin and its unknown at this stage what the impact of this on native fauna might be just yet, but there is the potential that any animal that eats the newt, such as a fish, may be affected.

How to identify a Smooth Newt

Size

Smooth newts are a lizard-like animal that can grow up to 10 cm in length.

Color

They are pale brown to olive green in color and have an orange-colored belly with dark spots.

Distinctive features

They have an elongated, paddle-like tail that aids in swimming. During breeding season (spring to early summer) the males develop a transparent crest along the spine which extends to the end of their tail.

Habitat

They prefer still and shallow water of variable size and quality for breeding with plenty of aquatic vegetation, either permanent or short-lived water bodies are suitable. Terrestrial hiding sites can include under logs, rocks and leaf litter.

Behavior

Smooth newts have a semiaquatic lifestyle. During breeding periods (July – December in Victoria) they live in aquatic habitats, from sea-level up to 2400 m in altitude. Outside of breeding periods they retreat from water and live a cryptic lifestyle in the surrounding habitat.

They are generally nocturnal, but during breeding season are active both day and night, outside this period they restrict activity to rainy or humid nights.

Impact on native species

Potential impacts could arise from predation, competition, disease spread and the yet unknown impact of its toxin secretion.

Report all sightings or information on the illegal keeping of Smooth newt to our Customer Service Centre on **136 186** or email reports and digital photographs to highrisk.invasiveanimals@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

For more information, visit:

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/pest-animals/a-z-of-pest-animals/smooth-newt>

Checkout our ATF Website

For all the latest news, articles and more go to <http://www.atfonline.com.au/home>

