



# AUSTRALIAN TROUT FOUNDATION UPDATE

JULY 2017

Well, It's been an extremely busy last few months at the Australian Trout Foundation.

The Melbourne boat show, Trout regulation changes, Jordan Scotty incubator trials, habitat rehabilitation projects and dealing with issues that will affect the Iconic Rubicon river into the future have kept us from being idle.

So make yourself a coffee, sit back and get up to speed with what's been going on around the ATF.

## Rubicon River

The ATF has also been actively involved in two potential issues that involve the iconic Rubicon River.

The first is the desilting of the Royston and Rubicon dams and AGL have agreed to meet with the ATF, GBCMA and DELWP to discuss the desilting procedure.

The second is the proposed Hydro scheme.

The ATF retains their original position (as per the letter sent to relevant ministers on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017) of **not** supporting the Rubicon Hydro Plan.

We are waiting on the following:

- Final plans & reports
- Obtaining advice from GBCMA
- Meeting and/or collaborating with other stakeholders including: ATF members, GBCMA, DELWP, ARI, VRFish, CVFFC, NFA and other angling clubs.

We invite feedback on this matter from all interested parties.

## Trout regulation's

Along with representation on the Trout Reference Group the ATF Committee were involved with the proposal to trial minimum size and daily bag limit changes on wild trout streams.

Based on feedback we received from the ATF survey we proposed a bag limit of 2 trout per day, to introduce a 25cm minimum size and nominated the following premier trout streams for the trials:

The Ovens River, Kiewa, Mitta Mitta and the Goulburn River.

The above premier streams sustain quite a deal of fishing pressure and the ATF would like to see each of them attain the classification of "Excellent" and to retain that classification for as long as our weather pattern allows.

Fisheries Victoria has now finalised the proposal and is consulting recreational anglers before deciding to introduce.

The proposed regulations are:

Introduce a 25cm minimum size and reduced bag limit (from 5 to 3 trout per day) on four iconic streams; the Goulburn River below Lake Eildon, Mitta Mitta River above Lake Dartmouth, Ovens River upstream of the Porepunkah Bridge and the Nariel Creek upstream of the Colac Colac Bridge.

A 45cm minimum size and reduced bag limit (from 5 to 3 fish per day) for Hepburn Lagoon and Lake Toolondo.

Remove the trout closed season in the Hopkins and Merri rivers in southwest Victoria

Whilst Fisheries Victoria proposed regulations are not in line with the ATF proposal it's a step in the right direction, of course except for the removal of the closed season in the Hopkins and Merri rivers which the ATF strongly oppose.

Still a little way to go but the ATF will continue fight to ensure the sustainability of our recreational trout fishery in to the future.

## Melbourne Boat Show 2017

We were invited by Monica Tonner from the BIA [Boat Industry of Australia] to take a stand in the boat show from 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June.

### Not an ATF Member?

Come and join with the rest of us to protect, rebuild and promote Australia's trout fishing heritage.

Membership is open to any person or association 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>

We teamed up with Native Fish Australia (NFA) for a combined exhibition to promote our working alliance with them. Thanks to NFA providing tanks, we were able to have a live fish display which included Murray Cod, Trout Cod, Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout. These were great attention getters with most of the crowd.

We also felt this was an excellent opportunity to market our partnerships with Fisheries Victoria, Melbourne University researchers, the Arthur Rylah Institute, Snob's Creek Hatchery and the CMAs.

These partnerships are an ongoing process to improve our fishery and waterways and protect endangered species like the Spotted Tree frog and galaxias.

A very competent team from the ATF and NFA were on hand to engage the public and educate them about our role in developing a sustainable fishery and the activities of our organisations.

Monica was very impressed with our vibrant displays, the competence of our educators and the skills of the fly casters and fly tying demonstrators. To our many helpers, well done and thank you. The fishing world is now very aware of our integral role in developing and improving a sustainable fishery.

### Jordan Scotty Incubator Trial

The Australian Trout Foundation, with Recreational Clubs and the Victorian Fishing Authority have been working in "Partnerships" to enhance and maintain our Wild Trout Fishery by initiating a trial using scotty Jordan incubators in several Victorian streams.

Several sites were chosen, appropriate permits obtained and the loading and installation activities of the



Jordan Scotty Incubators took place on June 28th to the 1st July.

### Loading the incubators

We were most fortunate to have a great bunch of the volunteers to assist with this delicate task at Snobs Creek.:

- Graham Godber - MDFFC & ATF
- Matt Byrne - MDFFC & ATF
- Andy Mattenson - MDFFC & ATF
- Shane Kirley - MDFFC & ATF
- Stan Brown - MDFFC & ATF
- Steve Jordan - MDFFC & ATF
- Alan Burgess - MDFFC & ATF
- Nick Kirley - MDFFC & ATF
- Doug Braham - CVFFC & ATF
- Ray Buckland - ATF & YVFFC
- Tony Borrack - ATF & APYAC
- Terry George - ATF & VFFA
- John Douglas - Vic Fisheries
- Neil & Will - Vic Fisheries

Matt Byrne performed an Instructor's role, having thoroughly studied the Youtube videos and Jordan Scotty documentation on the internet with Graham Godber and the other Mansfield members.

Matt showed the group how to perform the delicate task of filling the loading trays with eggs, then



transferring those eggs into the Jordan Scotty trays and securing them when full.

The fully loaded incubators were then placed in huge water filled drums containing flowing water.

It was cold and the water we were working in must have been close to freezing; however, the mood of the willing workers was quite jocular, with insults flying freely, and the task was completed around 3.30pm.

A huge thank you to all of the above for a great and enjoyable days' work.

### Jamieson River

John Douglas & Terry George loaded the incubators into the mobile tank on a cold & frosty morning but avoided frostbite thank goodness.

They picked up Matt Byrne at Mansfield at the Coffee Shop and ventured forth to a secret location on Jamieson River.



The site is close to planned in-stream and riparian habitat restoration work. The grant for the work has been approved and the project will proceed as soon as practicable.

The River was low according to Matt, but it certainly looked as if it could hold a reasonable population of trout. Beautiful clear water, but we couldn't spot any trout. Another example of a reasonable trout population in the upper reaches and zero in the lower reaches.



We installed the incubators in 2 groups wired together and secured them with rocks on top and at the sides, and wires to strategically placed star pickets. Our hands nearly thawed out on the return trip.

### King River Tributaries

John Douglas & Terry George loaded the incubators and picked up Graham Godber, Matt Byrne and Dave Guertin (ATF Sec.) and headed to meet up with Andrew Briggs (NECMA) and Mike Smith & Bryan King (Wangaratta FFC) on the way to Cheshunt.

Andrew Briggs suggested we check out the Stony Creek location first because of low water in the creeks. We looked at the first site that we chose on an earlier excursion and decided to install some of the incubators at that location. JD, TG & Andrew walked downstream to check out alternate sites and were delayed talking to one of the local farmers, who was delighted to be informed of the project.

By the time they returned to the original site, the others were working hard installing 8 of the incubators and protecting them with timbers and rocks so that any deer walking up or down the creek would not disturb or damage them.

We then checked out a couple of sites previously noted in Queens Creek, but found the water had gone down considerably since last visit. So we went to a higher spot in Queens Creek that we had looked previously, and found a better site to install the remaining incubators.



Thank you to Andrew Briggs for suggesting the locations, all on private property, introducing the landowners and gaining their written approval for

access on the "Works on Waterways" application which was duly approved.

### Traralgon Creek



John Douglas had the sole pleasure of loading the incubators on another freezing morning and drove over the hill to Traralgon; Terry George met him along the way near Pakenham and tailed him to the site where ATF Committee members Erhan Cinar and Martin Lampitt, along with eager volunteers, Trevor Hawkins, Kris Leckie (VR Fish) and ATF members from Latrobe Valley Fly Fishing Club, "Pickles", Lachie, James & Wayne where ready to help.

We went straight to a site that we had picked out earlier with JD and Jason Lieschke, ARI, when the electro-fishing survey was carried out. The water level was fine and all present got their hands wet, cold and dirty.



Five incubators were wired together and installed in this location and a further five were installed at another site which was considered in an earlier survey.

### Removal

The incubators will be removed after 3 to 4 weeks, when hatching has taken place and the alevins/fry leave the incubators after yolk sacs have been depleted.

At this time, Fisheries officers will record the hatch rates for each of the incubators.

All the volunteers who worked at the loading and installation stages, plus other members who were unable to attend those activities, will be welcome to be present and to assist where necessary when the incubators are removed from each site.

As an integral part of the research or trial, it is intended for the ARI team to perform electro surveys approx. 6 months after the incubators are removed to locate surviving hatchlings in order to evaluate the effectiveness. The DNA of the trout who provided the fertilized ova has already been recorded on a data base, and trout located via the electro-fishing will be fin clipped and their DNA compared to the parental DNA. It is important to note that these trials will form part of the Wild Trout Fishery Management Program.

The ATF is truly grateful and wishes to offer its sincere thanks to those Anglers and Angling Clubs who have provided their time and assistance with special acknowledgement to Mansfield & District FFC, Wangaratta FFC,

Council of Victorian FFC, Latrobe FFC & Victorian FFA.

We must also mention the willing and friendly assistance from members of the Fisheries Team at Snobs Creek, Neil & Will in particular. John Douglas was in everything; we thought he was just going to cook the BBQ on Wednesday, however, we were wrong, he loaded the truck early every freezing morning and drove it to all locations, where he got right into the installations, getting cold, wet and dirty during the process.

**Checkout our Website**

For all the latest ATF news and information

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

**RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival 2017**

Be inspired this spring as RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival, the world's most extensive fishing film festival, hits theatres on the Australian leg of its 2017 worldwide tour. The film tour serves as a stage for the best Australian and Kiwi filmmakers in the industry to premiere their latest offerings, allowing the fishing community to share their passion for the sport by attending film screenings across the country.

In its 12th year, RISE is on a mission to celebrate the diverse world of fly fishing, to connect anglers through shared experience, and to create public awareness of fly fishing's new dynamic emergence. It's the biggest kick-off to the fishing season there is!

Gin-Clear Media's *Pure Fly NZ*, a New Zealand based fly fishing TV series that has drawn wide acclaim, is the feature of the festival. The first series of Pure Fly NZ set a new benchmark in fly fishing entertainment and Series 2 is set to raise that bar. RISE will premiere an episode from Series 2 featuring Jeff Forsee & Ronan Creane as they explore the myriad of fly fishing opportunities on NZ's West Coast.



*Corazon* is another festival highlight and the work of master filmmaker R.A. Beattie. A tribute to remarkable Mexican fishing guide Sandflea, it is the story of an unlikely friendship between two anglers and the willingness of the fly fishing industry to rally around a guide in desperate need.



*Providence* is a film recounting the first trip back to Providence Atoll, Seychelles since the waters were closed to all boat access in 2010 due to the threat of pirates. The team returned in October 2015 spending three insane weeks exploring and fishing for giant fish in a pristine flats environment.



*Yakutia* is the latest effort from up and coming filmmaker Jako Lucas. This film chronicles an extreme adventure deep into the uncharted wilderness of Siberia, giant taimen and pike await the adventurers as well as a predatory fish species never before caught on fly in this area.



For many, RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival has become so much more than just going to the cinema. These annual fish-fests have become a true celebration of fly fishing, it's an excuse to get together with friends and reminisce about the past season as well as look forward to the season to come.

Presented by Gin-Clear Media, RISE will screen across Australia, including Brisbane, Central Coast, Sydney, Bowral, Canberra, Albury, Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, Hobart, Burnie, Launceston, Adelaide, Perth and Darwin.

**Elsternwick**  
**Monday 4th Sept 2017**  
**Classic Elsternwick @ 7-15 pm**

**Yarraville**  
**Tuesday 5th Sept 2017**  
**Sun Theatre @ 7-00pm**

Purchasing tickets for the Melbourne shows go to:

<https://app.etickets.to/buy/?e=15137>  
 Elsternwick

<https://app.etickets.to/buy/?e=15138>  
 Yarraville

Not in Melbourne?

Go to

<http://www.gin-clear.com/filmfest/>

for details.