



AUSTRALIAN TROUT FOUNDATION UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2017

ATF COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The ATF Annual general meeting is almost upon us, and with some of our current committee members leaving due to a change in work or family commitments we will have some vacancies.

As with all organizations, the ATF is always in need of good people to assist on our committee. If you have a passion for protecting and enhancing our trout fishery, we could help put your enthusiasm to good use. You do not need to have special skills or experience, just the will to make a difference.

The ATF Committee is made up of dedicated and passionate fishers whose mission is to protect, sustain and enhance our trout fishery now and for future generations to come.

We need **YOU** to join us and help us in our endeavours. The Committee meets monthly to consider and discuss all important current issues relating to our trout fishery and the health of our waterways. We liaise with Government Authorities and other Stakeholders for the benefit of our recreational fishers and the betterment of our fishery.

A few of the current ATF activities are:

- Fish Stocking meetings with Fisheries (VFA) - contributing to discussions regarding trout stocking and preparation of stocking submissions.

- In partnership with VFA and angling clubs, trialing in-stream incubators to enhance trout populations in streams with a low abundance of fish.
- In partnership with recreational anglers and clubs and catchment management authorities, removing weeds and planting trees to restore riparian habitat.
- Initiating funding via Government grants, for in-stream and riparian habitat restoration projects.
- Attending fishing festivals at Lake Eildon and Ballarat and promoting ATF membership to recreational anglers and angling clubs.
- Giving talks to angling clubs regarding current trout fishery issues.

Committee Members are elected at the Annual General Meeting to be held 24th October 2017, and although nominations can be submitted on the night of the meeting, we would prefer to have new nominations submitted prior to then.

For further details

please feel free to call:

Terry George: 0418 332 744

Ray Buckland: 0407 349 267

Dave Guertin: 0407 502 454



The **Talk Wild Trout 2017 Conference** will be held this year on Saturday 11 November 2017, from 9am until 4.30pm at the Mansfield Performing Arts Centre (15 View Street).

This year will include an update on the health of trout populations in 12 key rivers, progress on incubator trials, result from a trout fishing pressure study, as well as angler driven river restoration efforts over the last 12 months and how you can get involved.

Dr John Hayes, a renowned trout researcher from New Zealand will provide the keynote address about trout behavior and what makes a good trout stream.

Jon Clelow, a self-confessed fly fishing tragic will provide an entertaining talk titled 'An expensive trout'.

The event is free and it's essential to reserve your seat.

You can register here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/talk-wild-trout-2017-tickets-36534665167>

For further details and to check out the provisional program, go to:
www.vfa.vic.gov.au/talktrout

We look forward to seeing you there!

THE SEASON AHEAD

Reports from Recreational Angling Clubs and Anglers from most regions indicate that the 2017/2018 Trout Season will be much better than recent years.

Lakes and Impoundments are open all year round and are most adequately stocked by the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) so that Anglers and Families can enjoy the thrill of catching a trout. See the VFA web-site for the list of lakes stocked especially for kids to fish during school holiday periods.

The VFA will stock approx. 1 Million Trout in lakes and Impoundments during the 2017/2018 season.

Lakes reported to be fishing well are: Eildon, Dartmouth, Hume, Purrumbete, Bullen Merri, Fyans, Hepburn Lagoon, Wendouree and Toolondo.

Our Wild Trout Streams that are considered to be 'self-sustaining' and are not stocked, have been in recovery mode for a number of years due to poor spawning conditions in their lower reaches, mainly because of warming water temperatures and ambient air temperatures, and in-stream and riparian habitat degradation resulting from bush fires, floods and human intervention.

The good news is that a good number of streams have now recovered quite well; particularly in the upper reaches, and Recreational Anglers can expect a lot of joy and pleasure stalking trout in this current season.

After a fairly dry July, good rains during August have flushed our streams and the trout are fit, fat and active.

Recommended streams to try your luck (and your skill): Goulburn, Steavenson, Taggerty, Acheron, Rubicon, Delatite, Howqua, Upper King, Upper Buckland, Ovens, Kiewa, Nariel Creek, Mitta Mitta, Gibbo, Merri & Hopkins Rivers.

Trout Anglers should note that on September 2nd 2017, the VFA introduced some new rules to make trout fishing even better in Victoria:

Introduction of a 25cm minimum size for trout and a reduced bag limit from 5 to 3 trout for the following waters:

Nariel Creek (upstream of Colac Colac Bridge); Mitta Mitta River (upstream of lake Dartmouth); Ovens River (upstream of Porepunkah Bridge); and Rubicon River. Existing regulations that no more than 2 trout may exceed 35cm



A healthy Ovens River Rainbow

will continue to apply in these waters.

At Lake Toolondo, a new 45cm minimum size for brown trout and a 30cm minimum size for rainbow trout, with a reduced bag limit from 5 to 3 trout per day.

At Hepburn Lagoon, a new 45cm minimum size limit for trout, with a reduced bag limit for trout from 5 to 3 trout per day.

Removal of the trout closed season for the Hopkins and Merri rivers.

These changes deliver on a commitment in the State Government's Target One Million Plan, which is investing a record \$46million into recreational fishing. More fishing, more often, is the aim!

A few snippets and hints:

Trout fishing is a healthy activity; relieves stress and enhances fitness.

To become a successful trout angler, join your local angling club for expert friendly instruction and information.

Use social media to find out where the fishing is good, Anglers love to post their photos and advice. The ATF and VFA Web-sites and Facebook Pages are places to go.

Trout are the most targeted freshwater fish in Victoria and Trout Anglers make huge contributions to Metropolitan and Regional economies.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority and the Australian Trout Foundation are working in partnerships with Recreational Angling Clubs and Anglers to enhance our valuable trout fishery and restore the health of our waterways.

Join the ATF to assist with the above, it's easy and costs only \$20.00.

Can be easily done via our web-site:- www.atfonline.com.au

Register as a Volunteer to assist with tree planting, clearing of tracks etc.

The ATF Mission is to protect, enhance and promote Australia's trout fishery.

The most important hint of all, Kids just love to fish; see their faces when they catch their first fish! Get them off the couch, away from the screens and smart phones, and out in the great outdoors. It's the best therapy for mind and body. Good for parents too!

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>

SCOTTY JORDAN UPDATE

The Scotty Jordan incubator trial has concluded with the removal of the boxes that were placed in the King River Tributaries, Jamieson River, and Traralgon Creek.



ATF President Terry George & John Douglas from VFA removing the Scotty Jordan boxes from the Traralgon creek

We were delighted with the overall hatch rates, although a mini flood at the Jamieson deposited silt, sand and gravel over all the boxes which affected the hatch and escape rates there

Hatch & Escape rates were calculated as follows:

- King River Tributaries - 96% approx.
- Jamieson River - 75% approx. due to flooding.
- Traralgon Creek - 98% approx.



ATF President Terry George & Trevor Hawkins checking the Hatch rates

So there's thousands of little alevins hiding in the rocks and the gravel and we hope and pray that a high percentage will survive the many perils facing them during their initial growth stages.

Great that Fisheries and the ATF formed the partnership with Recreational Fishers and Clubs to participate in this important trial, which as you aware now forms part of the Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program. No need to name the Fishers and Clubs who volunteered and did most of the hard work, loading and installing the incubators. They know who they are and there will be further thanks to all down the line.

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

Checkout our Website

For all the latest news and articles go to

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

The ATF is proudly supported by



Head down and see Gav and dont forget to mention your an ATF member.

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