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# **Around the Jetties**

## **No 39 - October Issue**

### **An Anglers Newsletter**

...There has ever been a delightful uncertainty attending the angler's art, and therein lies one of its chiefest charms.

James Henshall (Book of

Black Bass 1881)

#### **Editorial**

I have just had an unconfirmed report that in the recent Mitchell River flood commercial fishermen netting at the mouth of the river and in other areas affected by the flood took over 300 25kg bins of black bream forced from the Mitchell by the fresh water flow. This was over 9 tonnes of black bream taken as a result of a natural event, and most of these fish would be spawning bream so the effect would be to reduce the recovery potential of this species. My informant also indicated that the effect of this massive quantity of black bream hitting the market was to cause the price for black bream to plummet from \$11.00 to \$4.50. In issue 36 July of Around the Jetties I provided evidence from a research paper of how black bream left the Nicholson River at the time of the 2007 a flood event, and all black bream exiting the river in two hours. It was generally accepted that the increase in the commercial black bream catch for 2007/8 was due to netting at the mouth of rivers during this flood event. As a result of the most recent flood event we can also expect an increase in the commercial catch of

black bream for 2010/11 but more importantly black bream brood stocks have been decimated and the result will undoubtedly support a continuing decline of this species.

I urge Fisheries Victoria and the Government to examine this issue and consider putting a moratorium on commercial netting when a flood event is imminent or alternately increase the banned area for commercial netting from the current 400 metres to one kilometre at the mouth of rivers. If there is a will to protect the remaining black bream brood stock this can be done and it was stated by Fisheries Victoria in 1996 when regulations to protect black bream were introduced that "Urgent action is required to protect the small remaining adult bream stocks so that sufficient reproductive capacity is maintained to ensure stock rebuilding occurs when conditions are more favourable." That statement was made when the commercial catch was 89 tonnes in 1996/7, today the catch is 36 tonnes and the urgency to protect this estuarine species has never been greater. This is a challenge for Fisheries Victoria and the Government to provide urgent regulations to protect the brood stock of black bream

### **The Changing face of Estuary Fishing**

In the last decade I like most anglers have observed a change taking place in the boats anglers are using and also a change in the method of estuary fishing, none of this sitting back with a cup of coffee in ones hand and a couple of rods out the back. The change has been quite startling as it involved a new breed of boat and also a new approach to angling methods and the change has been rapid taking place largely in the last decade. These new boats we are now seeing are low to the water but have large outboard motors that in many cases seem to weigh the boat down at the stern somewhat. The boats appearing with regularity at launching ramps are equipped with the latest electric motors, generally located in the bow, and the boat is in reality designed as a simple casting platform for energetic younger fishermen who are prepared to stand all day and cast their soft plastic and hard-bodied lures. There is no protection for the angler in dirty weather or when travelling at speed and many of these boats have the capacity to travel at 60kph plus.

It seems such boats are not for the older fisherman, but a new breed of anglers is appearing. They are young basically lure fishermen, and in most cases are conservation minded often releasing almost all fish taken. These boats are expensive but have the advantage of getting the angler to his fishing spot quickly and are able to cover vast areas of lakes in a day's fishing.



Not all anglers have been satisfied with the local product and I am aware that one angler imported a Hewes Redfisher from America. He explained as well as all the other attributes of local craft this 16ft boat would float on 10 inches of water. His boat was powered by a 90hp Yamaha motor, and the boat would be used largely for fly fishing for black bream and estuary perch, which in itself is a developing form of fishing estuaries. In a national survey (2000-2001) \$3.3billion was attributed to the ownership of recreational fishing boats in Australia, whilst Victorian recreational anglers had 86,000 vessels with an estimated value of \$620 million.

Boats at Metung in recent Bream Classic

Just as a matter of interest I looked up an Australian Outdoors and Fishing magazine for February 1977. This was the premier fishing magazine of the day, and yet it did not have one advertisement for lures of any type, or even aeroplane spinners for cod or the silver wobbler a great favourite of anglers in the fifties. Today in magazines like Freshwater Fishing there are hundreds of lures and plastics illustrated in colour. There are blades with inbuilt sonic rattles in a vast variety of colours, DOA lures and squidgie's with an S factor which includes an attack trigger as well as hours of DVD's on how to use the new equipment. Perhaps this is part of the reason why the average annual expenditure of anglers on their sport is over \$500 per annum (don't tell your partner) according to the National survey. To my mind we have been part of a major revolution in the

approach to recreational fishing both in the boats from which we fish and the equipment we use, and this has meant we have spent more.



Now in real terms, this vast recreational fishery, much of which is based on boat ownership is dependant on maintaining a high level of fish stocks which must involve Government in far greater expenditure, and the anglers themselves must take positive action to ensure the conservation of fish stocks. With a state election coming up Government expenditure becomes an issue given over 700,000 recreational anglers and a vast support industry dependent on fishing in this state.

Meantime I will return to two bait rods a quiet spot on the lake and a cup of coffee in hand, and will continue to ponder whether our recreational fishery will be able to survive the

increasing numbers of boats and vastly improved technology, without major developments in fish stocks, particularly in the popular estuaries of this state. Certainly the numbers of the two main species of our estuaries namely black bream and dusky flathead have declined, and in the case of the Gippsland Lakes the black bream decline has been dramatic. This will be a challenge in the next decade for all associated with recreational fishing.

### **At the Johnsonville Jetty**

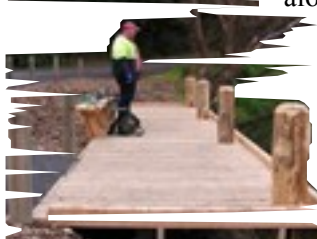
I was at the Johnsonville Jetty the other day when I saw a boat being retrieved. Nothing unusual about this except this boat was a fine looking craft that would attract any fisherman's interest. I got talking to the chap retrieving the boat and found he was a boat builder who built these fibre glass boats in his shed in Swan Reach. Gordon Willmann was his name and he informed me he had been building and repairing fibre glass boats all his life In Queensland, and had shifted to Swan Reach about four years ago. Gordon has built moulds for 20, 21, 23 feet boats. These boats can be cuddy cab, half cab, or centre console models, and if they were similar to the boat he was retrieving they would be an eye catcher. Gordon is a keen fisherman, but like so many anglers he fishes outside because of the lack of fishing in the Gippsland Lakes. I was unaware we had a boat builder in Swan Reach, and it was a pleasure to have a yarn with Gordon. For owners of fibre glass boats Gordon can do any repairs, and if you need any modifications or alterations to your boat it would be well worth while having a talk to Gordon His phone numbers are 0415 962 845 or 5156 4059 and his email contact is gwill40@dodo.com. It's amazing who you meet at launching ramps.



The boat displayed is the 21ft model that Gordon has built.

### **Fishing Platforms in the Tambo River. First Anniversary of No Action**

This was an issue taken up by this publication with East Gippsland Shire now twelve months ago. I had a meeting with Shire Officers in August 2009 to establish who was responsible for fishing platforms placed along the Tambo and other rivers, which no longer provided access to handicapped and aged anglers due to the need for maintenance. This meeting also attempted to get the Shire to make the jetties on the Eastwood backwater suitable for aged and handicapped anglers by providing ramps instead of steps and allowing handicapped anglers to drive to the platforms. Both these requests were refused. (These platforms were built with \$22,000 of anglers licence funds.) Despite several letters the Shire has not been able to indicate who is responsible for some



platforms and particularly those on the Tambo River. Some on the Mitchell River have been identified as a Shire responsibility but it seems the Shire has little knowledge of who provided the others. This in turn means no responsibility and no maintenance and certainly difficulties for the aged and handicapped. This matter was first raised by former AFL umpire the late Don Jolley AM, himself a wheelchair angler. I hope it is not another twelve months before those responsible for the fishing platforms are identified or alternately perhaps the Shire might accept responsibility for the platforms in the public interest. Attached is a photo of a fishing platform on the Barham River fully accessible with a car park and as stated in **Fish Fax 277** "it allows anglers of all ages and abilities to fish comfortably. Hopefully the East Gippsland Shire might note.

### **Funding for Another Fishing Jetty**

It has been announced that \$27,000 has been allocated from the Recreational Licence Trust Account for 2009/10 for a fishing platform on the Mitchell River downstream of the Wy Yung Bridge in Bairnsdale. Mr Robert Krix, Manager DPI Statutory Consultations writes "I confirm that the platform (which will include a ramp) on the Mitchell River downstream from Wy Yung Bridge, will be built to a standard that is suitable for persons of all abilities. The platform is currently in the design phase and it is anticipated that construction will be completed by 2010."

It would appear the problems with the two previous constructions at Eastwood publicised by this publication have been recognised. Now to ensure that parking is provided for the elderly who wish to access this platform, and this again is an East Gippsland Shire responsibility.

### **Decline in Black Bream Catches in Lake Tyers**

Many anglers have been aware that in 2009/10 the recreational catch of black bream has substantially declined in Lake Tyers, and some would say this has been a dramatic decline. Anglers today are lucky to catch a black bream in a three to four hour session and many anglers have fished for four hours without one significant bite. Personally I have not seen the reports from anglers fishing for bream in Lake Tyers so poor in the last 15 years and this is the anecdotal information I have been getting from many experienced anglers. Monitoring carried out by Fisheries Victoria supports these reports. In the report "Recreational fishery monitoring needed to facilitate management of Lake Tyers Fisheries Reserve," released in June 2010 the following is stated.

"Black bream catch rates in Lake Tyers have been fairly stable since the early 2000's. This stability has been sustained primarily by the recruitment of **two strong year classes** in the late 1990's. It is expected that **bream catches in Lake Tyers will decline in the next few years as spawning success and recruitment since the early 2000's has been average or below average.**"

Hopefully the report adds-

"there is some evidence of increased abundance of juvenile bream (16-20cmsTL) in the 2008/9 catches of Lake Tyers research angler diarists. This may be an early indication of a stronger year class spawned in 2005/6. It will take several more years for these fish to reach legal minimum size and be recruited to the recreational fishery."

These statements from the report noted above probably provides an answer to the question that has been puzzling many angler over the last couple of years, as to why the catch rates for black bream have plummeted. It is also worthwhile remembering that the findings above would seem to be supported by the many reports from recreational anglers of many small black bream (5-10cms) in the shallows and under their boats. The future black bream fishery in Lake Tyers may well depend on the survival rate of these small bream.

### **Bream Stocking in the Gippsland Lakes**

"On the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2004 the Minister responsible for Fisheries, Bob Cameron released the first 20,000 black bream into the Gippsland Lakes" (**Fish Fax 118 April 2004**). This release was carried out with due publicity, and photos in newspapers heralding the release of black bream.

It was also stated, "this trial was a first step in a long term program to ensure sustainable supplies of bream for both the recreational fishers well into the future." The report at the time did acknowledge that during the past year black bream numbers had dropped to their lowest level in 30 years. This statement was correct for in 2003/4 the commercial catch was a small 33 tonnes, remembering the biggest catch in the last thirty years was 446 tonnes in 1983/4.

The question arises that given this was a trial in a long term program to ensure a sustainable fishery, what was the result of that trial, and has anything been published that would indicate the success or otherwise of this trial.

Perhaps this was not a trial but rather the chance for a photo shoot for the Minister. We can certainly attest to the fact that there has been no improvement in the stock of black bream in the Gippsland Lakes since that release in 2003/4.

I understand that this was a one off episode and after the release of these fingerlings the brood stock held at Queenscliff were disposed of, and currently Fisheries Victoria has no capacity to produce black bream fingerlings. It would be good if a report on this trial was made available and also a statement as to the whereabouts of the brood stock.

Stocking of black bream is currently taking place in Western Australia and has been undertaken successfully for more than a decade, but then they have no commercial fishermen fishing the waters stocked.

In 1995 767 fourteen month old black bream were released in the Swan River in Western Australia. By October 1997 a recapture rate of 12.6% had been achieved. Regular stockings of rivers and marinas have taken place in Western Australia.

A study in 2006 of the restocking of black bream in the Blackwood River Estuary (WA) yielded excellent results and the following was a statement from the report-

“The results of this study show that hatchery reared black bream can be used to enhance the population of this commercially and recreationally important species in the Blackwood River Estuary where the stock had become depleted.” For restocking 56 male and 50 female were taken from the estuary as brood stock, and in two years 300,000 juveniles were released back into the estuary. After three years the majority of fish exceeded 26cms. It would have been interesting if the Minister had been able to provide a report on the trial and its place in the long term program for the recovery of black bream in the Gippsland Lakes

Of course the stocking of black bream or any other species in waters commercially fished like the Gippsland Lakes raises many questions, and many would suggest that any restocking of the Gippsland Lakes is not an option while commercial netting of this system continues.

### **Of Interest**

By the way the two week TAFE Hatchery Course at Lakes Entrance noted in the last issue has seen the spawning of over 5000 black bream. Just shows what could be achieved. I will be interested as to what happens with these fingerlings. The brood stock were caught in the Nicholson River.

### **Odd Items of Interest**

#### **Fish Prices**

During a recent trip to Merimbula for a week of R&R (This retirement is demanding) I was surprised when visiting a fish and oyster outlet to find flathead fillets an amazing \$45 a kilo. (This was not boneless tails but complete small fillets.) There was no fish displayed that was under \$25 per kilo. As a result we made do with oysters at \$12 a dozen. I also found that Eden once the home of trawlers and the East Coast trawler fishery now has very few trawlers, and I was informed that this is due to a decline in local fish stocks.

### **Fishing and Funerals**

A week or two ago I went to the funeral of Lindsay Rowe a very keen fisherman, a reader of this publication and the fishing partner of Graham Merryful for the last fifteen years. I regularly saw Graham and Lindsay of



an early morning on Lake Tyers as they headed out from the jetty or when we happened to be fishing in close proximity to each other on the lake. I chuckled to myself when I saw the order of service for this funeral as the front of the order showed Lindsay in full colour holding a 12lb 10z dusky flathead he caught on Lake Tyers on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009. At the end of the order of service was the following. -

I thought this would appeal to many anglers. Lindsay was a quiet chap who loved his fishing, and he will be missed by all fortunate enough to know him.

### **Around the Jetties Goes North**

I received an email recently from Anthony Gomes who produces a site on the Internet which provides information for anglers. He said that someone had “thrown” him a copy of Around the Jetties and he wanted to be added to the mailing list and had used some of the material from issue 38 on his site and hoped to use more material. I went to his site ([Info@cruisecastcatch](mailto:Info@cruisecastcatch)) and we had a yarn on the phone and as a result Anthony will use any material from Around the Jetties that he feels maybe relevant to his readers. Now the surprising thing was that Anthony runs his Internet site from Maningrida in the Northern Territory. He teaches in the area at 14 small Homeland Schools, and he works and lives with the traditional land owners and their families as he visits these schools. He says the fishing and hunting in the area is exceptional, however he does not own a rifle but owns a compound bow. Anthony is into lure and fly fishing has written for a number of magazines and produces the Cape Yorker magazine. ([www.capeyorker.com](http://www.capeyorker.com)) an annual publication that is distributed nationally. Anthony believes the future of communication lies with the Internet and for this reason he has established the [Info@cruisecastcatch](mailto:Info@cruisecastcatch) site. Anthony sounds a fascinating character who has used his teaching skills in a wonderfully positive way. Anthony is now on our mailing list and perhaps other readers of Around the Jetties might spare a moment to look up his Internet site.

### **Caught at a Farmers Market**

A 59 year old man was apprehended at a Sale farmers market selling Lakes Entrance mussels. 44 litres of mussels were seized, whilst commercial fishing equipment was later seized at the man’s Paynesville residence according to a press release from Fisheries Victoria. They also noted that the man could face a possible six months jail if convicted. A person may have 10 litres of mussels or 1 litre if removed from the shell, and of course it is an offence to sell mussels as bait or for food without the appropriate licence.

Information from DPI Media Release.

### **Dusky Flathead Movements**

We often hear anglers and others talk of dusky flathead moving from estuary to estuary. This would seem to lack firm evidence in Victoria. The only case of a dusky flathead moving between estuaries that I am aware of was reported in the Department of Primary Industries **Fish Fax** of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005 as follows.

“In January of this year an angler caught a tagged dusky flathead fishing in 20 metres of water offshore from Mallacoota. Originally the dusky flathead was tagged in Wingan Inlet in December 2004. In less than a month, this fish left the estuary at Wingan and travelled around 20kms eastwards where it was caught again. This is the first record of a recapture where a dusky flathead has left an estuary and undertaken a significant movement from where it was captured.”

I would be interested if there are any other confirmed movements of dusky flathead from home estuaries. This of course is of significance when the status of dusky flathead stocks in any local estuaries are considered for it means that it is unlikely that stocks will be influenced by the movement of dusky flathead between estuaries. We still need to know a great deal more about this top recreational species.

### **Opening of Lake Tyers Unlikely**

Lake Tyers last opened to the sea naturally in July 2007 as a result of heavy rainfall throughout the area that caused substantial flooding in the region. The lake closed again in November 2007. Prior to this event the last natural opening of Lake Tyers was in June 1998 with the estuary closing again in January 1999. The entrance was artificially opened in November 2002 when a high lake threatened surrounding areas however the lake closed again in January 2003.

Lake Tyers this time has been closed for four years or in excess of 1000 days, which is double the average period the lake has remained closed since the 1960’s. This of course has meant that many other species of fish have not had the opportunity to enter the lake which in turn provides added angler pressure on the two major estuarine species namely black bream and dusky flathead. It would appear to me that Lake Tyers would need to rise over 6ft to approach full.

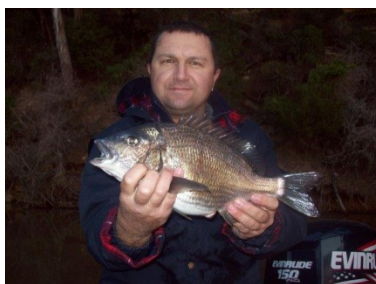
### **All Piss and Wind**

This was the title of a book I recently read which is the autobiography of David Salter describing his life as a yachtsman. In one section of the book he describes setting up a yacht for ocean racing in the following terms.

“Design and construction of a state of the art hull will cost no less than \$450,000. Fitting out with winches and steering gear and deck hardware takes care of another \$150,000. Decent sized engines start at \$10,000. A competitive rig-mast shrouds boom adds at least \$90,000. Life raft radios and safety gear will total a minimum of \$20,000. Lastly, a full suit of sails -main, five jibs, four spinnakers, -should consume your last \$120,000. He

concludes that with the cost of a marina antifouling etc. “within twelve months your first million dollars has disappeared.” That’s for a mid range yacht with bigger yachts costing \$20m Now readers considering moving into yachting do remember this book was written in 2006 so prices have risen considerably. This book is a good read for anyone interested in boats.

### **Fishing the Nicholson River**



I had a note from Frank Milito, DOA Lures and Charters, on the 7<sup>th</sup> September with some attached photos he took of bream he caught in the Nicholson River. He was fishing where the muddy water met the lake water inflow into the river, and said his sounder showed a large number of bream in this one area. A number of fish to 1.5kgs were caught in this evening session and released. He was using river2sea baby vibes 35 and 43 coloured in black using a permanent texta marker.

Now this colouring of a lure intrigued me and I sought just how many colours this lure come in. The answer was eleven but in researching this I came across a photo of Frank on the Internet with one of his bream similar to the photo featured in this issue of Around the Jetties. The fame of this local angler is spreading.

### **New Body for Allocation of Funds from Anglers Licence Fees**

In recent times a new body has been set up to allocate funds derived from anglers licence fees. This body is known as the Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group. This body has eight members however you will not find the actual membership published anywhere as the membership is regarded as private. The independent chairman is John Diplock from NSW, and whilst VRFish has a representative on this committee as does the Victorian Tackle Association, all other members are regionally based. The chairman provides a brief outline of meeting decisions which are published on the internet, but that is the only information available to anglers. (I found the chairman’s name attached to this report.) The fact that membership of this committee is not available to the public makes it difficult to bring to the Working Group problems associated with funding allocations, such as that experienced with fishing platforms on the Mitchell Backwater that do not provide access for the elderly or the handicapped. This is a particular problem when those responsible namely the East Gippsland Shire having received \$22,000 of anglers licence fess will not provide any remedy to the problem of aged and handicapped access. In reality I wonder at the necessity for privacy of membership of a working group that allocates angler licence fees to projects in this state.

### **Anglers Licence Fees at Work**

I was surprised to find when reading the report to State Parliament provided by Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group that the receipts for 2009/10 from anglers licence fees was just over \$6m, of which \$1.8m was disbursed to 78 projects. Just over \$1m went to Fisheries Victoria for Fisheries Field Services. Initially this was for the employment of ten Fisheries Officers when the General Angling Licence was first introduced, however now it is termed Field Services and I understand in now covers the costs of seven Fisheries Officers. Many anglers believe this is a charge that should come from the Fisheries normal budget, and the funds allocated to Field Services should be allocated to research. Now the interesting aspect of this report is that the total disbursements for the year amounted to \$4.4m yet only \$1.8m went to the recreational fishing grants program. It would appear that \$842,000 went in 2009/10 to administer the allocation of \$1.8m in projects, plus the allocation to VRFish of \$377,000 and Fishcare of \$7500 and the \$1m to Fisheries Field Services. Now it is true that this body had cash in hand of just over \$5m at the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 so I would imagine it would have a capacity for a considerably increased program in 2010/11.

I was interested that 31 of the funded projects involved teaching “kids to Fish” and family fishing days. I was unable to find one major fisheries research program funded, however upgrading Hastings Jetty and an analysis of coastal and estuarine fishing facilities both received in excess of \$100,000 as did the purchase of native and salmonoid fish for release.

Finally I would think a report of the direction of funding allocated should be made available to interested anglers, and a list of needed research projects should be available with at least three major research projects initiated each year. This report to Parliament raises a number of very interesting matters that include the cost of administration of funding allocations, the lack of research funding in the area of recreational fisheries, the continuing payment for Fisheries Officers, and the lack of a substantive report being made available to anglers

and not to mention that the names and qualifications of the people making these decisions on funding allocations are not available to the public.

### **An Old Photograph**



Recently when going through my filing cabinet I came across this photograph that was published in the Age in 1985. Over the years fishing off the rocks in this area I have seen a number of sharks but never anything like this photo shows.

The text reads- 'More than 300 sharks were counted in shallow water between Merimbula and Eden on the NSW south coast yesterday. They were first sighted on Sunday in an area where large numbers of sharks have been seen every January for the past few years'

### **Draft Aboriginal Fishing Strategy**

I would suggest recreational anglers should contact Fisheries Victoria for a copy of this draft and respond to the draft on the attached Feedback Form. You have until the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010 to respond.

“The draft strategy contains a number of proposals to recognise aboriginal customary fishing rights, increase aboriginal participation in fisheries management and improve economic opportunities for aboriginal people in the fishing industry.”

“Fisheries Victoria recognises the importance of fish to aboriginal culture, both traditionally and today and is committed to improving work with aboriginal Victorians to sustainably manage fisheries resources in fresh and saltwater country, side by side with recreational and commercial fishers.” As part of this initiative Aboriginal people who fish for customary purposes are to be added to the list of people who are exempt from the requirement to hold a recreational fishing licence.

#### **Editor**

Whilst supporting this initiative of Fisheries Victoria, it has raised the issue as to what is fishing for “customary purposes” and how is this defined. Does this also mean the use of customary methods of fishing or how is it envisaged that Aboriginal Victorians will be involved in “sustainably managing” fishing in this state, given that it is almost mandatory that Aboriginal members are on every committee associated with fisheries management currently. Finally one of the many actions suggested in an accompanying sheet to this draft is to “Develop customary fishing plans with Traditional Owners throughout the State to allow collaborative management of fisheries resources on traditional country.” This raises the interesting issue as to what is traditional country given the Kurnai/Gurnai current land claim of 39,170 sq kms or almost the entire East Gippsland area.

In some ways an Aboriginal draft fishing strategy is just words until items are defined. Perhaps this draft should be accompanied with a sheet defining what is meant by words such as “customary fishing” “Traditional land” etc so that an understanding response can come from recreational anglers



### **The Eel Tailed Catfish**

This iconic Murray-Darling species has declined somewhat dramatically in the last 30 years. This is a fish that is native to the Murray Darling system of Eastern Australia. In the 1960/70's this species was a regular catch for anglers in the Murray system, and I recall some wonderful fishing for catfish in Frenchman's Creek west of Wentworth. Today the only place one may legally keep a catfish is in the Wimmera system and the bag limit is two fish per day.

The catfish will grow to 90cms or 3 feet in length and up to 6kgs or 13 lb weight although such large fish have always been extremely rare. It is suggested that eel tailed catfish will live up to 8 years. This species inhabits slow moving streams with fringing vegetation and is often found in lakes. The eel tailed catfish was first recorded in Major Mitchell's 1832 expedition in Victoria. I have found it fascinating that this species



constructs a nest one or two weeks before spawning and this nest built with stones and gravel and can be over a metre in diameter. One parent and sometimes both parents guard the nest until the eggs hatch. As a fish they fight well and are excellent eating although without scales they have a slime that covers the body and that puts off some anglers. Catfish are usually caught on worms or shrimp and will also take yabby tail.

I would hope that sometime in the future, a breeding program will be conducted and the catfish of southern Australia will return to the Murray-Darling in numbers again. I am aware that in the past some successful attempts at breeding this species were conducted.

### **Next issue**

In the next issue we will examine a research paper entitled “Understanding the environmental water requirements of the Gippsland Lakes” This is a major study. The next issue will be the final issue for 2010.

**Readers** -Remember you may get an interested angler or friend on to our mailing list by simply sending us an email with details. Some angling clubs are using Around the Jetties as a news publication and are simply attaching a face sheet of club news for members, and this makes a simple club bulletin.

**Contributions** -Your contributions to this publication are most welcome, and we look forward to publishing your items of interest.

**Good health and good fishing**

**Lynton Barr**

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author unless otherwise acknowledged.
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MATERIAL FROM THIS NEWSLETTER MAY BE REPRODUCED  
BUT IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE AUTHOR AND PUBLICATION WERE NOTED