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# **Around the Jetties**

## **October-November 2014**

### **Issue No 83**

#### **An Anglers Newsletter**

“I object to fishing tournaments less for what they do to fish than what they do to fishermen”  
Ted Williams 1984 “The Quotable Fisherman” Published 2000

#### **Editorial**



In January 2011, this newsletter published the following commitment of the Coalition Government to recreational anglers of this state given prior to the election. It was as follows-

**“The Coalition would protect spawning fish by introducing controls on the practice of commercial netting near the mouths of rivers.”**

Despite numerous references in this newsletter to this commitment over the last three years, nothing has been done to protect spawning fish. These fish include black bream, Australian bass and estuary perch all of which move to the estuary or to the river to spawn and currently commercial fishermen can set their nets within 400 metres of the river mouths to catch these fish on their annual movements. Despite numerous references to the situation of “The Cut” on the Mitchell River, no statement has been made by either the local member, or the Minister as to whether “The Cut” would be protected from commercial netting under this commitment. The black bream fishery in local rivers is subject to a major fish kill in commercial nets in flood events as the fish attempt to leave the rivers to escape the fresh water flow. It is fortunate that in the last three years no major flood event occurred, however that has been only good luck. The effect of a flood event can readily be seen when in 2006/7 the black bream catch was 49 tonnes. In 2007/8 a flood occurred and the commercial catch rose to 144 tonnes of spawning fish, and then in the following year the catch returned to the normal level of 36 tonnes. Any Government that allows such a destruction of one of this states best sporting fish in flood events has little thought for the recreational anglers who through their licences support the fishery, or for the rural communities who rely on fish such as the black bream to attract recreational anglers who in turn support local economies.

Recreational anglers have been very patient in the hope that this Government and the local member would support this commitment made prior to the last election; however, it is almost impossible to get a statement on the situation. With only weeks to go to the November election, recreational anglers are left to wonder at this inaction.

## More on the East Gippsland Trout Streams

I have been pleased in recent days to have two contributions providing further information and expert views on the dilemma facing trout anglers in this state today. Readers will recall that in the last issue of this newsletter I highlighted the Weekly Times examination of trout fishing in rural areas and the decline that had become so evident. It was comments such as those of the President of the Albury "Greenwell's Fly Fishing Club" who stated that the recent trout season was "the worst in living memory," or Mick Hall past president of the Australian Trout Foundation who said "no one is 100% sure what is wrong" but the blitz on willows "seemed the most likely cause.



In this issue [Bairnsdale fly fisherman, Trevor Stow](#) contributes some further views for consideration. Trevor has fished for trout across Australia and overseas and has written articles, which have been published in numerous fishing magazines. Trevor has an intimate knowledge of trout fishing in Victorian alpine areas.

Trevor with New Zealand Trout caught 2014

Trevor writes

*I read with interest your story about the decline of the trout fishery. I do not go along with willow removal and climate change theory. I do support the theory that we do not know. Consider the following in our local waters (i.e. the Mitta system)*

- 1. There were very few fish caught in the rivers from opening weekend until the end of the season. On opening weekend, the water temperature was 4 degrees, which is perfectly normal for September. Fishing remained poor as water temperatures rose to normal levels during October, Nov, Dec etc.,*
- 2. I fished the Himmonunjee area over Christmas/New Year. The water temperature was 18 degrees. Pretty good for that time of the year however hardly a fish was seen.*
- 3. This area saw the 3<sup>rd</sup> poor hopper season in a row. I believe that this had a lot to do with the good rains that were received prior to Christmas*
- 4. Why would the trout leave Lake Dartmouth if there was more food in the lake than in the rivers?*
- 5. The Omeo area has not had any willow removal programme and its rivers are in much the same condition that they have been for many years so I think that we can discount environmental river changes in our area.*
- 6. The Director of Fisheries in Tasmania stated that their fishery had been severely impacted by cormorants that had flown in from Victoria following good breeding years in central Australia. He said that this was cyclic which makes sense. We have seen a lot of cormorants on our waters the past few years.*
- 7. It was not only our area that experienced possibly the worst trout season in memory. The Snowy Mountains also had a shocker. Tasmania was poor. Even Southland New Zealand was just so so. The mayflies in Southland were absent for much of the season and the willow grubs hardly raised their heads. Average fish size was down in the Mataura River this year. The Thredbo River in NSW hardly saw a fish last season and there has been no environmental changes or willow removal that I know of. This follows good seasons over previous years.*
- 8. There was hardly a fish seen at Lake Eucumbene for the entire season right up until the end of May when the fishing exploded at the mouth of the Eucumbene River. One group sent me an email with pictures showing some of the 120 trout up to 8 pounds that they caught in 4 days (most released). The fish were therefore in the lake somewhere and judging by their condition were feeding, but anglers were not catching them.*
- 9. I cannot see how the lack of scientific staff at Fisheries has anything to do with it as they have not undertaken any research on our waters for decades and even if they had, what could they do about*

it? A very prominent trout scientific expert, John Hayes from NZ once said that the best thing that we can do to help trout is to leave them alone.

10. Stocking in most of our local rivers would be a waste of time, as the trout would move to where the food is. Dartmouth Dam??? Trout move significant distance in a river system to find suitable food and habitat.

Perhaps our poor fishing last season was cyclic and a combination of a "perfect storm" including some of the above reasons. Perhaps not; only the fish know for sure.

Anyhow, interesting to ponder the season. Let us hope that next year is better.

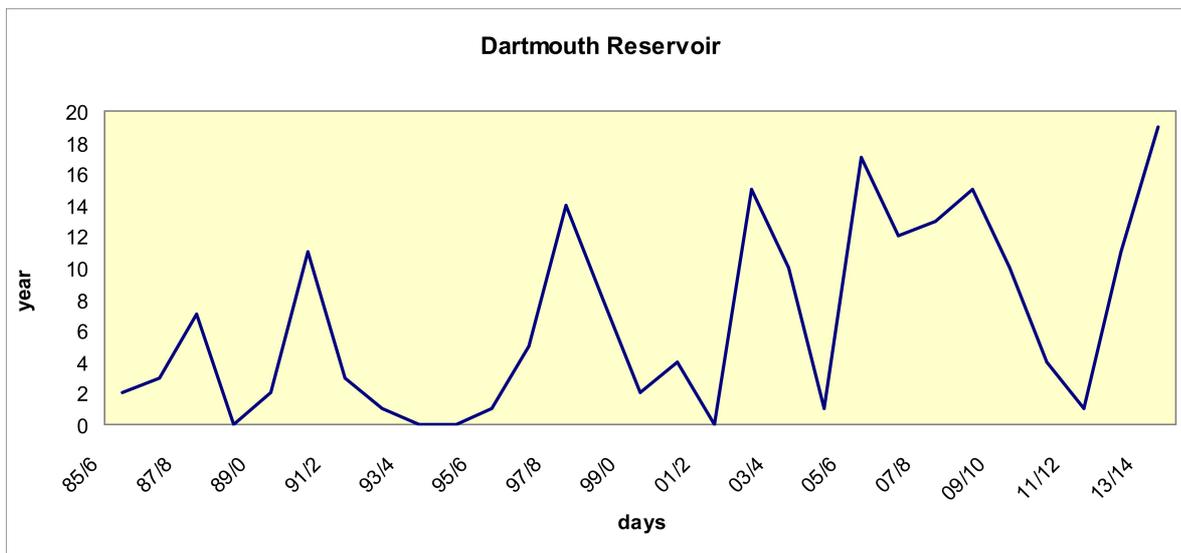
## Ross Winstanley provides another View



Ross was quoted in the weekly Times as blaming climate change "exacerbated by the removal of willows" for the loss of High Country trout. Ross has provided a thoughtful approach to this issue, which adds another dimension to the loss of High Country trout.

*Ross Writes-*

*There's a lot of detailed information available demonstrating how recent temperature rises may be contributing towards - if not causing - the deterioration in stream trout fisheries observed by anglers in the north east and in Gippsland. As an example the graph below shows the increasing frequency in the numbers of days/year when maximum air temperatures exceeded 35°C at Dartmouth Reservoir between 1985/86 and 2013/14. What's shown here is repeated at many other locations and is consistent with recent and projected future climate trends that will have significant and intensifying impacts on freshwater environments and fishes, both native and introduced.*



*Similar trends over long time periods in North America and Europe have already had heavy impacts on the distribution of trout, prompting conclusions that the future of wild trout populations in many of their native Northern Hemisphere waters is in serious doubt.*

*A report by the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology predicts that in Victoria and Tasmania, in the period to 2040, "exceptionally hot years are likely to affect about 75% of the region, and occur every 1.3 years on average" while "exceptionally low rainfall years are likely to affect about 10% of the region and occur about once every 12 years on average".*

### **Editor**

The above view suggests that climate change is responsible for the decline in alpine trout in this state. I note that Ross does not suggest that this is associated with willow removal. My thanks to Trevor and Ross for their contribution to the debate on the status of trout fishing in our alpine areas. It would be interesting if Gippsland angling clubs kept detailed statistics on high country fishing to add to the picture of just what has happened to this important fishery. The following important announcement would seem to take all views into account and provide some answers to the question of trout decline.

[Ross Winstanley](#) is a former Fisheries Victoria Recreational Manager, and is today a member of the Ministers Advisory Committee representing recreational anglers, as well as being an active researcher for recreational anglers and a member of the Statewide Recreational Roundtable.

## Now Read This

### Major Government Announcement Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

It has been announced that \$890,000 will fund a three year investigation into the decline in trout numbers in Highland rivers. In making the announcement the Minister for Agriculture and Food security Peter Walsh said this was the most significant investment in riverine trout research in decades.. He added surveys “have confirmed there are fewer trout in the lower reaches of many highland rivers.

Parliamentary Secretary for Primary Industries said, “trout in the Delatite river would be acoustically tagged to track their movements and to better understand how trout respond to seasonally changing conditions.” The project also involves a brown trout stocking trial in the Upper Goulbourn and Howqua Rivers, along with wild trout assessments in 12 important rivers. Volunteer anglers from local fishing clubs will also record their trout catch and effort to help Fisheries Managers monitor the performance from season to season and in different stretches.

The investigation is funded using \$565,000 from recreational licence fees and \$325,000 from the Coalition Governments \$16 million Recreational Fishing Initiative. (\$4 million per annum.)

Mr Walsh said “The Coalition Government recognises the significant social and economic contribution recreational fishing makes to Victoria and we want to ensure our state remains a top fishing destination for both locals and visitors.”

### Lake Tyers Opens Amid Controversy

Lake Tyers opened on Friday August the 21st. Only a week previously, the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Parks Victoria, the East Gippsland Shire and the Department of the Environment and Primary Industry came to a formal arrangement to monitor the estuary and be responsible for determining whether an artificial opening was required.

It was reported on the front page of the Bairnsdale Advertiser 22<sup>nd</sup> August, that a “young person from Lakes was seen digging the sand out where the sand was shallower.” According to Ken Judd, Water Programs Manager for EGCMA a natural opening was expected within a few days given the weather forecast and expected rain.



#### BEFORE AND AFTER

I wrote to Ken Judd who had previously stated that there was no intention of artificially opening the lake and I sought information on whether the person or persons responsible had been identified and would any action be taken by the committee responsible for controlling the opening of Lake Tyers when and if necessary.

Ken Judd responded “I am sorry but I am unable to confirm any rumours in regard to Lake Tyers opening. Please note our advice to the community in the papers last week.”

Now we have citizens of Lake Tyers who in the Bairnsdale Advertiser of Friday August 22<sup>nd</sup> are said to have identified a person seen digging out sand where the lake was shallow, and yet a committee with a formal arrangement to control the lakes opening, regards the opening observation as a rumour.

The unfortunate result is that the lake opened in a shallow area and it [would not be expected to be a long-term opening](#), and this would [mean less fish entering the estuary](#) from the sea. In the past, the opening on most occasions has been responsible for large numbers of small snapper entering the lake along with other varieties such as tailor, salmon, and silver trevally and these fish have enriched the opportunities for anglers in this wonderful estuary. It would seem that the formal agreement between the Government bodies announced with some flourish, to control the opening of Lake Tyers has had little influence in ensuring a natural opening takes place, even when that opening is thought to be only days away.

The question remains as to whether the Eastern king prawns stocked in Lake Tyers by Fisheries Victoria at a cost of \$225,000 will remain or have they now taken the opportunity to leave the estuary and head to Queensland to spawn. I have heard no comment on this from any of the parties involved in this project.

## VRFish Update - August 2014

The following information is a summary of some interesting items from the VRfish Monthly report

### Some General Statewide Information

There are some early season snapper about. The trout fishery at Toolondo is producing some great results, however, we have just been notified of a potential blue-green algae outbreak. The outbreak was detected by recreational fishers and we will be assisting authorities to manage the outbreak where was can. We have also had reports of some ripper Chinook salmon to 2.5 kgs out of Bullen Merri. The Southern Bluefin Tuna season this year has been one of the best for many years and the new boat ramp is being put to great use.

### VRFish State Council meeting 16 August 2014

The VRFish State Council met at the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron on Saturday 16 August. The meeting was well attended and our guest presenter was Dr Taylor Hunt from Fisheries Victoria. Taylor gave a great presentation on the proposed changes to Murray cod regulations and the underlying science and policy.

In summary, VRFish supports:

- A slot limit of 50-70 cm for Murray cod in rivers, streams and waters that are not stocked "put and take" fisheries;
- For stocked "put and take" lakes and impoundments (for which there is no or limited natural recruitment), a minimum legal length of 50 cm (the lower limit to the proposed slot), with the ability to retain 1 fish over 100 cm;
- The proposed bag limits of 1 in rivers and 2 in stocked lakes and impoundments;
- Pursuit of cross-jurisdictional regulatory consistency and a basin-wide approach to management;
- Ongoing monitoring, evaluation and review of the proposed changes (with consideration for use of angler and club data in monitoring); and
- At the time the changes are implemented, extensive education in relation to both the impact of the regulatory changes on compliance and best-practice responsible handling to increase post-release survival.

VRFish has provided its full submission to DEPI today, the 29 August 2014, in time for closing of submissions.

### VRFish State Election Wish List

The VRFish Wish List has been distributed to the political parties and members of the executive have been busy meeting key members of Parliament. The Wish List is all about growing recreational fishing in Victoria over the next four years and includes a comprehensive list of future investment priorities.

**Editor** Whilst applauding this approach it does seem unfortunate that recreational anglers generally did not have the opportunity to contribute to the wish list. For instance this publication is unaware of a single item on the Wish List specifically directed at improving recreational angling in East Gippsland.

### VRFish new member profile: Paul Carter

In recent years Paul has found an interest in squid fishing and its progression in the Australian market, he has spent a significant amount of time in Japan learning from the inventors of techniques refining methods that work well in Australia. He is responsible for designing 3 ranges of squid jigs for the Australian market and continues to work with Japanese lure makers on future projects and lure design. Paul also a proud member of the Bass Strait Game Fishing Club and participates in many recreational fishing activities in Victoria.

## Victorian Recreational Fishers Represented at World Conference

Russell Conway the VRFish Chairman, new State Council delegate Anthony McGrath of the Ballarat district Anglers Association and Dallas D'Silva, VRFish General Manager are about to depart for the 7<sup>th</sup> World Recreational Fisheries Conference in Brazil. The attendance of the Australian delegation is supported by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, and RecFishing Research.

## VRFish has a New Address

VRFish has moved to Savages Wharf at Nelson Place in Williamstown.

Contact details are as follows-

Victorian Recreational Peak Body.

10/158-170 Nelson Place

PO Box 538

Williamstown Vic 3016

Phone 03 9397 6318

Email [info@vrfish.com.au](mailto:info@vrfish.com.au)



## The Law and Recreational Anglers



A forty-year-old Norlane man was sentenced to three months jail in the Geelong Magistrates Court this month after taking more than 500 abalone over two days. Water police patrolling Port Phillip Bay near Point Ormond caught the man while he was scuba diving and seized his large catch of abalone. Fisheries officers counted 312 abalone, went to his property, and found another 197 abalone caught the previous day packed in twelve bags. About half the abalone seized were undersize. The legal limit for abalone is five per person on open days, however all abalone caught by this poacher were taken on closed

days.

This man has been released from jail and is appealing the sentence.

## Bureaucratic duplication of lakes management effort

In 2000, I wrote a book on black bream in the Gippsland Lakes titled “Black Bream in the Gippsland Lakes “In Crisis Fact or Fallacy”. In researching this book, I discovered numerous bodies charged with aspects of management of the Gippsland Lakes, and in recent years, the number of bodies seems to have increased without any improvement in the Gippsland Lakes environmentally. In the Lakes Post on August 8<sup>th</sup> 2012 Cr Ellis, a member of numerous Gippsland Lakes bodies including the Gippsland Lakes Advisory Committee and Chairman of the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Board amongst others, is quoted as saying “At the present time, one could say that the lakes are over governed with over 38 separate bodies having influence over the Lakes without proper coordinated interaction.”

In recent years we have seen a further body added to this number with funding of \$13 million, namely the Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee which was to make recommendations to the relevant Minister

With these thoughts in mind I was vitally interested in a letter written by Dr Peter Wheeler published in the Gippsland Times. (14/8/2014) I obtained Dr Wheelers permission to publish this letter in this issue of Around the Jetties, and I urge readers to consider the argument advanced in this letter.

Aug. 19, 2014, noon

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

I have watched with interest the work of the Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee since the election to power of the Coalition Government in Victoria.

Whilst, superficially at least, the development of this committee seems like a step in the right direction for the management of the Gippsland Lakes and catchment area, its establishment leaves me wondering why we need this bureaucratic structure in the first place, given that we

already have multiple government agencies managing the Gippsland Lakes and catchment area; for example, shire councils, a ports department, two catchment management authorities, water authorities, foreshore committees, and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries?

We have a Gippsland Coastal Board that is directly tasked with supporting integration of management effort for the entire Gippsland coastal area, including the Gippsland Lakes.

The Gippsland Coastal Board has a direct line of communication to the Victorian Coastal Council, and via this link is able to advise the relevant ministers if and when required, pertaining to any integrated coastal/catchment/marine issues.

The East and West Gippsland CMA boards operate in a similar manner, albeit with a catchment focus, through the Victorian Catchment Management Council.

Why do we need the GLMAC to essentially duplicate this effort, when the bureaucratic structures, supported by relevant Acts of Parliament, have been established for some time to provide advice relating to the management of the Gippsland Lakes and catchment area to the relevant Ministers?

As a concerned local resident and taxpayer, it intrigues me greatly as to why we need and are indeed paying for such duplicity of management effort.

Perhaps our local Member of Parliament could inform us why this is the case?

**Dr Peter Wheeler**  
**Editor**

Dr Peter Wheeler did his PhD with the main study area centered on the Gippsland Lakes and its catchment area. He has written over 20 journal or conference papers, and is a reviewer for the journal of Coastal Research,. He has worked as a consultant to government agencies on coastal management projects. He has studied the artificial opening and sediment dynamics of the Gippsland Lakes between 1889 and 2010 artificial. He has also produced interactive flood models of the Lakes Entrance Township, which were verified using data from 2007 flood.

**I thank Dr Wheeler for allowing me to use this letter, which encompasses the concerns of many anglers and members of the public.**

## **The Puzzle of the Ministerial Advisory Committees Approach**

I read with interest in the Bairnsdale Advertiser that the Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee had sponsored to the tune of \$26,000 a “fun musical project” that will see the production of a CD by students from ten local schools. The Chief Executive Officer of the GLMAC said “the musical project was a worthwhile one in helping to raise student awareness about the value of the Lakes to the Gippsland Environment.” This funding follows numerous sponsorships allocated by this committee to projects such as sponsoring junior art shows and book writing and publications by school students.

I have little doubt that these sponsorships are valuable however I wonder whether such sponsorships and the scattergun approach to funding is the way to achieve a result from the close to \$13 million in funding provided to this committee **to manage the future health of the lakes**. In August 2012 in the Bairnsdale Advertiser, The Chief Executive Officer stated, “local fishermen and the fishing industry can be better assisted on the lakes by ensuring the right research was undertaken.” Recreational anglers have seen only one press release on any research. This press release issued by the Chief Executive on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014, covered a project to examine the methods of assessment of fish numbers as well as another project to assess the economic value of the Gippsland Lakes Fishery. **Nothing further has been heard of these projects** and it is difficult to find out whether the Recreational Peak body or local angler organizations have been involved in this research. Has the local Advisory Committee made recommendations to Minister Smith from this research, and will those recommendations be subject to examination by local recreational angling groups. So much is unknown apart from the art shows and the host of other sponsorships that have resulted in photographs in local papers. I have been informed by a reader that another “Love Our Lakes” event will take place in November sponsored by the GLMAC with an \$80 a head dinner and Dr Karl Kruszelnicki again being guest speaker. I wonder at the relevance of such events when issues such as the impact of commercial fishing, effect of increased salinity, mercury in black bream, and the current status of seagrass in the Gippsland Lakes **to mention just a few** are matters that require coordinated research.

**(The two research projects associated with fishing above were allocated \$50,000 for each project)**

## Artificial reefs in East Gippsland inlets

### An Alternative View from Ross Winstanley

*“It will be really interesting to see how the recently-installed artificial reefs perform in Mallacoota Inlet, Lake Tyers and the Gippsland Lakes. The reasons the same concrete reef-ball structures have been so successful in Port Phillip Bay are that snapper are present there as an abundant reef-dependent species and that natural reefs are extremely limited in their occurrence in the Bay.*

*While there are no truly reef-dependent angling species in the eastern inlets, fish such as black bream, trevally and mullet will be naturally attracted to any structure. With this in mind, in the future - as an alternative to concrete reef balls - it might be interesting to look at the sort of structures recently installed in Lake Boga and Lake Kangaroo, promoted as "fish motels" in Minister Peter Walsh's August media release. Around 100 of these specially designed woody habitats made from iron bark logs bolted together now offer natural native fish habitat similar to the snags put in place in the Tambo and Nicholson rivers as bream habitat by the East Gippsland CMA.*

*Before installing more reef balls in eastern inlets we can learn a lot from the investment that's already been made in the placement of structures designed specifically as native fish habitat if all these "reefs" are properly monitored.”*



Left: Minister Walsh with VRFish Board Member, Rob Loats, and Dr Taylor Hunt from Fisheries Victoria.  
Right: Fish habitat waiting ready to be deployed into Lake Boga (top) and Kangaroo Lake (bottom).

### Editor

I thank Ross for drawing to our attention the use of wooden structures for fish habitat in areas such as the freshwater lakes of the mallee, which include Lake Boga, Lake Kangaroo, and Lake Charm and the possible application of this approach to eastern estuaries. I would doubt whether two small artificial reefs that have been located in the Gippsland Lakes will prove anything, as they are but a token in this states largest estuary. I would also suggest the wooden structures might well prove valuable for luderick who seem to thrive around wooden structures whether man-made or natural. I would point out that Lake Tyers at times has had a reasonable numbers of snapper, however this is totally dependant on the opening of the estuary and an influx of small snapper which quickly grow in the estuary. It will be interesting to see if the artificial reefs of this estuary have any positive impact on this species. I also wonder how the wooden structures would be stabilised in waters with strong tidal influences and flood impacts none of which would be found in the inland lakes of this state. I would be interested to hear views of other anglers on this interesting view advanced by Ross, and I thank Ross for suggesting this approach as a possibility in our estuaries.



### Lake Tyers Snapper caught May 2005

## Coalition Invests Licence Fees to Improve Fishing

### Or Does It????

This was the heading of a press release from the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, Peter Walsh, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. The press release indicated that \$3.6 million of fishing licence fees had been invested by the Napthine Government, in projects building a better recreational fishing sector. Almost \$1 million of this years licence fees will stock 1.1 million fish over three years, while \$956,000 will be used to conduct surveys to monitor the progress of stocked fisheries, and finally \$1.7 million will fund 21 projects across the state including a study into the economic contribution of fishing.

Recreational anglers will be pleased to see their licence fees being used to improve recreational fishing and would applaud the Governments announcement of how they have used the recreational anglers licence fees.

However, what is not stated is the fact that the Government received almost \$6 million in licence fees and that over \$2 million or 30% of those licence fees went to pay the salaries of Fisheries Officers. The payment of Fisheries Officers salaries had always been regarded as a charge on the Fisheries Victoria budget and not a charge on licence contributions apart from in 1999 when VRFish agreed to 12% of licence fees being used to fund Fisheries Officers. Today that figure has grown to over 30% of licence fees with no Government seeking angler approval. Now only 37% of licence fees are available for grants/projects the remainder is used to bolster the budget of Fisheries Victoria. Up until 2004 Victorian Governments met the full cost of fish stocking. Today fish stocking is largely funded from licence fees and the Government is not backward in taking the credit for funding this stocking, despite the fact the cost is borne by the recreation anglers themselves.

Perhaps a more important announcement might have been that the Government would undertake a review of Victorias Recreational Fishing licence and how the funds generated are applied. In the view of some commentators, the Government has squeezed the funding of Fisheries Victoria to such an extent that they have had to use more of the recreational licence fees to provide basic services once regarded as a normal part of the Fisheries Budget. Can anglers trust their Governments? Now that's a question recreational anglers should be asking local members and those seeking your support.

I wonder if an examination of the use of the recreational licence fees is part of the VRFish "Wish List." Unfortunately recreational anglers in general have no idea of the items on this wish list.

By the way, the current Government if returned will look at the recreational fishing licence in June 2015, and I doubt it will be reduced, rather it is suggested that the return from recreational fishing licences could be in the vicinity of \$12 million annually!

### Coalition Policy January 2011 Issue 42 Around the Jetties

The Coalition would reinvest all revenue raised from Fisheries Licences back into the recreational fishing industry, along with \$4 million over 4 years for the Recreational Fishing Grants Program.

I wrote in November 2011, "Does this mean that the \$1 million to employ Fisheries Officers would not come from this fund as they can hardly be called as part of the recreational fishing industry". On the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2011, I received a Fish Fax which simply indicated, "Ten new Fisheries Officers have been deployed across Victoria." No question no discussion, just an announcement and as a result an additional \$1 million from the recreational licence fund had been removed to pay for this decision. I am unaware of any consultation or discussion and certainly VRFish provided no communication to anglers before or after the Government action. So much for working together.

## Bemm River Report.



Over the last couple of days, Bemm has had 70mls of rain, and with a lot of water coming down the river, the level of the lake is very high. Recent fishing reports are much improved, with good bags of quality bream being landed. Sandworm and

prawn are the two best baits. After another 35mls of rain the lake filled, and was opened again earlier this week.

This is a very unusual cycle given the above average river flows.

**Editor**

My thanks to Don Cunningham for this report, which was put together from a very damp Bemm River with only a few hours notice. We had local Johnsonville angler, Graeme Merryful, heading to Marlo last week for a spot of early morning fishing only to find the Snowy had risen overnight and was almost in flood, as a result of water releases in NSW. Graeme had a look at the dirty water in the estuary and headed home without wetting a line. John Scott on the same day ventured to Marlo and was equally surprised at the height of the Snowy River, however he decided to fish in the estuary for a short time and to his surprise he hooked three estuary perch on prawn with the biggest a nice fish of 36cms. It just goes to show that looks can be deceiving.

**Editors Personal Note-** My thanks to all who sent best wishes for my return to good health. I am on a two-week rest from therapy and to keep the grey cells moving I decided to put this together with material available. I now start another three-week session of therapy so the next newsletter may again be delayed.

### **Around the Jetties on Line**

Back Issues of Around the Jetties can now be sourced on the Lake Tyers beach website- [www.laketyersbeach.net.au](http://www.laketyersbeach.net.au)

The newsletter will still be emailed to readers and of course, those who do not have access to email facilities will still receive hard copies

**Readers-** Don't forget you may get a friend or an interested angler onto the mailing list for Around the Jetties by simply sending us an email with details of the person you are nominating and his email address or a letter with details of a mailing address. We do not advertise but rely on readers talking to others and the number of readers just continues to increase.

**Good Health and Good fishing**



“Wish those darn fish would bite!”



“I'm totally exhausted”

John Scott's very intelligent fishing companion, Jazz!