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Around the Jetties

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Issue 101

An Anglers Newsletter

“The mulloway is the biggest and most prized species for estuarine and beach fishermen where it is found. A large specimen is generally a test of endurance for the angler with many long nights without even a mulloway run common, but there is no greater thrill than a large mulloway caught by a dedicated angler.”

Australian Fishing Guide by Frank Prokop.... (2000)

Editorial

“Is it a Gamble”



There is a report in this edition of Around the Jetties of the most recent release of 10,000 mulloway into Lake Tyers and I have had questions put to me by many anglers questioning the effect of this release on the current key angling species namely black bream and dusky flathead. Of course the recent release of estuary perch fingerlings in the same waters will add to the great unknown and that question what does the future hold for Lake Tyers? This question has become even more important with the decline in the dusky flathead and black bream fishery in the Gippsland Lakes resulting in far greater fishing pressure being exerted on Lake Tyers.

Dr Mathew Taylor in his report on the potential of marine varieties for stocking in Victorian waters (2010) says of Lake Tyers that “the lack of juvenile habitat within the estuary means that mulloway releases are unlikely to improve recruitment and should not be undertaken in this estuary.” Dr Taylor suggests that in estuaries with a lagoon profile, and Lake Tyers falls into this category, the result has been high mortality and low success of mulloway releases.

At a meeting of anglers to discuss the release of mulloway into Lake Tyers the local anglers present wholeheartedly supported the release. When a question arose as to the impact of this fast growing fish on bream and dusky flathead, anglers believed that the mulloway would feed on small mullet and crustaceans and have little impact on the bream and flathead. The stocking of mulloway was supported by all the anglers present at this small meeting, and within four weeks 5,000 mulloway were arriving for release in the Nowa Nowa area of Lake Tyers.

At no stage were anglers provided with research information on the effect of mulloway releases in other states, and at no stage was the research of Dr Taylor on the possible release of mulloway into Lake Tyers mentioned. Strangely the background information requested by Fisheries Victoria of anglers was far greater for the release of estuary perch than that requested of anglers for the release of mulloway.

My view is that the release of mulloway into Lake Tyers is a gamble and anglers can only hope it will be a success. I suppose in the minds of many is the thought as to whether this stocking will have the same result as the stocking of Lake Tyers with one million Eastern King Prawns that seemed to vanish with the opening of Lake Tyers to the sea. Could the same result happen with mulloway? That is a possibility?

This is a gamble but most importantly it is an experiment in marine stocking and this has not occurred in this state before. I believe recreational anglers will be involved in assisting with assessing the results of this experimental stocking, and hopefully in a few years we will look back on this gamble as estuaries across Victoria are stocked with mulloway and anglers are enjoying a totally new fishery, but there is no guarantee. There is an old saying that, “Nothing ventured nothing gained” and hopefully the venture of stocking Lake Tyers with 15,000 mulloway will lead to major gains for anglers across the state.



The Law and Recreational Anglers

The Final Curtain



Regular readers will remember the story in Issue 98 of a syndicate that employed ten abalone divers to dive along the coast from Melbourne to Port Fairy. They then sold their catch to the syndicate leaders one of whom was a woman, who in turn sold the abalone. The investigation into this syndicate was over a ten-month period and involved investigators and Fisheries Officers.

On the 30th of January the 41 year old woman, one of the two leaders of the syndicate pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 23 months and 14 days in jail. She was ordered to pay \$18,007 and her late model Toyota was forfeited.

The following provides the conclusion to this investigation.

Director of Fisheries Enforcement Ian Parks announced that a 54 year old male from Cairnlea was sentenced to two year and eight months jail as the second leader of this syndicate. The man was banned from all fishing and was ordered to pay \$21,000, which was the proceeds of crime, and as well forfeited his car and fishing gear. The man had a history of fishing offences dating back to 2000. The man pleaded guilty to trafficking commercial quantities of abalone and also selling seafood without authorisation.

It was explained in the Media release that the team of ten divers would drive from the western suburbs of Melbourne several times each week and meet at dive sites around Warrnambool and Port Fairy taking quantities of abalone shellfish and lobster. They would then return to Melbourne and sell the catch to the ringleaders.

Four of the ten divers were jailed for up to two months. The other six men were given community correctional orders requiring them to complete unpaid community work. They were banned from all fishing activity indefinitely and ordered to pay fines of between \$220 and \$16,500

each. During the investigation 12 vehicles and dive equipment were seized and most have since been forfeited.

Mr Parks said “we are very appreciative of the support the Victoria Police has provided to us in this investigation, particularly the criminal proceeds squad.” Mr Parks also thanked the Port Fairy community for its support during the investigation.

Several residential premises are still restrained under the proceeds of crime legislation.

Again congratulations to all involved in this major case and special thanks to the community and anglers who supported this major action.

The above information was provided in a Fisheries Victoria Media Release on the 12th April

Meanwhile at Mallacoota over Easter

A phone call to 13FISH from a member of the public led to the apprehension of two men with allegedly 50 litres of blood cockles which was five times the legal catch limit. The men were

apprehended when they returned to the Main Wharf Mallacoota on Easter Sunday.

The two men aged 33 from St Albans and 47 from Braybrook received on the spot fines totalling \$1,365 for allegedly exceeding the cockle catch limit and taking undersize fish. They were found to have an undersize bream in their vehicle. They will also receive three on the spot fines from Victoria Police for offences relating to the Marine Act including not wearing a life jacket and vessel registration.

On this occasion Fisheries Officers were participating in a joint operation over Easter with Victoria Police and Parks Victoria throughout East Gippsland.

Anglers and members of the public are encouraged to report illegal fishing anywhere in Victoria by calling 13FISH (133474) (Photos provided by Fisheries Victoria.)

Source of Information- Fisheries Victoria Media Release 31st March 2016



Bass and the Nicholson River

Readers will be aware of the stocking of East Gippsland rivers with bass in recent years. What might not be realised is that 687,000 bass fingerlings have been stocked in East Gippsland waters since 2002. The Nicholson River has been the recipient of 63,000 bass fingerlings in that period of time with a promise of a stocking of 100,000 in the river by the previous Government. This is great and the basis of a new fishery, with only one problem, and that is the dam on the Nicholson is stopping the movement of these fish to the lakes to spawn as they reach maturity. This publication has sought action from the State and Federal Governments to get this dam removed or a fish ladder installed to allow the natural movement of the fish.

Despite having local members no action has been forthcoming. We were advised over twelve months ago that the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and East Gippsland Water were having discussions on the best way to resolve the problem of the lack of access to the Gippsland Lakes for bass, but nothing has been heard of these discussions, and certainly no public statements have been forthcoming. (The Mitchell River 55,000 Tambo River 28,000 fingerlings since 2002)

Dr Sharon Davis Executive Director of Water Resources in a letter of the 28/8/2015 provided the background to the current lack of action from the parties involved when she stated “A plan to decommission the Nicholson dam was prepared by East Gippsland Water, in August 2011. During the planning it was agreed that the cost was to be shared equally between the Victorian Government, East Gippsland Water, and the Commonwealth Government. In 2012 the Commonwealth informed the

Victorian Government that it was unable to fund the project. The substantial funding shortfall could not be bridged by the Victorian Government and East Gippsland Water at that time.”



Photo- Ronan Carroll of East Gippsland Water

This newsletter sought to get the Commonwealth Government to provide its agreed share of funds to remove the dam, and Darren Chester local member wrote to Minister for the Greg Hunt and Minister for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce. The position was clarified when Minister Joyce indicated to local member Darren Chester in writing that, ‘[this matter falls within the jurisdiction of the Victorian State government and there are no existing Federal funding streams to assist.](#)’

This turnaround by the Federal Government with regard to funding is almost impossible to understand given the previous agreement to share the cost of removal of the dam.

The dam was constructed in 1976/77 at the very reasonable cost of around \$873,000, and was last used in 2006 and decommissioned in 2011. In a letter from the Executive Manager Infrastructure for East Gippsland Water, Dean Boyd, indicates that East Gippsland Water and the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority were meeting to identify options for the removal of the dam and to attempt to source funding. In the letter from the Executive Manager of Infrastructure I found a quite startling figure for the cost of the dam removal which in his words was “very high (in the order of \$9 million or more.)” I found the estimated cost of removal being almost ten times the cost of building the dam on the surface somewhat excessive.

In the East Gippsland News of the 13th April Local member Darren Chester who is Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport commented on a \$1.5 billion infrastructure package that requires matching funding from the Victorian Government. Minister Chester helped develop this package. With this successful package announced involving \$345 for Gippsland it would seem a small but important achievement for the Minister to get the small amount of funds needed to provide [the promised share](#) to remove the decommissioned dam on the Nicholson River.

Minister Lisa Neville in a letter (20/8/2015) to local member Tim Bull states the State Governments position on the Nicholson River Dam as follows.

[“Decommissioning the Nicholson Dam would provide benefits to the ecological health of the Nicholson River. It would remove a significant fish barrier and reconnect the upstream reaches of the river to the Gippsland Lakes. There are also annual maintenance and operation costs that would be saved by East Gippsland Water.](#)

[I support the decommissioning of the Nicholson Dam and have asked the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, \(DELWP\) to consider the options for progressing this project. I would welcome any assistance in securing a contribution from the Commonwealth Government towards decommissioning of the dam.”](#)

I would think the ball is now in the court of the local Federal Minister, Darren Chester, to find the \$3 million **that was the agreed Federal Governments contribution in 2012** towards the decommissioning of the dam, before those funds were withdrawn. It also needs to be remembered that Minister Chester is requiring matching funding from the Victorian Government for the \$1.5 million Infrastructure package released last week. Now the restoration of the \$3 million from the Federal Government should be a small contribution to the local community and the Gippsland Lakes and demonstrate the Federal Governments willingness to match State funding to remove this decommissioned dam.

Local Fish Releases

The second and final release of mulloway took place at Lake Tyers on the 20th April. The photo right shows Fisheries transport vehicle from Narooma arriving at the Lake Tyers launching ramp.

This release of 10,000 mulloway brings the total number to over 15,000 released into Lake Tyers and 5000 were also released into Tamboon with the assistance of the Bemm River Angling Club. The fish released on the 20th were smaller in size than the original release and I am advised the greater number released was to compensate for any losses due to the smaller size.



(Above) John Harrison from Lake Tyers Angling Club assisting the Narooma fisheries officers with the releases at Lake Tyers

And, Don Cunningham (lower left) of the Bemm River Angling Club assisted with the Tamboon release.

The fingerlings were transported by road from the hatchery at Narooma and arrived at Tamboon and Lake Tyers in good condition after the 12 hour trip, the only difficulty being that it was 5.30 when they arrived and almost dark by the time they were moved from the trailer and placed in large aerated drums on the two boats to be moved to release areas.

John Harrison Project Manager of the Lake Tyers Beach Angling Club had his boat organised with Ray Schmidt as his crew member and Fisheries Officer, Paul Bodsworth had control of the Fisheries Victoria boat. John had four trips to areas like Blackfellows Arm and the Toorloo Arm with around 2,000 fingerlings on board on each trip, whilst the Fisheries boat released fingerlings in the Nowa Nowa Arm.

This operation had no television or ABC radio coverage however it was a highly efficient operation that highlighted Fisheries Victoria and local anglers from the Lake Tyers Beach Angling Club and Bemm River Angling Club working together.

It is anticipated that later in the year the second release of estuary perch will take place. In the first release over 20,000 fingerlings were released and it is expected that the second release will be about the same number.



These releases will be watched very closely as it follows a study undertaken by Dr Mathew Taylor, left, in 2010 which examined options for marine stocking in Victoria. Anglers will recall the trial stocking of Lake Tyers with Eastern King prawns two years ago which was part of the marine experiment in this state. It is expected a report analysing the Eastern King prawn stocking will be available in coming months.

The possibilities of a mulloway fishery in Gippsland are exciting, however it should be remembered this species is already caught in small numbers in the Marlo estuary and at Mallacoota as well as Wingan Inlet.

In an exciting research project on mulloway undertaken by Dr Lauren Veale an aquatic ecologist, she found the largest mulloway from the Gippsland region whose frame was donated to the program was a [138cm fish caught at Mallacoota by Rory Brackley, and this fish was only 9 years old](#). Mulloway become mature when they reach 80-85 cms in length and seem to have an exceptionally fast growth rate.

We have so much to learn about this species, and if its release provides a viable fish stock of this species we have the possibility of an amazing fishery in waters like Lake Tyers and the Gippsland Lakes. We will provide continuing information on Dr Lauren Veale's fascinating research, which is appropriately funded over two years by anglers licence fees. By the way Rory Brackley has caught three mulloway in Mallacoota waters and contributed the frames to the research project.

An angler feedback program to track the newly released mulloway will be set up, and anglers will be invited to be part of this program. It is expected that small mulloway may be caught before the end of this year and hopefully they will be released by anglers and given a chance to reach their legal size, which is 60cms.

A Moment in History

Some years ago a well known former commercial fisherman, Pat Milito fishing in the Gippsland Lakes is credited with catching a mulloway with a weight in the vicinity of 100 lbs. This fish was caught in bait nets being used in Chinaman's Bay near Metung.

Highly Recommended

Dr Veale's second report on mulloway across Victoria is currently available on computers, and this is a fascinating booklet that provides a fund of information for anglers.

Barramundi Release in Hazelwood Pondage

Of particular interest is the experimental stocking of 1600 Barramundi in the Hazelwood Pondage. These barramundi will be made of 1000 fingerlings of 5cms, 500 fish of 10cms, and 100 larger barramundi of 30cms. This is the first time that this warm water northern Australian species has been stocked in Victorian waters. This stocking took place on the 20th April and was a major event with the Minister Jaala Pulford being present.



The ABC (East Gippsland) interviewed the Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria, Travis Dowling and the Minister for Agriculture, Jaala Pulford on the barramundi release in the Pondage. The Hazelwood Pondage will be closed to all fishing from the 20th April to the 20th October 2016. This closure will enable researchers to monitor the stocked barramundi for diet, growth rates and movement. Several listening posts have been positioned throughout the pondage to monitor the fish movements and fifteen of the larger fish will carry acoustic tags to track their movements so more can be learned about their behaviour.



Russel North, member for Morwell, Jaala Pulford, State Agriculture Minister, Harriet Shing, Member for Eastern Victoria and David Crammer, Future Fish at the Release.

Editor

It would seem likely that the warm water of the pondage will be the only lake where these fish will actually survive in Victoria, so it is unlikely that this will become a major fishery but rather it will be a fishery that will have to be regularly stocked to maintain it. Travis Dowling when questioned on ABC regarding whether fish from this water would be edible indicated that if they were not edible it would still be a valuable catch and release fishery.

Somewhat surprisingly this was a commitment of the Andrews Government, and that commitment has currently been met with a flourish.

Silt Jetties Petition Presented in Parliament

The next step in the ongoing saga of the closure of a section of the Silt Jetties to vehicular traffic has continued with **the presentation of a petition with 1200 signatures calling on the Government to review its proposal to close the last two kilometres of Rivermouth Road.**



Speaking in Parliament Member for Gippsland Tim Bull said “I believe the public consultation was less than satisfactory as it has become abundantly clear very few people knew about these plans and had little opportunity for input.”

The issue of the Silt Jetties was again on the front page of the Bairnsdale Advertiser (Friday April 13th.) The local member has asked Parks Victoria “to hold wider consultation and suggested perhaps an open day in the Eagle Point Rotunda where people can come and provide a viewpoint.” Perhaps a most important additional statement from the local member was “I have been advised there is no evidence vehicles are contributing to the erosion and that the reason for the closure is to allow planting either side of a walking track, in areas where the full width of the jetties is taken up by the road so no planting can be done.”

The point the local member makes regarding a lack of public consultation is reinforced by the statement in the minutes of the stakeholders’ group meeting who are advised, “**to please note these minutes are designed to provide participants with a record of sessions, rather than for broad circulation.**”

In other words the minutes providing an outline of plans and discussion were not for the general public, and the first occasion most heard of this proposal was 12 months later when **Minister Lisa**

Neville on the 20th of October 2015 released some details of the changes including the closure of 2kms of the Silt Jetties road.

This was a fait accompli that excluded the public and even some of the local residents of the area from any consultation or involvement in the proposals being put forward.

Meeting with Parks Chief Executive Cancelled

A meeting with the new Parks Victoria Chief Executive Officer, Bradley Fauteux, had been organised by Dallas D'Silva General Manager of VRFish to discuss the closure of the 2kms of the silt jetties. This meeting was to be held at 10.30 on the 27th of April at the silt jetties and I was one of a small number representing anglers to meet with the Chief Executive Officer. In issue 100 of Around the Jetties I informed readers that I would provide details of the matters discussed at this meeting. I am sorry but that is impossible as the meeting was cancelled with less than two hours notice, and the reason was the unavailability of the Parks Victoria Chief Executive. I was actually half way to the silt jetties when I received a phone call cancelling the meeting. This was very disappointing and perhaps illustrates that the concerns of the anglers at this road closure are not being taken seriously.

Bemm River Angling Club Fishing Report 28/4/16



The Lake is very high, and fishing remains quite productive, with bream spread throughout the system. The weather has been very calm on many days, and this can make fishing difficult. Bream can be a challenge when these periods come along. It is important to move quietly into your chosen area. The best times are early morning, or preferably if there is some wind to create a ripple on the water conditions are improved.

The Channel has produced some great sport. Trolling for tailor or bait fishing for bream is always worth a try. A 40cm bream is always possible at Bemm. The surf has been a great option with salmon the main feature. Pearl Point is holding good quality fish, which augers well for the winter.

Don Cunningham.

Items In Brief.



Cobia A New Fish on the Plate

A new aquaculture venture farming the Cobia or Black Kingfish has been developed in North Queensland, and already restaurants are calling this species the waghu of the sea. The feature of this fish is the growth rate which is around 5kgs per year, and this compares with that other prime aquaculture species, the barramundi, which grows at a rate 1.5kgs per annum. In eighteen months the cobia grows to a size of 9kgs.

The company undertaking the development of this aquaculture program Pacific Reef Farms has grown this fish in prawn ponds, but is now expending \$60 million on new ponds in Ayre. Up until now the fingerlings have been bred by the Queensland State Government, however now the breeding process has been successful the company will develop its own hatchery. It is estimated that this aquaculture project will produce fish valued at \$30 million per year.

Cobias are found in the warm waters north of the tropic of Capricorn, but with warm currents they extend south. They have been regarded in Asia and North America as a fish highly suitable for aquaculture. Vietnam produces 1500 tonnes of cobia per annum.

Cobias are highly regarded as a sport fish, and a fish of 135lb was caught in Shark Bay Western Australia in 1985. They are known to enter northern estuaries in search of crabs, squid and fish which are their major foods. Anglers regard cobia as a great table fish, and most are caught trawling or whilst fishing for other species.

Source- Details of the aquaculture were Taken From ABC Landline Program April 3rd 2016

Murray Cod Closed Season Removed at Lake Eildon

Fisheries Victoria has announced that the three months closed season for Murray cod will not apply to Lake Eildon in 2016. Research has found the surprising fact that 99.6% of Murray cod in Lake Eildon were stocked fish. Fisheries Victoria Executive Director Travis Dowling made the comment that “if Lake Eildon’s Murray cod are not breeding it makes no sense to protect them unnecessarily with a closed season.” Lake Eildon’s reputation as a productive cod fishery has grown in recent years thanks mostly to a substantial stocking program funded by anglers through their fishing licences according to Mr Dowling.

Other fishing regulations for Murray cod will remain unchanged including the slot size limit introduced in 2014 of 55 to 75cms, and the bag limit of 2 Murray cod in lakes and one in rivers. This change in regulations will be trialled in 2016 and monitored via feedback from anglers.

Bag Limit Reduction for Golden Perch



Largely in response to calls from anglers particularly at regional forums the bag limit has been reduced to five fish per day. Many anglers have been concerned that catches by recreational anglers have been excessive. Golden perch populations in lakes are nearly all stocked and take almost a decade to become established and so they are worthy of protection. The Victorian bag limit aligns itself with NSW, which in turn will simplify fishing trips near the NSW border.

Whiting Decline Forecast in the Future

The fishing for whiting in Port Phillip Bay has been very good in the last couple of years but this is unlikely to continue according to surveys conducted on juvenile whiting numbers. Fisheries scientists expect that numbers of takeable whiting will be impacted during 2017-2019 by the small numbers currently in the seagrass nurseries. Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria Travis Dowling in a [Media Release \(April 5th\)](#) stated “the downturns impact will be lessened given that 87% of the commercial netting catch for species also targeted by recreational anglers, including King George whiting, has now been removed from the bay as part of the State Governments Target One Million plan.”

Editor

I feel sure the same argument that removal of commercial netters in the Gippsland Lakes would impact on the recreational catch given that it has been suggested at black bream Stock Assessments that the commercial catch and the recreational catches of black bream are approximately similar. Surely the removal of commercial netting would therefore have a positive impact on the number of recreational anglers fishing in the Gippsland Lakes and tributaries, and such an action would support the State Governments Target One Million plan. It is not specified whether there will be a downturn in the numbers of whiting in the Gippsland Lakes. When I raised this question with a Fisheries scientist he indicated that he could not answer the query as little is known of whiting spawning in waters other than Port Phillip and Corio Bays however the media release indicated that Westerport was expected to face a similar decline in whiting numbers.

The Change to a Marine Environment Continues

On Friday 2nd of April I was listening to ABC Rural radio, and the Fishing Report at around 6am. I became very interested when the presenter stated that a couple of anglers fishing in the Gippsland Lakes near Lakes Entrance hooked and landed two Gummy sharks. They had been using fairly heavy gear in the hope of catching one of the kingfish reported in the Gippsland Lakes at that time. This catch together with the kingfish gives an indication of the changing environment of the Gippsland Lakes. In the same week local environmentalist Ross Scott sent me a photograph of a small squid that was caught far up the system in the Newlands Arm, and this was followed by Fisheries scientist John Douglas showing me and a couple of others a photo of a large green turtle in the Gippsland Lakes again near Lakes Entrance in the last couple of days. What I find hard to understand is that despite the increasing marine nature of the Lakes and the increasing salinity this has not been reflected in the

numbers of Australian salmon and Tailor in the commercial catch In the last three years the commercial catch of salmon has averaged 1.5 tonnes per annum whilst the average catch of tailor per annum over the same period has been 24 tonnes per annum. In the case of both species there has been little change with the commercial catch of the 1980's, when the waters of the Gippsland Lakes were brackish rather than marine. Some reader might provide an answer to this question

Just a final thought on this topic. The fish that has declined in commercial catches most dramatically is the yellow eye mullet. In the 1980's the average annual catch was around 90 tonnes per annum whilst today the average catch in recent years has been 16 tonnes per annum. Is the increasing salinity reducing the commercial catch of this species?

“Come to Victoria for Big Game Fishing”

This was a heading in the Weekly Times of April 20th for an article written by Chris McLennan suggesting Victoria as “Australia's new big game fishing capital.” He goes on to say at least three broadbill swordfish have been hooked off the far east Gippsland coast in the past fortnight. He adds later in the article that Lee Raynor “fishing expert” caught a 135kg swordfish 40kms off Mallacoota last week. VRFish Chairman Rob Loats said Victoria was firmly on the international fishing map with mako sharks, striped marlin and kingfish being pursued off Port Phillip Bay. What are not mentioned in this article are the catches of marlin 40 kms off Lakes Entrance. Add to this the Southern Bluefin fishery off Portland and I would think the heading of this article is probably right and a multi million industry is being developed along the Victorian coast.



Anton Vogiatzis President of the Victorian game Fishing Club writes in 2013 “In recent times another potential rising star in the Victorian game fishing scene is Lakes Entrance with the capture of Striped and Blue Marlin, and sightings of Yellow Fin Tuna. The fish were up to 85kms offshore from Lakes Entrance. It's a long haul however the distance travelled is no further than many game boats already travel off Cairns or Portland.”

The 2013 vision of Anton is becoming a reality.

Editor

One disappointing aspect of recent catches of Marlin off Lakes Entrance was the disposal of the carcass of these magnificent fish. One carcass was found up the Newlands Arm and another carcass was left close to the launching ramps in Lakes Entrance. This does not help the public's perception of game fishing. Hopefully in the future it will be tag and release and a photo of the fish prior to release. By the way in the Omega 3 Fish shop in Lakes Entrance on the 24th April a large tray of marlin steaks was featured priced at \$24.50 per kilo.

[Anton Vogiatzis's comment on Lakes Entrance was published in the 2013 Fishing Lines Magazine](#)

Silver Perch In Lake Boga



A fish survey in Lake Boga recorded an unexpected number of silver perch.



The survey was to assess the effectiveness of the wooden manmade structures in the lake. These structures were funded by angler licence fees and the structures were introduced to the lake on 2014. The survey captured nearly 300 silver perch the best of which weighed almost 2kgs. Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria, Travis Dowling said “The species are a terrific sporting fish, most often caught on worms.” They have a minimum size limit of 30cms and a 5 fish bag limit. The survey found small Murray cod and golden perch to 2kgs around the wooden structures.

Silver perch which have previously been a concern can now be taken from Lakes and impoundments north of the Great Dividing Range and all waters south of the Range including the Wimmera Basin.

Years ago the silver perch was regularly caught in the Murray system, but then their numbers drastically declined.

Lake Boga entirely dried up in the 2010 drought so it is most pleasing to see silver perch returning to this lake, and the suggestion is that they have entered the lake through irrigation channels.

Lake Boga has an interesting history in that it was a Catalina Flying Boat Base during the second world war. These wonderful planes were flown from the islands North of Australia to Lake Boga for refurbishment. Today the only reminder of this major base is a static Catalina Flying boat displayed on the shore of Lake Boga.

[Source Media Release Fisheries Victoria 21 April –“Survey reveals silver perch in Lake Boga.”](#)

The Upgrading of Tracks into Lake Tyers

Readers may remember the attempts to get these tracks upgraded in 2011 reported on in the publication. (See Issue 40). These attempts were led by John Harrison and involved taking Fisheries personnel, Parks Victoria Managers, and our local politician on full day assessment tours of the tracks on the Eastern side of Lake Tyers. Even at that time the tracks were in a poor state and could be regarded as unsafe. The problem at that time was accessing funding. In the last couple of weeks both John Harrison and I were informed that Fisheries Victoria had made funding available to Parks Victoria for the upgrade of some of these tracks and we were asked to comment on those chosen for upgrade.

On the 22nd of April I was given a phone briefing by Cameron Fleet Acting Chief Ranger of Lakes and the Eastern Alps on the tracks identified for upgrade in the Lake Tyers Park. At the moment upgrade of these tracks is subject to obtaining a Permit of Cultural Heritage as some sites of significance have been identified in track areas. Parks Victoria is undertaking the project and relevant negotiations, and tenders will be called for upgrade of each track when negotiations with the aboriginal guardians are completed. It was pointed out that the two tracks requiring the most work are the Crystal Bay track and the Pile Bay track, and dependent on the cost of this work will depend whether upgrade of all tracks can take place. Anglers will be aware of the popularity of these two areas and the poor state of the tracks into these areas. It is hoped that as a result of this work bank anglers will have access to some of the excellent fishing spots on the east side of lake Tyers.

The tracks currently listed for upgrade are-

Crystal Bay track (Photo Right)	Cherry Tree track
Pile Bay track	Trident track
Pettman's track	Morgan's-Ironbark track
Gibbs track	Cameron's Arm No 1 track
Burnt Bridge west track	



I have a concern that by the time Parks Victoria negotiates and obtains a Permit of cultural heritage and calls tenders for the upgrade of each track, that winter and wet conditions may well delay the completion of this work, however it is a start on a project that will benefit anglers and members of the community, and open up access to a number of beautiful spots.

Hopefully with a good track into the estuary many elderly and handicapped anglers will be able to access these spots and take their chair and rods to the banks of the estuary and have an enjoyable days fishing, that was formerly not available to them.

Johnsonville Jetty Upgrade

The accompanying diagram is of the upgrade of the Johnsonville Jetty which is currently being carried out. The old jetty is being removed and an extended jetty will provide additional berthing for vessels overnight as well as anglers' boats. Together with the double boat ramps, floating jetties and rowing jetty this will make this launching and barbeque area one of the best in the Gippsland Lakes. Already many boating groups make the Johnsonville facilities the midday venue for boating excursions. This area is maintained by a





local committee, who take great pride in this local facility they have developed with the support of the East Gippsland Shire. Today community members clean the barbeques and toilets, mow the lawns and oversee the facility. The Johnsonville boat ramp and facilities are a great example of what can be achieved by a small community. Thanks to Clive Blackwood for the design sketch of the development currently taking place.

Torquay Reef Named in Honour of Trevor Buck

In a Media Release (4th April 2016) Fisheries Victoria Executive Travis Dowling has announced that a recreational fishing reef off Torquay will be named after keen angler and advocate Trevor Buck who suddenly passed away in the previous week. Travis Dowling said “to honour Trevor’s legacy and everything he did for fishing, the recreational reef off Torquay will be named Rev’s Reef.”

(Rev was his nickname amongst fishing friends.) A plaque will be attached to a submerged concrete reef module, which is about 3kms offshore in 25 metres of water.

Mr Dowling concluded “the recreational fishing community owe Trevor a great debt and naming the Rev’s Reef will be a legacy in memory of him in years to come.”



Passing of Don Ellis,



Following an email from his son Greg, it is with sadness I report the passing of Don Ellis Chairman of the Metropolitan Anglers Association on the 30th March. Don as a member of the Recreational Anglers Roundtable emailed me on the 13th March to indicate following his representations Fisheries Victoria had funding for the building of three stiles on the Bemm River and the installation of three fishing platforms to allow handicapped and elderly anglers to have access to Bemm River. Fisheries Victoria informed him that this was phase one of the project he had initiated, and more was to come. He was a leader of

recreational anglers and had the interest of other anglers at heart, and this email provided an epitaph to the life of a recreational angler, who led one of the largest angler groups in the state and worked for anglers and their interests.

Welcome to Wangaratta Angling Club

The Wangaratta Angling Club has requested being added to the mailing list of Around the Jetties and is joining numbers of other clubs across the states who receive this newsletter. Many clubs receive the newsletter and then send it on to members who are on line. This is a simple way of getting information out to members and providing an interesting service to club members. The Wangaratta request is just a little special as my boyhood was spent in Wangaratta and in later life I had a decade as Principal of Wangaratta High School. And in those times I walked the streams after trout, and fished most lakes and rivers in this wonderful area.

Around the Jetties on Line www.laketyersbeach.net.au

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. We do not advertise but rely on readers talking to others and the number of readers just continues to increase. Material from the Newsletter may be reproduced but it would be appreciated if the author and publication were noted.

Good Health and Good fishing