



# AUSTRALIAN TROUT FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018

## From the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for 2018.

A lot has happened since the last newsletter was published. Let's begin with an introduction from myself as Russell Hanley the new editor of the newsletter.

This issue begins with an article from Terry George the ATF President providing the background to and description of the successful establishment of the Jordan Scotty Incubator trials recently set up by the ATF.

Then we have a detailed account from Tom White on all of the presentations and discussions at the 2017 Talk Wild Trout Conference held in Mansfield in November. The conference provided an excellent summary of the current status of the wild trout fishery in Victoria.

That is followed by a brief report from me on the first Troutfest held in Western Australia where the ATF participated at the RecFishWest and Fisheries

sponsored event with a stall providing information on our aims and recent achievements.

I have also provided a summary of the current status of the trout fishery in Western Australia which I hope will be of interest to our eastern states brethren and may indeed entice some of you to consider setting aside some time for trout fishing if you are planning on visiting this side of the country.

Lastly we have a call for engagement in the work of the ATF from our vice president Ray Buckland. As we move forward to make the ATF an organisation representing the interests of trout anglers Australia wide we will need more people to put their hands up to help.

The ATF will hold a workshop in mid March at which a strategic plan will be developed and this is likely to provide a strong national focus. This will be an exciting time to join the ATF and to get involved in achieving our objectives.



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



## Not an ATF Member?

Come and join with the rest of us to protect, rebuild and promote Australia's trout fishing heritage. Membership is open to any person or association with an interest in trout fishing, whether you fish with fly, lure or bait. It only costs \$20.00 per year to be an individual member and you will be helping to ensure that trout fishing in Australia remains alive and well for future generations to come.

To apply for membership or refinance your subscription go to: <http://www.atfonline.com.au/home/page/membership>

## Jordan Scotty Incubator Trials

by Terry George, President, Australian Trout Foundation

The stocking of yearling hatchery fish into streams with existing wild trout populations is ineffectual in improving fish numbers. The precise reasons for this are unknown but the learned behaviour of fish grown in hatcheries may be a contributing reason.

Fish hatcheries are useful and appealing as the numbers and sizes of the required fish can be produced and therefore hatchery produced fish form the basis of Victoria's fish stocking program. In Victoria, there is also a tendency to stock larger trout—typically yearlings—as bigger fish have less predators and are thought to have the best chance of survival. However, as seen in the stocking trials of hatchery produced trout in the Goulburn, Jamieson and Howqua, this is not necessarily the case.

Because the trout have grown up in the hatchery, they may have learned some behaviour that may suit them well in the crowded competitive world of a hatchery trout race— but the same characteristics may not help them in a natural stream and when competing against existing wild trout.

Hatchery raised fish have to compete for food in a very crowded, relatively still water, environment. Research has shown that when hatchery -raised fish are stocked into a stream, they behave much differently than the existing wild fish. Stocked fish tend to show more aggressive feeding, spend more time in faster water and rapids, and generally move about much more than the wild fish. All this activity uses up energy that the fish can't recoup from the food they have to find, and therefore they don't get enough food to maintain themselves, and lessens their ability to compete with existing wild trout populations.

The learned behaviours are likely to contribute to the ineffectiveness of the hatchery-raised fish to survive and contribute to the overall stream trout

population. The Australian Trout Foundation has been working in partnership with recreational fishing clubs and the Victorian Fisheries Authority to enhance and maintain wild trout fisheries. The Australian Trout Foundation are keen to investigate other methods to aide recovery of depressed trout populations. One such method is in-stream incubation of eggs.

### Enter the Jordan Scotty incubators

The Jordan/Scotty Fish Egg Incubator is a commercially available plastic unit which was developed to incubate salmon or trout eggs in-stream. The design of individual housed eggs eliminates or minimizes fungus infection and eggs are protected from predators.



The stocking of eggs eliminates the hatchery learned behaviour seen in young fish and therefore may ultimately lead to higher survival of fish stocked as eggs when compared to stocking hatchery-grown yearling trout. A trial of the incubators was subsequently developed and initiated.

### What was done: The Trial

Brown trout eggs were stripped and incubated to the eyed stage at Snobs Creek. DNA samples were taken from the parent trout so that fish hatching from the eggs stocked in the incubators could be subsequently identified to assess the trial. Once eyed, the eggs were loaded into the Scotty Jordan boxes, and then transported and deployed in the King and Jamieson rivers and Traralgon Creek. Anglers from several angling clubs were involved in the loading and deployment of the incubators. The incubators were removed several weeks after deployment, once the eggs had time to hatch and the trout larvae

absorb their yolk sac and leave the incubators.



On removal, a quick check indicated high hatch rates from most incubators.



Electrofishing sampling of young fish is scheduled for the streams in 2018 (note from the editor - sampling is underway and the results look encouraging) DNA samples from these fish will be used to differentiate stocked from wild fish and gain insights into the success of the trial. The intention is to repeat the trials over the next year and the VFA have committed to providing eggs sourced from wild trout for these ensuing trials.

### Acknowledgements

The incubator trial involved many people and the ATF would like to thank the volunteers who assisted in the loading of the incubators.

We were most fortunate to have a great bunch of the volunteers to assist with this delicate task of loading the incubators at Snobs Creek: Graham Godber – Mansfield and District Fly Fishing Club (MDFFC) & Australian Trout Foundation (ATF), Matt Byrne - MDFFC & ATF, Andy Mattenson – MDFFC & ATF, Shane Kirley – MDFFC & ATF, Stan Brown – MDFFC & ATF, Steve Jordan – MDFFC & ATF, Alan Burgess – MDFFC & ATF, Nick Kirley – MDFFC & ATF, Doug Braham – Council of Victorian Fly Fishing Clubs (CVFFC) & ATF, Ray Buckland - ATF & Yarra Valley Flyfishing Club, Tony Borrack - ATF & APYAC, Terry George - ATF & Victorian Fly Fishing Association (VFFA), Neil Highett, Will Ingram & John Douglas – Victorian Fisheries.

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

We are also grateful to the many volunteers who ably assisted in the installation and removal of the incubators into and from the streams: Dave Guertin – ATF, Andrew Briggs – North East Catchment Management Authority, Graham Godber – MDFFC & ATF, Matt Byrne – MDFFC & ATF, Mike Smith – Wangaratta Fly Fishing Club (WFFC) & ATF, Bryan King- WFFC & ATF, Erhan Cinar- Southern Fly Fishing Club (SFFC) & ATF, Martin Lampitt – SFFC & ATF, Trevor Hawkins – VFFA, Kris Leckie – VRFish plus Four ATF members from Latrobe valley Fly Fishing Club, "Pickles", Lachie, James & Wayne.

Lots of hard work mingled with lots of fun and laughter.

Recreational anglers and clubs are welcome to be involved and to assist in the 2018 Jordan Scotty trials; please feel free to register your interest by email ([info@atfonline.com.au](mailto:info@atfonline.com.au)), or visit [www.atfonline.com.au](http://www.atfonline.com.au).



### Talk Wild Trout Conference 2017

A report from Tom White

After loading up the Toyota the night before, we left home just before 9:00am Friday morning as the power at home had been switched off at 8:30am for maintenance works. We drove to the bank at Chirnside Park S.C. to change some large notes into small change for customers at conference (they always seem to hand over large notes for small purchases). As we had to wait till 9:15 for the bank to open, it seemed a coffee was in order.

We arrived in Mansfield at just after mid-day and went straight to the caravan park we had booked into for the weekend where the management was very accommodating and allowed us to move in straight away (generally not available till after 2:00pm). After that a quick trip to shops for a cheeseburger lunch and then on to the conference venue to see if we could start setting up.

I managed to find Julie & Belinda from Fisheries and organized a spot with them in the foyer to set up our table and some banners.

We had 4 retractable banners with us and as the topics of the conference in-

cluded incubators and habitat, Julie took a couple of the relevant banners and put them up in the main hall. This was some fantastic exposure to have them right beside the Fisheries banners for all to see. Talk about some great exposure for the ATF!



By the time Terry turned up Ineke and I had everything ready and he could concentrate on his talk rather than worrying about the stand.

Mansfield Fly Fishers had organized a BBQ for Friday night at the local tennis club for presenters and organizers so it was time to head off and freshen up with a shower and change of clothing.

We turned up at the BBQ at the allotted time of 6:30pm and members of the Mansfield club were busying themselves with preparing nibbles and drinks. We handed out a number of ATF stubby holders to get our name in front of everyone (and also to keep our drinks cool on a warm night) and introduced ourselves to anyone unknown (not too many).

Although the night was very casual it was a great success in breaking the ice and making sure everyone was in familiar company. Guests of Mansfield Fly Fishers included the Vic Fisheries Authority staff and managers (including Anthony Forster and Travis Dowling), VRFish, ATF, Dr John Hayes (from New Zealand), Trevor Hawkins, representatives from NE & GB CMA's, VFFA delegates and numerous others.

Saturday dawned into a nice sunny day with temperatures in the high 20's and we rolled up at the conference around 9:00am. Quite a number of visitors were already turning up and there was quite a bit of interest in our merchandise (pens, stickers, stubby holders, shirt badges, ATF caps and numberplate frames) before the conference even got underway and continued during each break. Both Dave Guertin and Paul Stolz (ATF committee) were also on hand to help with merchandise sales, general enquiries and otherwise assist in flying the ATF flag.

Welcome to Country

The conference began at 10:00am with an introduction by John Douglas (VFA) followed by a 'Welcome to Country' ceremony by an elder from the Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corpora-



tion then Travis Dowling gave us his take on the current status of the trout fishery and Anthony Forster gave a recap of the past 2 conferences (2015/2016).



Dr John Hayes

Dr. John Hayes from New Zealand was the keynote speaker and did a fine job of explaining how trees and shrubs along riverbanks are vital to the health of the fishery, stabilizing banks, providing shade, shelter and food – all vital elements of a healthy stream.

He went into detail how fish grow best when water temperatures are at their optimum (12° -16° C) and showed examples of some problems they are experiencing in NZ regarding some current farming practices.

Then it was time for a short Remembrance Day reflection before the morning break.

After a short morning tea-break Jason Lieschke (Arthur Rylah Inst.) gave us a rundown of the state of the trout fishery in Victoria for 2017 based on electro-surveys done on the various rivers this year.

Brett Ingram (Vic. Fisheries Auth.) talked on the health card results of which streams are currently performing best based on the surveys.



Brett Ingram (VFA)

The results of these surveys and health cards indicate some very positive outcomes.

Anthony Forster was again on stage to speak about a new initiative being trialled by Fisheries called "My Catch". "My Catch" will connect an app to a database of fish catch results provided

by anglers enrolled in the program.



Anthony Forster talked about Fisheries new app

Fisheries will invite fishing clubs and individuals to enter results from their trips and competitions to be compiled into a library of information to assist Fisheries in stocking decisions and a historical analysis of the status of the fishery at any given time and assist in how it should be managed going forward.

By now it was almost lunch time but there was still a short amount of time available which was used for the audience to field questions to the morning's speakers.

Lunch was very well catered for by a local restaurant with roast beef, chicken, pork and potatoes with gravy, salads and bread rolls all on the menu along with a selection of cakes and other desserts, fresh fruit and hot and cold drinks. No-one was going hungry here today! The break also gave us the opportunity to sell more merchandise and even several new/renewed memberships.

Following the main break, Kylie Hall (VFA) gave a short presentation on the idea that we may be overfishing our trout stocks but the data does not support this.

Three methods were employed to determine angling pressure; tagged or fin clipped fish returns, angler interviews and compliance records. In depth details of the results of each of these methods used can be found on p. 54-60 of the TWT Conference program booklet.

Hui King Ho (VFA) demonstrated that smarter stocking is required to improve our fishery.



Hui Kong Ho (VFA)

Over the 3 years of this Talk Wild Trout program, trial-stockings in rivers have not significantly improved the trout populations.

In 2015, of the 10,000 stocked yearling fin-clipped fish (5,000 in Howqua & 5,000 in Upper Goulburn Rivers), only 7 stocked fish were recaptured in fish surveys and in 2016 only 4 stocked fish were recaptured. Again, in 2017, only 6 of stocked fish were recaptured.

That's a total of only 17 fish out of the 30,000 stocked (cumulative – 10,000 per year over 3 years) and less than 2.5% of all fish recaptured (704 in total).

The indications are that stocked fish do not provide good returns for the investment.

Fish stocking does have its place, but is not an effective long term strategy to enhance "wild" stocks where existing self-sustaining fish populations are present and some smarter techniques are required.

Brett Ingram hit the stage again to discuss whether stocking fish into Lake Eildon contributes to trout populations in the feeder streams. In 2016, 17,000 fin-clipped fish were released into the lake. The results of the surveys mentioned above (Howqua & Upper Goulburn Rivers) indicate that these fish were not present in any significant numbers (of 315 brown trout captured in 2017, only 6 were fin clipped and it is not known if these were from the lake or river stockings).

The results at this stage are still inconclusive and different methods may be required to mark stocked fish in future such as barium marking and/or genetic profiling (DNA). These methods are being tested and so far have been found to be cost effective and to provide good results.

Contrary to previous research overseas, using a particular barium isotope has been found to be a very cost effective way of marking salmonid eggs. This method will likely be in greater use in years to come.

The parent fish of the eggs used for this years' incubator trials were DNA profiled (through taking a fin clip sample of each). Fish recaptured in future surveys on the streams used this year will be tested and the results compared to the

genetic library now on file.



Terry George and Matt Byrne

After a long wait ATF president Terry George and Matt Byrne (ATF/MADFF) got their guernsey and spoke about the incubator trials.

Terry outlined how the incubator trials came about and Matt gave an in depth narration during a video showing how to load the incubators at Snob's Creek, transporting to streamside, placement in the streams and then recovering them several weeks later.

They advised on the success rate at each of the trial sites and then thanked all the anglers, Fisheries and ARI staff involved for their assistance (unfortunately, too many to name but all know who they are). Following another question time it was now time for afternoon tea break.



Jim Castles (GBCMA)

A major theme of the conference was the Angler Riparian Partnership Program and the 3 most important things for Victorian trout in the future will be Habitat, Habitat and Habitat! Jim Castles (GBCMA), Andrew Briggs (NECMA) and Mike Burgess (VRFish) spoke on this initiative and the various projects conducted under it

Dermott O'Brien (VFFA)

In the Goulburn Broken region alone, more than 120 volunteers from 10 angling groups and 4 other community groups are involved. Works included planting approximately 1900 trees and



shrubs along 2 km of Jamieson, Little and Delatite (trib.) Rivers and Ryans & Hughes Creeks. Fencing was also erected along sections of Ryans Creek and Delatite River tributary to control grazing and 12 hectares of desert ash control on Hughes Creek.

Dermott O'Brien (VFFA) was invited to give a talk on the VFFA tree planting day on Little River.

Twenty VFFA members were at Taggerty on Sunday 6th Aug. on a day when the weather forecast looked absolutely dreadful. They met with Sue Kosch (GB-CMA) in readiness to plant 400 endemic native seedlings as part of a 2 year revegetation program.

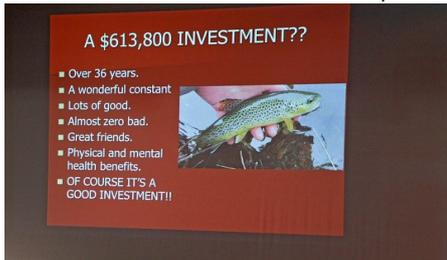
Kris Leckie (VRFish) spoke about the Jamieson Tree planting Day where 63 volunteers from ATF, VRFish, VFFA, MADFF, Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club, Southern Fly Fishers, Latrobe Valley Fly Fishers, Jamieson Community Group & Up2Us Landcare Alliance turned up to plant around 350 trees. This was organized in large part by Erhan Cinar from ATF.

In the North East region, ATF, Corryong Angling Club, Alpine Fly Fishers and King Valley Tourism Association have joined forces with the NECMA to deliver on habitat projects across the Nariel & Little Snowy Creeks and Ovens, Buckland, Mitta Mitta, Kiewa & King Rivers which included rock seeding (more than 60 boulders), log jams (over 300 logs), fencing and revegetation works. Some other organizations (not mentioned above) who were also involved in habitat works in recent times with GBCMA & NECMA that need to be recognized are: Tatong Anglers Group, Nagambie Angling Club, Taggerty Community Progress Group, Native Fish Australia, Benalla Angling Club and Wangaratta Fly Fishing Club.

Terry George (ATF) took to the lectern again to spell out the importance of these projects and how anglers can get involved. He asked any interested anglers to come to the ATF stand and register their interest so we can call them in the when a project requires volunteers. Terry advised that according to Dr John Morriengello's research (commissioned by a Fisheries "think tank"), simply by restoring snags to a river, trout abun-

dance in a river can be increased by up to a whopping 88% and that shade trees along a stream can reduce water temperature by around 10%. How can we ignore that advice? There is plenty of money available through various departments for grants to fund habitat works and all that is required is for anglers to get themselves involved.

Ok, we have got through all the heavy stuff and it's time for some light hearted entertainment. John Clewlow (part



One little fish started it all

owner Millbrook Lakes) has a particular style and always tells a good story; today wasn't going to be any different.

John spoke about how an expensive little brown trout that he caught when he was 15 years old ended up costing him over \$630,000 by leading him on to purchase numerous rods, reels and lines, fly-tying tools and materials, fishing trips to local and far-away places, investing in a fly-fishing destination business and so on.

He finished by saying that he thought the total cost turned out to be a very good investment.

Further opportunity was again given to field questions to the panel.

Phil Weigall (Flystream.com) & Kris Leckie (VRFish) both



Phil Weigall (Flystream.com)

came on stage to reflect on what they had gotten out of the days' proceedings. I think that while he may be correct, nobody had any idea what was coming when Phil Weigall stated that he felt that Terry George and the ATF have just a an important role to play as does Anthony Foster (Freshwater Fisheries Manager - VFA). That is a big statement and fantastic recognition for the work

of the ATF and something we can all be very proud of.

Travis Dowling closed the conference at around 4:00pm and thanked everyone for attending and their attention throughout the day and said they hope to see us all back again next year. Apparently the conference has been extended for another 2 years.

The Mansfield guys had arranged a dinner booking at the Delatite Hotel for about 30 people including Fisheries staff and other participants following the conference, so who were we to turn down such an offer. These Mansfield guys really are very good hosts, I must say.

Unfortunately, there was only about 12 - 15 people turned up with only 2 Fisheries staff, several Mansfield Club members including Shane and Mandy Kirley (and daughter), Matt, Terry, Paul, Ineke and myself from ATF, and a representative from VRFish and Craig Copeland, CEO OzFish Unlimited, who cornered Terry's attention for much of the evening. I'll leave it to Terry to tell you that story later on.

With a stroke of luck/good fortune, we ran into Jeff Morgan, President of South Australia Fly Fishers Assoc. who was on a 4WD trip with some friends and just happened to be eating in the same hotel that evening. We had a good chat with him and invited further correspondence regarding a future SA Chapter. Jeff invited us over and offered to give us a guided tour of the South Australian trout waters, and to give us the information on their relationship with Fisheries S.A.

All in all, the conference was a huge success, particularly for the ATF and if we were not on the map beforehand, we certainly are now.

## TroutFest in Western Australia

A report by Russell Hanley

The ATF recently participated in the inaugural TroutFest hosted by RecFish-West at the picturesque Drakesbrook reservoir on the outskirts of the town of Waroona in the south-west of Western Australia.



Peter Taylor at the ATF stand

The reservoir is stocked annually by the Department of Fisheries with a mix of broodstock and yearling rainbow trout but this was the first time that the public has been invited to participate in the stocking activities for a freshwater location. Drawing on previous experience from similar public stocking days in marine and estuarine environments RecFeshWest with the support of the Department of Fisheries ran a very successful and well attended day on the opening weekend of the trout season. The crowd was estimated at about 350 people and comprised mainly of families who took the opportunity of fine weather to enjoy a picnic atmosphere.



Children enjoyed releasing yearling fish from buckets into the reservoir.

The Western Australian Trout and Freshwater Angling Club (WATFAA) demonstrated the art of fly tying and tutored those interested in fly casting.

The ATF representatives provided information on the work and objectives

of the organisation and outlined some of the aspirations for the future goals of the ATF in Western Australia. The ATF is in the process of setting up a branch in the West. There was a lot of interest in the activities that the ATF has undertaken elsewhere in Australia and many of those who stopped to chat with us were very supportive of the role the ATF can play in WA. The success of the day has ensured there will be another event next year.

### Trout Fishing in Western Australia

an overview by Russell Hanley

Every year the Department of Fisheries stocks trout into a number of rivers and irrigation supply impoundments in the South-West of Western Australia. Typical stocking numbers are 25-30 thousand yearling fish, 400,000 -500,000 fry and some 300-500 broodstock fish. The fish are bred at the Pemberton Hatchery and the great majority of fish are rainbow trout. Some brown trout have been bred for stocking in recent years but in many years there have only been rainbow trout available.

Stocking of hatchery fish has been discontinued in many rivers in the southern hemisphere (e.g. NZ and SE Australia) where it is apparent there are sufficient wild stocks to support a fishery. In WA however, it seems clear that without stocking there would either be no trout stock in some waters or the numbers would be too low to provide the basis of a fishery. This appears to be a consequence of a lack of suitable substrates for successful development of eggs coupled with periodic severe droughts.

Stocked fish generally do well in most of the waters that are stocked but seasonal declines in water quality can place severe stress on fish and can happen in any of the rivers waters where stocking takes place. Growth rates are good but during the summer months when water temperatures frequently approach the mid to high twenties then fish can become sluggish and remain confined to deeper pockets of water in rivers and below the thermocline in impoundments.

Interestingly, there is evidence that a lack of a reliable water supply in the early decades of the hatchery has led to the development of a strain which is more tolerant of elevated temperatures. This has occurred because of mortalities of almost the entire hatchery stock on a number of occasions leading to selection for heat tolerant fish. The hatchery staff have not sought external supplies of breeding stock at this time but rather relied upon building up the stock of fish from the survivors.

Currently fish are stocked into the Serpentine, Murray, Brunswick, Harvey, Collie, Blackwood, Donnelly and Warren river systems. Typically fry are stocked into the brooks and creeks on these systems and yearlings are stocked into the main rivers. This is done to avoid predation of the fry by redfin perch which are now entrenched in most rivers as a consequence of early stocking policy and later illegal translocations.



*Lefroy Brook is in the heart of trout country*

Yearlings are also stocked into the Harvey, Waroona, Drakesbrook, Logue Brook, Big Brook and Glen Mervyn reservoirs. The brood stock fish are typically released into several of the reservoirs and is dependent of the numbers of these fish available in any one year.

So how is the fishing? Personally I think it is pretty good for anglers who know something about our waters and the habits of trout, but beginners and visitors can find it frustrating enough.



*Typical rainbow from the Lefroy*

The overarching policy document governing stocking is the Department of Fisheries 5 year plan which lists the rivers and impoundments available for stocking. The current plan should have been reviewed and revised two years ago. Advice to Fisheries on where to stock is provided each year by the Freshwater Fisheries Reference Group, chaired by RecFishWest and with representatives from Fisheries, WATFAA (angling club) and the native fish studies group of Murdoch University. The ATF currently has representation on this group (myself).

From an ATF perspective there is much to do here in the West. At the policy level a new 5 year plan is a priority to ensure continued recognition of the recreational benefits of maintaining the trout fishery. The ATF can also be active in lobbying for adequate summer environmental flows on rivers which are already showing signs of severe stress.



*Summer flows on are now negligible as a series of large dams have been constructed on Smith Brook*

Other objectives for the ATF include improving access for recreational fishing, habitat restoration and the provision of signage and pamphlets

## Every Little Bit Helps

Dear Member,

As a consequence of the very hard work by our elected volunteer-based committee and our members, the Australian Trout Foundation (ATF) is in a terrific place which has resulted in the significant growth of our profile within the fishing fraternity. The ATF is now the premier group representing Australia's trout anglers and our opinions are sought on the State-wide Recreational Fishing Round Table Forum, The Trout Reference Group, The Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan and consultations with Fisheries Victoria.

The ATF continues to be involved in a number of activities, including:

- Yearly planning and decisions on Freshwater Stockings with Fisheries Victoria;
- Jordan-Scotty incubators in partnership with Fisheries Victoria and CMA's;
- Arthur Rylah Institute in addressing climate change and endangered species;
- Habitat restoration projects in conjunction with CMA's and fishing clubs.
- A valuable alliance with Native Fish Australia titled VIFA [Victorian Inland Fishing Alliance] which ensures our trout and native species have a future. We receive excellent value for our very reasonable annual fee, allowing us members of the ATF to have a signifi-

cant voice in our quest for a sustainable fishery and the opportunity for everyone to catch a wild trout in our magnificent rivers and lakes. Based on your new or continued support, the ATF is able to lobby government departments and push for decisions that protect, enable access and support a sustainable Trout and freshwater fishery for every member and freshwater fishing enthusiast today and for future generations.

In consideration of the achievements of the ATF we can all take a bow, but the purpose of this letter is to appeal to you as a member in stepping up to assist the ATF in supporting our activities, efforts and influence across Australia. This will only occur through expansion of our workforce, Our current committee works extremely hard, however this is ten individuals and unfortunately burnout is an ever-present problem and talented people take leave to regain their mojo far earlier than they should. A solution to this problem is obvious and I beg your indulgence and consideration in this request.

We have members today who participate and oversee our day-to-day operations, undertake incubator placements in waterways, freshwater stocking, riparian revegetation, marketing, communications, membership recruitment and future planning. I suggest a team approach vs. an individual will always make every area stronger; and each worker's tenure will be extended for a longer period via sub committees

focused on the operational areas above.

This will enable the workload to be shared and at the end of our year we as members will have the energy to continue our valuable work for another year without the yearly hiatus of personnel changes.

I am making an appeal to all members to consider contributing further and taking on a minor role in one of our sub committees. We shall surely continue to grow and with a cohesive, ongoing team our future is assured. Every organisation goes through peaks and troughs but our Foundation (the ATF) with a great team, considered planning, and a vision can ride the bumps.

In conclusion, what this is really about is making a decision about the future of our Trout and freshwater fishery and whether you choose to take a more involved role in its development and sustainability for future generations. We hope you will join our team and the consequence will be achieving a much better fishery. We value your continued membership and would value greatly your increased participation and to hear or contact myself soon.

Yours Faithfully,

Ray Buckland  
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