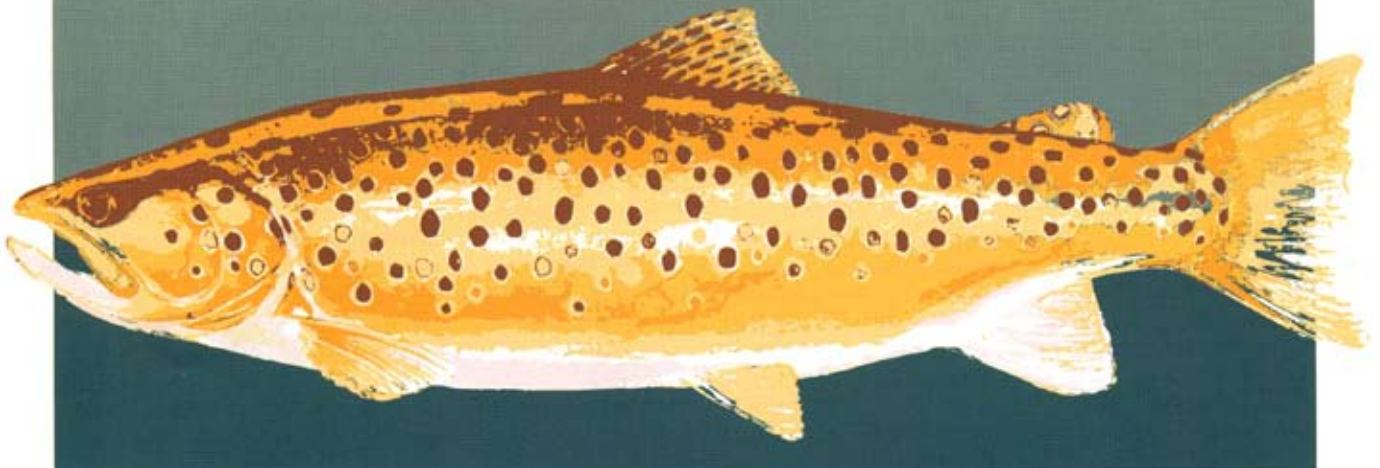


Australian Trout Foundation



ATF Update - September 2012

Mick Hall awarded the Jack Ritchie Medal



VFFA President Rick Dugina presents Mick with his Jack Ritchie Medal

At the recent Victorian Fly-Fishers' Association (VFFA) annual dinner Mick Hall was presented with the Jack Ritchie Medal for his work in defending, promoting and developing trout fishing in this state. This very prestigious award is not confined to VFFA members and previous recipients have all been people who have made a significant contribution to our trout fishery.

Jack Ritchie was president of the VFFA during the years 1966 – 1968, and later, in 1988, he wrote and



Mick's award - the Jack Ritchie Medal

published *The Australia Trout*, a superb volume giving the definitive history of the work of Sir James Youl in bringing brown trout and Atlantic salmon to Australia in 1864. But Jack did so much more. He worked tirelessly over many years to foster our trout fishery, and when he died in 1992 it was decided that a commemorative medal be struck as a tribute to his efforts.

The first person nominated for the medal was Sir James Youl, who organized the 1864 shipment of salmon and trout ova to Australia. His family, through Mrs Beatrice Harding (nee Youl), grand-daughter of

Sir James, received the inaugural Medal in 1993. Athol Brown was awarded the medal in 1994 for his sustained commitment to conservation and habitat, especially with regard to the Goulburn River and its tributaries, and Wal Coventry received it in 1995 for his work as President of the Council of Victorian Fly Fishing Clubs.

Later recipients were Tony Brothers in 1996, for his work with the CVFFC towards re-regulation and his stress on natural recruitment of trout in suitable streams; Fred Dunford of Cooma NSW in 1997 for his tireless work in the 'Save The Eucumbene' campaign; and Howard Scrivenor in 2008 for his long contribution through the CVFFC to environmental issues related to trout fisheries.

So in receiving this award Mick is in rather select company, and deservedly so. He, too, has worked tirelessly, at times at some personal cost, to defend and promote our trout fishery. Although his passion for our trout has encompassed much of his adult life, his major contribution was made during the years when he was President and Vice President of the Australian Trout Foundation. During this period we had to confront some large government bureaucracies that saw trout as an introduced 'feral' or 'pest' species, which needed to be culled and removed from our waterways at all costs. Mick won the battle on our behalf, and our trout are now a 'highly valued state resource' and the fishery is in a particularly healthy state.



The Certificate and the Medal

In receiving his Medal Mick was at pains to suggest that it ought to be shared with the members of the ATF. While Mick provided the inspiration and leadership, much work was done behind the scenes by some hard-working members and committee members, so Mick was keen to acknowledge that the work of the ATF was a team effort.

Congratulations Mick – a very worthy recipient of this prestigious award.



Mick speaking in response to his award



The late Jack Ritchie - a fine angler and tenacious and dynamic leader in trout politics