

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Inc

Minutes of 2010 AGM and August 2010

quarterly meeting

Special notices:

We need Vice Presidents from regions 1, 3 and 8.

As the following AGM minutes show, no nominations were received for vice-presidents for Regions 1 (North Coast and Ranges), 3, (Southern Highlands and South Coast) and 8 (New England). It will be unfortunate if the NSW CFA has to operate without proper representation from those regions and we ask members from those regions to consider taking on those roles as soon as possible.

NSW CFA Freshwater Fisher email

Please ask all your club members to stay in touch with the NSW CFA by subscribing to our free monthly newsletter, Freshwater Fisher. Anyone can subscribe by going to the website at www.freshwateranglers.com.au. The newsletter also contains notices of meetings and links to minutes of recent meetings.

Club contact details

All clubs are asked to always keep up to date their contact information with the NSW CFA (particularly the email addresses of key contacts such as Presidents, Hon Secretaries and delegates to the NSW CFA) and your club's main postal addresses for receiving any important mail.

Updated information should be emailed to info@freshwateranglers.com.au or by mail to NSW CFA, PO Box 537, Paddington NSW 2021

Minutes

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Inc

Minutes of annual general meeting, Penrith Regatta Centre, Penrith 21 August 2010

1. Welcome

Meeting opened 9.30 am with Steve Samuels as Chairman

Present

Steve Samuels (MAS), Peter Gibson (NSW Rod Fishers), Chris Beale (SWAA), Tom Williams (CAS), Betty Williams (CAS), Karl Schaerf (CAS), Don Barton (CAS), John Humphries (CCFRC), Steve Williamson (PFIGA), Chris Ghosn (Bass Sydney), Alan Izzard (Bass Sydney), Brian Dobbie (CAS), Don Salter (Lakeside), Terry Rowling (CAS), Ben Doolan (I&I NSW), Charlie Carruthers (I&I NSW), Dave Wilson (SFRC), Lofty Tottenham (NSW Rod Fishers), Clive Brabham (FFB), Roger Crofts (FFB)

Invited guests

Ben Doolan (I&I NSW), Charlie Carruthers (I&I NSW),

Apologies

Rodney Tonkin (OTAS), Radge Diakiw (SFR), Terry Maloney (SWAA), Cameron Westaway (I&I NSW), Darryl Girling (SWAA), David Screen (Lakeside), Shane Jasprizza (Canberra Fisherman's Club), Andrew Waters (Central Coast Fly Rodders), Ben Nieuweth (Greenwells).

2. Presentation by Charlie Carruthers

The meeting was suspended to allow for a presentation by guest speaker Charlie Carruthers, I&I NSW Native Fish Strategy Coordinator for Southern NSW.

Charlie's presentation gave an overview of the geographic extent and 50 year time frame of the NFS, the main threats (habitat condition, instream structures, alien fish) and the effects of the threats. He then explained the main driving actions of the NFS and talked about demonstration reaches, the importance of community engagement, carp control, alien species management, milestones reached so far and imminent actions.

A copy of Charlie's presentation is on the NSW CFA website at www.freshwateranglers.com.au.

The meeting thanked Charlie for travelling to Penrith on his weekend to present to our members.

Meeting recommenced at 10.30 am

3. Minutes

Meeting endorsed minutes of 2009 annual general meeting as a true and correct record (Schaerf/Beale)

4. Business arising

No business arising apart from items in reports and new business following.

5. President's Report

The Council endorsed the President's Report presented by Steve Samuels (Attached). (Schaerf/Beale).

The Council moved a vote of thanks to Steve Samuels for his two year term as President, a period during which many representations were made to government on a number of difficult issues. (Gibson/Humphries)

6. Treasurer's Report

Don Salter presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Rodney Tonkin, for the year 2009-2010. (Attached). The Council endorsed the report. (Gibson/Schaerf)

7. Election of NSW CFA office bearers

The President declared all positions vacant. There were no multiple nominees for any positions and the Council endorsed those nominated:

Executive officers

President: Rodney Tonkin (Schaerf/Humphries)

Immediate Past President: Steve Samuels

Senior Vice President: Tom Williams (Rowling/Dobbie)

Vice President for Region 1 North Coast and Ranges: no nominations received, declared vacant

Vice President for Region 2 Sydney and Central: Alan Izzard (Schaerf/Samuels)

Vice President for Region 3 Southern Highlands and South Coast: no nominations received, declared vacant

Vice President for Region 4 ACT, Monaro, Snowy Mountains: Steve Samuels (Beale/Humphries)

Vice President for Region 5 Central West: Karl Schaerf (Rowling/Dobbie)

Vice President for Region 6 South West: Chris Beale (Girling/Beale)

Vice President for Region 7 Far West: Darryl Girling (Beale/Girling)

Vice President for Region 8 New England: no nominations received, declared vacant

Honorary Secretary: Radge Diakiw (Gibson/Humphries)

Assistant Minutes Secretary: Steve Samuels (Gibson/Humphries)

Honorary Treasurer: Don Salter (Schaerf/Barton)

Newsletter editor: Peter Gibson (Tonkin/Diakiw)

Public officer: Don Salter (Gibson/Schaerf)

Environmental Officer: Karl Schaerf (Williams/Rowley)

Non-executive officers

Scientific officer: not appointed

Website officer: Peter Gibson

Promotions officer: John Humphries

Honorary Solicitor: Stuart Beale

Honorary Auditor: Rodney Tonkin

Delegates to the RFA of NSW: Peter Gibson, David Screen

Delegates to the Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee: Steve Samuels

Delegate to the Redfin Steering Committee: Karl Schaerf

8. Other business

John Humphries moved (seconded Rowling) that on the basis of special circumstances (overriding 6.3 of the Constitution) that NSWCFCA capitation fee be increased by 50 cents per club or association's member and that the fee cap of \$300 be raised by \$25.

It was resolved (Samuels/Beale) that a decision on this motion be deferred to the 2011 AGM, and a finance subcommittee formed to examine the CFA's finances and possible sources of operating revenue. Steve Samuels to discuss formation of committee with Rodney Tonkin.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting will be the quarterly general meeting and AGM, to be held at Penrith, Saturday 20 August 2011.

10. Close

There being no further business the immediate past-president closed the meeting at 11.00 am.

Signed as a true and accurate record by:

President _____

Date _____

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, PENRITH NSW – 21 AUGUST 2010.

Welcome all to the 2010 AGM of the NSWCFCA. It is pleasing to once again meet up with delegates. It gives me great pleasure to present my President's Report today, a day when Australians are going to the polls in a Federal Election.

While elections are accompanied with the usual political advertising that does seem to become repetitive and predictable, there was one set of ads that caught my eye and hopefully the eyes of anglers across the country. The entry of the Australian Tackle Manufacturers Association with its ads designed to focus on the threat from the Greens Party was a mile stone for anglers. For the first time there was a concerted effort to inform anglers of the threat to their sport by one political party in particular. It will be interesting to see how the election plays out today, but anglers should be concerned if the Greens gain the balance of power in the Federal Parliament.

Another political milestone is the current Parliamentary Inquiry into recreational angling in NSW. Many anglers and indeed some of our members have already appeared before the Committee. I am scheduled to appear on behalf of this organization on 30 August. The outcome of this Inquiry may be useful to anglers or it may be buried by party political process, only time will tell if anglers get a fairer go in NSW.

Through the year we have faced some other challenges that are worth mentioning here. The Norske Skog proposal to dump effluent into the Murray River at Albury has been opposed by us, but the signs are not good. The NSW Government seems committed to approving this polluting process.

The Access Conference conducted by the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW was a worthwhile event. One of the most important outcomes of the conference now seems on track and that is the appointment of an Access Officer to work with the Lands Department to identify Crown Lands that anglers might wish to manage under a trust arrangement. The Council has also supported the establishment of the Fish Habitat Network website. Our involvement in the management of the Gaden Trout Hatchery continues with all milestones required by the Freshwater Trust Fund being met.

Our meeting with Minister Whan has left a number of doors open on many issues that still need to be taken up and resolved, however it appears that the current NSW State Government is not prepared to make any significant changes, instead relying on a policy of doing nearly nothing – roll on election.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, I will not be standing for re-election as President. My personal circumstances have changed significantly and as a result I have had to seriously re-evaluate my work commitments. While I will remain active in my local issues I will not be able to dedicate the time required to effectively represent the NSWCFAs.

In advance I would like to congratulate the new President and I hope that the NSWCFAs continues to advance the cause of NSW anglers. I leave the Presidency with more member clubs than when I started. Hopefully member clubs will continue to scout for and recruit new members, as it is our strength of numbers that underpins our influence.

Last I would like to thank all the members of the Executive for their assistance through the year, but I would like to make a special mention of the support, assistance and guidance given to me by Peter Gibson and Radge Diakiw – it is these two guys who have proven to be the backbone of the NSWCFAs over the last two years, I really appreciate the help you have given me.

Steve Samuels
President NSWCFAs

NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS & OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED ON PURSUANT TO S.47 OF THE ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 2009

(a) STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010	2009
Income:	\$	\$
Affiliation fees:		
Council of Southern Districts	600	199
Monaro Acc Society	300	300
South West Anglers	300	300
Central Acc Society	300	300
Sydney Fly Rodders	262	244
Vikings Fishing Club	180	-
Greenwells	140	60
Singleton Fly Fishing Club	120	60
Illawarra Fly Fishers	112	110
Lakeside	96	63
Southern Bass	75	66
Canberra Anglers	62	77
New England Trout Acc Society	50	-
Orange Trout Acc Society	40	38
Bathurst Fly Fishing	33	44
Hunter Native Fish	32	23
Mid North Coast Fly Rodders	30	22
Professional Fishing Guides Assn	27	30
Anglers Action Group	25	25
NSW Rod Fishers	-	600
Scone Amateur Fishing Club	-	450
Act Fly Fishers	-	234
Barrington Fly Fishers	-	109
Canberra Fishermen's Club	-	102
Bass Kempsey	-	91
Hawkesbury Nepean Bass Anglers	-	57
Bass Sydney	-	54
Sydney Course Anglers	-	45
	2,784	3,703
Foundation membership subscriptions	-	200
Investment & Other Income:		
Net surplus – Wallerawang club meet	2,560	3,254
St. George Bank Ltd. - Interest	855	1,176
Raffle proceeds, donations, sundries	612	164
	6,811	8,497
Less Expenses:		
"Freshwater Fisher" newsletter production & distbn	5,659	3,660
Telephone allowances	1,200	1,200
Meeting expenses	504	698
Promotional clothing, caps & hats	461	-
Secretarial, minutes and postage	418	289
CFA web-site service fees, software	120	240
Affiliation - NSW RFA	200	200
- Recfish	(110)	110
Insurance policy	264	168
Annual statement fees	47	45
Bank account charges	43	202
PO Box rental, mail redirection	-	527
Conference (Recfish) & accommodation expenses	-	285
Annual awards	-	112
	8,806	7,736
Net (deficit)/excess of income over expenditure for year:	(1,995)	761

Note: Income and expenditure are recognized on a received and paid basis

NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INC (Cont)

(b) STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Life Members' Subscriptions – to August 2005		
Balance b'fwd 1 July 2009	-	9,404
Balance transferred to Working Funds Aug 2008	-	<u>(9,404)</u>
Balance c'fwd 30 June 2010	-	-
Specified Donations		
(Barry Jonassen bequest) b'fwd 1 July 2009	-	2,500
Balance transferred to Working Funds Aug 2008	-	<u>(2,500)</u>
Balance c'fwd 30 June 2010	-	-
Accumulated Working Funds		
Balance b'fwd 1 July 2009	26,283	13,618
Add: Transfer in of reserve funds pursuant to Constitution amendments	-	11,904
Add: Excess of income over expenditure for the year	<u>(1,995)</u>	<u>761</u>
Balance c'fwd 30 June 2010	<u>24,288</u>	<u>26,283</u>
Total members funds	<u>24,288</u>	<u>26,283</u>
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Current Assets		
St. George Bank Ltd – Grants account	1	1
Orange Credit Union/St George – current account	3,850	16,985
Refundable deposit – Penrith Regatta Catering	200	-
Investments		
St George Term Deposits:		
- maturing 17 Sep 2012 @ 6.00% p.a.	10,059	10,059
- maturing 31 Oct 2010 @ 5.80% p.a.	5,167	5,001
- maturing 10 Jul 2010 @ 1.50% p.a.	5,001	5,001
Orange Credit Union members shares	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>
Total assets	<u>24,288</u>	<u>37,047</u>
Current liabilities		
Funds held as Custodian for, and at the order of, the AFWFA Executive (Australian Freshwater Fishermen's Assembly)	-	<u>(10,764)</u>
Net assets	<u>24,288</u>	<u>26,283</u>

Auditor's Report


I have audited the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Inc for the year ended 30 June 2010.

The Executive Committee is responsible for these statements and they are prepared for distribution to the members for the purpose of fulfilling the Executive Committee's reporting requirements pursuant to s.47 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

I have examined the books, vouchers, bank statements and certificates of investment of the Council and received explanations from the Honorary Treasurer as required.

In my opinion these statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Council's affairs at 30 June 2010 and of its activities for the year ended on that date.

30 July 2010
Date


D.A. Salter CPA, Honorary Auditor


(c) MORTGAGES, CHARGES AND OTHER SECURITIES

None of the Council's property is affected by or subject to any mortgage, charge or other encumbrance as at 30 June 2010

(d) TRUST ESTATES

At no time during the year has the Council held property as trustee of any trust estate

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee


Rodney Tonkin FCPA
Honorary Treasurer

26 July 2010
Date

Minutes

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Inc

Minutes of quarterly general meeting, Penrith Regatta Centre, Penrith 21 August 2010

1. Welcome

Meeting opened 10.30 am

Steve Samuels, past president, took the chair.

Present

Steve Samuels (MAS), Peter Gibson (NSW Rod Fishers), Chris Beale (SWAA), Tom Williams (CAS), Betty Williams (CAS), Karl Schaerf (CAS), Don Barton (CAS), John Humphries (CCFRC), Steve Williamson (PFIGA), Chris Ghosn (Bass Sydney), Alan Izzard (Bass Sydney), Brian Dobbie (CAS), Don Salter (Lakeside), Terry Rowling (CAS), Ben Doolan (I&I NSW), Charlie Carruthers (I&I NSW), Dave Wilson (SFRC), Lofty Tottenham (NSW Rod Fishers), Clive Brabham (FFB), Roger Crofts (FFB)

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2. Minutes

Meeting endorsed minutes of May meeting as a true and correct record (Schaerf/Beale)

3. Business arising

- 3.1 **I&I NSW Freshwater Fishing Calendar:** NSW CFA had written to Cameron Westaway and Bruce Schumacher questioning the worth of this project. A reply was received from Cameron Westaway (attached) and subsequent to the meeting a reply was received from Bruce Schumacher (also attached). The meeting resolved to write again pointing out that the calendar's distribution indicated that it was 'preaching to the converted' and asking that some efforts be made to distribute it through regional tourist centres, the Gaden and Dutton trout hatcheries, schools, the PFIGA, regional pubs and clubs, etc., and that the calendar also contain information which explained the policies behind regulations.
- 3.2 **Redfin Steering Committee:** K Schaerf to provide report for inclusion in newsletter
- 3.3 **Locations for future meetings:** P Gibson to finalise with R Tonkin

- 3.4 **Snowy River Catchment Endangered Ecological Community:** S Samuels had made a submission to the Scientific Committee (attached)
- 3.5 **Links to NSW CFA website:** no news on this issue, to be removed from future agenda
- 3.6 **Response to proposal for closed season for golden perch:** Resolved (Beale/Schaerf) that NSW CFA does not support this proposal based on information received from proponents and comments received from I&I NSW scientists.
- 3.7 **Government review of salmonid research:** NSW CFA had written to Federal Minister questioning the delay of the report on this study. No reply received.
- 3.8 **Future guest speakers:** Cameron Lay to be invited to attend November meeting. Local state MP also to be asked to attend and to explain his/her party's policy. Dr John Conallin CMA – Murray Catchment Program to be considered for Feb 2011 meeting, Sarah Fairfull I&I NSW to be asked to speak on protection of native fish spawning grounds at a future meeting.

4. Reports

- 4.1 **ACORF** Report not available at meeting.
- 4.2 **RFFTEC** Report not available at meeting.
- 4.3 **Recreational Fishing Alliance** Attached.
- 4.4 **Region 1** No report submitted

Region 2

CFA VP report Sydney Basin 10/7/2010

It has been a busy couple of months even though Bass Fishing is off the agenda at the present. Bass Sydney and the Blue Mountains & District Angling Club members have started work at the Yellowmunde Recreation reserve removing a heavy infestation of Lantana. It seems ludicrous to me that parcels of land can be locked away and have no preventative maintenance done. I was informed that this section of land was clear of lantana 5 years ago when the tenant left the area.

I attended, along with several other members of the CFA, the "Fishers for Fish Habitat" Forum at Lake Macquarie in June, all seemed to go well, but the proof will be in the follow up of attendees. It will be interesting to attend next year and see who has actually got out there and done something.

I also attended a tour hosted by Scott Nichols, from I & I, from the "Bringing Back The Fish" project where we were shown several sites around Sydney that included new or improved fishways and regeneration works.

I have been informed that 8 of the 10 fishways are now complete (Sharpes & Menangle Weirs due Oct/Nov. 2010) on the H/Nepean system which will make migration of Bass and other species much easier, and that all the weirs have had environmental flow regulators installed.

I also attended a meeting at Windsor recently re: the proposed Sydney Water Sharing plan for the H/Nepean, this meeting was attended by about 120 very angry farmers, mostly turf farmers, who complained bitterly about the proposed cease to pump rule.

It would appear that a large proportion of the environmental flows will be treated sewerage. I worry that this will increase the amount of weed growth in the river.

I have just received news that Bass Sydney was successful in its application for a grant through the Federal Governments Volunteer Grants program, this money is to be spent on equipment that we will use on our tree planting and weed removal days.

Alan Izzard.
Bass Sydney

Region 3 No report submitted

Region 4 No report submitted

- Region 5** No report submitted
- Region 6** No report submitted
- Region 7** No report submitted
- Region 8** No report submitted
- 4.5 **VR Fish liaison officer** Attached.
- 4.6 **Interclub meet** No report
- 4.7 **Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee** Attached.
- 4.8 **Treasurer's report** The Treasurer advised the meeting that little had changed since the end of year report and balance sheet presented during the AGM.

5 Correspondence

Letter received from the AFWFA about winding up of AFWFA (Copy attached).

6 General business

- 6.1 **Tangler Bins:** CFA to distribute information to members to be dealt with as a local issue. Not an issue for CFA to take up state-wide due to varying degrees of the problem in different areas.
- 6.2 **PFIGA:** CFA to write in support of the PFIGA's process of getting national recognition from government for standards and accreditation of its members, including endorsement of their wish to be able to work within national parks.
- 6.3 **Government action of habitat rehabilitation:** CFA to write to Premier requesting a boost to spending on habitat restoration in NSW. (J Humphries to draft).
- 6.4 **Caps/badges for committee members:** Meeting discussed whether committee should get caps and badges to promote the CFA. Agreed that this be referred to finance sub-committee.
- 6.5 **Deposits on bottles and cans:** Environmental officer to write to relevant minister urging a deposit system for bottles and cans.
- 6.6 **Angler access:** Meeting discussed access difficulties with some landowners and resolved to write to Minister urging that an insurance levy be included in the cost of angling licences to provide anglers with insurance covering their presence on private property.
- 6.7 **River Red Gum parks:** Meeting noted that following declaration of these parks there has been discussion about access for anglers and other users.
- 6.8 **Oberon access:** I&I NSW has identified property leases around the dam that should be allowing public angler access. I&I NSW is writing to lessees reminding them that anglers have access to the dam for a distance of 20 metres above maximum water level.
- 6.9 **Thompsons Creek dam:** I&I is working on a voluntary agreement with Delta Electricity for fishing access for anglers.
- 6.10 **Fence stiles:** meeting was told that a report from I&I NSW on the fence stiles project is expected soon as the project has now been finalised.
- 6.11 **Licence payments by retirees/pensioners:** Tom Williams raised the issue of how pensioners could be allowed to make a payment for fishing licences (currently exempted). Tom to present motion at next meeting.

6.12 Orange water supply problems: Delegates raised the ongoing problems of Orange's water supply. No action decided.

7 Next meeting

The next meeting will be the quarterly general meeting at Ebor, hosted by NETAS, Saturday 20 November 2010.

Report to NSW CFA

from delegates to the Recreational Alliance of NSW

The RFA has formally met once since our last CFA meeting in May but has held additional project committee meetings and meetings with other stakeholders in that period. Your delegates to the RFA have been John Humphries, Radge Diakiw and Peter Gibson.

Issues being discussed and acted on include:

Freshwater safety DVD

Production of the freshwater safety DVD has been completed and an initial run of a couple of thousand DVDs was made prior to the June long weekend. The CFA has now taken on the distribution phase of the project and has applied for funding to distribute bulk copies among all its member organisations. The DVD is also on the CFA website, YouTube, Vimeo and I & I NSW will be putting it on their website. Any organisation that wants to frame the video on their website is free to do so.

Survey of volunteer time

The RFA conducted a snapshot survey of volunteers' time input into recreational fishing over a period of a month. That survey will be finalised and distributed shortly.

Financial position

The RFA's current bank balance is in the black...at the end of the financial year it had nearly \$34000 of project funds in the bank plus nearly \$6000 of its own operating funds.

Due to greatly increased revenue flowing through the accounts in the coming years, the RFA is about to seek advice from a consultant regarding upgrading its accounting and reporting system, GST registration, book keeping and other matters.

Fishing inquiry

The RFA made a submission to the Fishing Inquiry and will appear at the Inquiry at the end of this month.

Access MOU

There has been some discussion about establishing a MOU with National Parks in NSW, similar to what has been established recently in Victoria.

Access officer project

The RFA is about to start advertising for a project officer to manage the recreational fishing access project that has received \$186,000 funding from the Trusts. This position will be over a period of about 18 months. A committee has been formed by the RFA to run the project and provide guidance to the officer. This project will probably involve freshwater issues/locations more than salt water.

Facebook page

The RFA has established a Facebook page in a bid to reach out to younger anglers.

Salt water issues

Some of the saltwater issues dealt with are:

The RFA and ANSA continue to be heavily involved in rock fishing safety. ANSA has received additional funding for its angel ring project. The RFA has been allocated NSW government funding for a safe fishing brochure. Surf Life Saving Australia has funded the 'nationalisation' of the RFA's www.safefishing.com.au website. The RFA distributes warning emails to a list of several thousand people when critical rock fishing conditions are forecast. ANSA and the RFA have conducted a series of rock fishing safety workshops for Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese anglers over the past couple of months.

The USFA is working on a Spearfishing safety DVD and incorporating RFA information on the same DVD.

The RFA is working in submissions to a number of inquiries and consultation processes including Jervis Bay Marine Park, Solitary Island Marine Park and Lord Howe Island Marine Park.

The RFA has received from Maritime NSW several thousand free 'bum bag' style PFDs for distribution to anglers. The PFDs have to be re-gassed and re-certified and a small amount of funding is being organised for this.

Business plan

A business plan for the RFA is to be completed in the near future.

Recfish

The RFA intends to seek full membership of Recfish.

Federal election

The RFA distributed an advisory bulletin on voting options for the Federal election.

NSW election

The RFA will produce an advisory bulletin for the NSW State election in Mar 2011.

Summary

The RFA is a very active organisation and its status with I & I NSW, the Minister, and other bodies has grown considerably. It has attracted large amounts of money to a number of very important projects and continues to have outstanding successes in further applications for funding and assistance. The success of these projects has given the RFA growing influence over issues and initiatives in both the saltwater and freshwater scene...indeed I believe it is now recognised as the 'peak body' we have always wanted.

However the huge workload continues to be carried by a handful of very dedicated people such as Malcolm Poole, Stan Konstantaras, Max Castle and Joe Garufi. It is not reasonable to expect such a small group to do all the work, and the NSW CFA needs to step up and offer desperately needed assistance.

Peter Gibson

Delegate

20 August 2010

Report to NSW CFA

from delegates to the Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee

The GTHMC has met once (19 July) since our last CFA meeting in May but apparently this meeting is not considered a formal meeting as the Chairman was not present. The meeting was attended by Tom Williams, John Humphries and Peter Gibson, and a large team from I & I NSW.

Issues being discussed and acted on include:

Need for a deputy chairman

This was raised at the meeting and subsequently discussed by the angler delegates, who then wrote to I & I NSW requesting that Tom Williams be appointed deputy chairman to prevent formal meetings being postponed at any future date.

Certainty of funding

There has still not been any guarantee from the government that capital costs and maintenance will be paid by the Department (ie instead of being drawn from Trust funds which are supposed to be dedicated to operating costs only).

Hatchery budget

The hatchery ran slightly over budget this year. Peter Turnell (I & I NSW indicated that he believed that any budget over-runs were the responsibility of the department and did not create any additional debt to the Trusts.

Trout hatching

The hatchery continues to produce the planned number of fish and no significant problems are expected on this front.

Operations and works

There are a number of outstanding maintenance issues (building maintenance etc), capital works (fish trap and water supply weir constructions) and OH&S problems which seem to be slowly being resolved.

Staffing

The hatchery manager is on extended leave. Another manager is on leave due to injury. Several other staff are reported as having frequent sick leave.

Hatchery operating manual

Completion of an operating manual for the hatchery in order to preserve knowledge, information and intellectual property has not progressed.

Business plan

A near-final version of the business plan was tabled at the last meeting but has not yet been completed.

Open day

An open day, fishing clinic, etc., is planned for November 2010, possibly Saturday 6 Nov.

Promotion

I & I NSW has provided a basic page about the hatchery on its website. Delegates to the committee arranged for optimisation of internet searches in the hope that the web page can be found more easily.

Prices and other information were submitted to the committee for production of promotional caps. We have not heard of any progress on this.

Delegates also organised design of a promotional logo but have not heard of any progress with this.

A promotional video for Gaden, to be produced by I & I NSW, has apparently still not been completed.

Tour guide

The previous tour guide left the job (pregnant) and has been replaced by new guide Kelly Reader.

Visits by tourists have increased over same period last year with approximately 400 people visiting the hatchery in July. Kelly Reader discussed plans for improving information displays at the hatchery.

Expenses for delegates

I & I NSW has now agreed to pay travel and sitting expenses for delegates.

Report to the Minister

The angler delegates, who represent CFA, MAS, ACORF and RFFTEC agreed that it is timely to write to the Minister about positive and negative outcomes since the GTHMC was formed.

Next meeting

The next meeting is planned for October/November 2010

*Peter Gibson
Delegate
20 August 2010*



New South Wales
Council of Freshwater Anglers



P.O. Box 7065
Kaleen, ACT. 2617

PROPOSED DETERMINATION

AQUATIC ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY IN THE NATURAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF THE CATCHMENT OF THE SNOWY RIVER IN NSW

This response to the proposed determination is submitted jointly between the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Inc and the Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc. Both organizations have a long history of advocacy for the freshwater environment of NSW and both organizations work closely with NSW Fisheries in the fields of stocking, policy development and environmental advocacy.

Rationale for the listing

Our organizations are surprised and perplexed as to the rationale for this listing. It is well known that the Snowy River is the most degraded and regulated river in NSW. There are four major manmade barriers in the system that either prevent water flow and / or species migration. We cannot understand how such a listing, should it be successful, will in any way alleviate the major degrading process currently operating on the Snowy River. We note that over five years ago both the Federal and State Governments agreed to establish a minimal flow regime to the Snowy River below Jindabyne Dam. To date we are still waiting for that process to be fully enacted. We are not convinced, and see nothing in the future that indicates, even with this proposed listing, flow regimes will be established to the agreed minimal level.

We do recognize that some tributaries of the Snowy River remain unregulated and these rivers appear to be in reasonable health. Others are currently suffering due to drought conditions, but there is little that can be done for these rivers, and they have evolved with a high level of drought as a regular feature. We cannot see how this listing will be of any benefit to these rivers.

We are concerned that if this proposed determination was to succeed it will devalue other such listings that may follow. Australians rightly expect that a determination such as that proposed will guarantee action on behalf of the environment and that there is a reasonable chance that the ecosystem will be rehabilitated. The state of the Snowy River is such that rehabilitation is impossible in this political climate and that reaching agreed environmental flows is constrained by water being diverted for higher economic gain. Frankly, without water the Snowy River system cannot be rehabilitated and is doomed to its current state.



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River Blackfish (*Gadopsis marmoratus*)

When the River Blackfish listing for the Snowy River was proposed the MAS advised the Scientific Committee that there was a body of evidence that pointed to that species not being naturally occurring in the system, rather it is a translocated population. It seems that the Scientific Committee has disregarded this information and decided to take another position. This is disappointing as we would have preferred to see the Scientific Community investigate fully the origins of the River Blackfish in the Snowy. At this time our organizations remain undecided if the population is natural or translocated, and we would like to see this established beyond reasonable doubt before other scientific decisions are made, which could ultimately be based on a falsehood.

To enlighten the Scientific Committee we provide the following:

One of the earliest detailed records of acclimatization in NSW is this article from the Monaro Mercury of 20 October 1895..."Assisted by Mr. Crisp, we caught with a hook and line a number of Mountain or Marbled Trout, *Gadopsis Marniorata* in the Snowy River below the Falls, and succeeded in conveying them over rough country in buckets to his residence, and thence to a spot in the river eighty miles above this barrier, it being impossible for the fish to pass further upstream on account of its great fall and the rapidity of the current. This was accomplished some six years since and these fish now afford good sport for the angler. This fish was formerly brought from the Slippannel River in Victoria by Mr Herriot and liberated in the Delegate, from whence they found their way to the larger streams and the success was mainly due to Mr Crisp's untiring energy and perseverance." Taken from "The Flowing Stream – 100 years of angling with the New South Wales Rod Fishers' Society", Edited by Peter Gibson, Creek of Peace, Sydney, Australia 2004.

This account puts the origins of the River Blackfish in the Snowy in some doubt, and as such we believe that before any further declarations are made in relation to this species in the Snowy system the matter should be fully investigated.

Other fish species

We note the concern with other species, however it seems that little can effectively be done unless a significant amount of water is returned to the Snowy. The MAS has worked with the Southern River Catchment Authority to stock Australian Bass into the Snowy, but we have concerns that the annual migration habits of this species will not be achieved without higher flows. Similar concerns extend to the Grayling and to a lesser extent the Pygmy Perch. Once again we fail to see how this declaration will improve the situation.



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Tributaries

We note that nearly all of the material provided by the Scientific Committee for the proposal relates to the lower reach of the Snowy River, that being the reach from the face of Jindabyne Dam to the sea mouth. This is particularly prevalent in the section “Criteria – reduction in ecological function, geographic distribution or genetic diversity”. We find little in the paper to support the proposal for rivers such as the Eucumbene, Gungahlin, Thredbo, Maclaughlin, Delegate for example. Our reading of the paper indicates that the reach of the Snowy River from the Jindabyne Dam Wall to the sea mouth is particularly degraded and we could see a case to have this section listed as an endangered community, but the same cannot be said for the whole system.

Conclusion Pursuant to section 220FB(2) of the Act.

The proposal paper indicates that the Snowy is not eligible for listing, yet it recommends that it be listed. We would like the Scientific Committee to examine this section of the proposal, especially paragraph “b.” at page 7. If the Snowy is not eligible to be listed, why is it being listed?

The real issue

While we are sympathetic to what the Scientific Committee might be trying to achieve, we feel that this listing will not deliver any real benefit to the system, and as such when other systems are listed members of the community might feel that nothing will be achieved, to our mind this proposal will only serve to devalue future proposals.

We note that many of the matters that need attending to to try and improve the Snowy catchment can be achieved without this listing. There is ample scope to provide environmental flows under the current agreement – it just needs political will. There is ample scope to minimise thermal pollution (this has been achieved below Tantangara Dam without such a listing). Riparian cover can be improved as is currently being done on countless rivers across NSW, snag removal is adequately addressed in the legislation and the placing of large woody debris in streams is currently being done across the State. Water quality can be monitored without this proposal and extra flow can be achieved as discussed previously. Sedimentation can be controlled without this proposal. Introduced species can be removed or controlled under the current regime.

Conclusion

At this time the NSWCFR and the MAS do not support the proposal as we feel that it will not make any significance difference to the plight of the Snowy. We believe the science is flawed in relation to River Blackfish and is wanting in all other areas of the proposal. The NSWCFR and the MAS expects a higher level of science and a greater release of details in proposals such as this. The NSWCFR and the MAS



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would be prepared to review our stance if the Scientific Committee could demonstrate what additional benefit will be achieved by the listing over the status quo.

Yours sincerely

Steve Samuels

President

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers and

Monaro Acclimatisation Society

18 May 2010

Agenda Item 4.1 DII Fishing Calendar

From: cameron.westaway@industry.nsw.gov.au
To: rodney.tonkin@colourcity.com ; bruce.schumacher@mq.edu.au
Cc: sarah.martin@industry.nsw.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2010 12:53 PM
Subject: Re: I&I NSW freshwater fishing calendar

Rodney

tired to ring you re the legislation, will try again this afternoon.

In relation to your enquiry to Bruce I offer the following from my perspective. Bruce as the independent Chair may wish to make his own comments.

In addition to Sarah's comments below, as you are aware decisions on expenditure of monies from the recreational fishing trust are the Minister's prerogative base on advice from ACORF who in turn receive specific advice on freshwater trust fund expenditure from the Recreational Freshwater Fishing Trust Fund Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC).

RFFTEC is comprised of regional based anglers and does and always has included a significant number of members who are also members of the NSWCFCA.

Apart from the benefits listed by Sarah below, the Calendar project was designed to provide specific information on key fishing regulations dates which had shelf life and also provided I&I NSW and the trust with an excellent bank of freshwater fishing photos which are being utilised across the range of our educational material as well as in I&I NSW presentations.

In future the calendar will be jointly funded by the fresh and saltwater trusts.

In terms of alternatives, this question can be asked of any project funded under the trust and answers could include research, compliance, habitat, management, education and advisory or fishing infrastructure and enhancement. All these types of projects also receive considerable funding from the trust.

The NSWCFCA requests from ACORF and RFFTEC the following information:

1. How and whom the freshwater fishing calendar is distributed;

A total of 10,000 calendars were printed in 2010 and distributed via the post with the breakdown of distribution below:

Freshwater Fishing Clubs	6,050
Photo Entrants	884
On-line Requests	654
Sponsors	984
Winners	120
I&I NSW Offices*	1215
Contributors	93
Total	10,000

***includes calendars distributed to Fishcare volunteers and through the 'Get hooked' program as well as the fish hatcheries and district fisheries officers.**

The calendars were all fully distributed within 3 weeks of printing and as described above a total of 2,588 requests were received for additional calendars beyond the anticipated distribution channels.

2. As to how the messages conveyed in the calendar are appropriate to improving the recreational fishery and/or fishing;

Key objectives of the project are

- To educate the public on the fishing rules and regulations (Bag and size limits of 12 key species).
- To increase understanding of the recreational fishing license and the changes in regulations.
- To enable the everyday fisher/stakeholder to interact with the content of the calendar and develop ownership
- Photo competition designed to increase interest in recreational fishing and also involve people who aren't always avid anglers
- Great way to get the rules and regulations information distributed with the calendar giving longevity to the life of the display
- The main aim of the calendar and photo competitions is to be FUN, practical and useful and thanks to our generous sponsors we also have great prizes.
- Opening and closing of fishing seasons

3. What effect or return is gained from this project; and

The competition received over 850 entries from all over Australia, with the majority of the entries coming from NSW but also a fair proportion from Victoria and also Queensland. A breakdown of the locations from which entries were received is below

4. Would the money spent on this project be better spent on a project or projects that (more if it is justified) enhances the recreational fishery?

- RFFTEC allocated \$15,000 to the calendar in 2010 and \$10,000 in 2011
- For every \$1 that RFFTEC donated in 2010 the project managed to get a matching contribution from the private sector of \$1.50 in sponsorship.

In regard to the last question you may ask what are the alternatives. Whilst the NSWCFCA did not specify this, could I suggest aquatic habitat restoration which would have not only a long term benefit but a very positive benefit to enhancing the NSW freshwater fishery.

Cameron Westaway
Senior Fisheries Manager Inland & Abalone
NSW DPI
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Mr Rodney Tonkin
A / Honorary Secretary
Council of Freshwater Anglers
Po Box 537
PADDINGTON NSW 2021

Dear Mr Tonkin

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the printing & distribution of the Recreational Freshwater Fishing 2010 Calendar publication.

The calendar is produced under the education platform of the Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan. One of the functions of this funding platform is to produce and distribute informative material to keep fishers updated on the latest fishing rules and practices. The calendar contributes to meeting these objectives by providing an easy to read summary of the freshwater fishing rules, fishing closures and seasons; and like many other publications produced under this platform, is distributed free of charge.

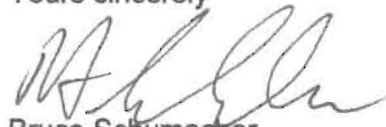
A total of 10,000 calendars were printed and distributed to recreational fishers via Australia post at the end of 2009. Of these, 6,050 calendars were sent to freshwater fishing clubs; 984 were sent to calendar sponsors, 884 were sent to calendar photo entrants, 93 were sent to calendar contributors, 120 were sent to photo competition winners and 654 were sent to persons requesting the calendar online. Additionally, 1,215 calendars were distributed by I&I NSW through the Fishcare Volunteer and Get hooked its fun to fish programs, fish hatcheries and Fisheries Offices.

The calendar is supported by the ACoRF and Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC). The calendar is not produced to generate a return to the trust, however it is worth while noting that for every \$1 spent on the production of this years calendar, \$1.50 in sponsorship prizes was donated from the private sector.

The calendar is a fun and handy reference tool designed to inform anglers on NSW fishing laws and promote the recreational fishing experience through the submission of recreational photographs for display in the publication. The 2010 photo competition proved very popular with over 850 entries received from across Australia. It is proposed that a calendar summarising the freshwater and saltwater rules will be produced in the future.

Should you have any further enquires about the calendar, please contact Ms Sarah Boyd, Fisheries Manager Recreational Fisheries on (02) 6051 7703.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Schumacher
Chairman
Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing

Members, Associates, Affiliates and all those connected with or involved with freshwater fishing in Australia.

It is with mixed feelings that I type this final letter on behalf of the Australian Freshwater Fishermen's Assembly (AFWFA). With sadness because the Assembly, founded by the joint efforts of the Victorian Fly Fishers Association (VFFA), Cooma branch of the Monaro Acclimatisation Society (MAS), the Wangaratta Fly Fishing Club, the Victorian Piscatorial Council, the Monaro Acclimatisation Society and the New South Wales Institute of Freshwater Fishermen, having been in existence since February 1966 was to be wound up due to a resolution passed on Saturday 12th March 2005. The last task to finalise the financial statements was completed on the 15th June 2009 with the disbursement of the monies to the designated benefits completed on the 24th August 2009. Anyone who has had the pleasure of finalising the termination of an Association or Assembly will appreciate that it is not as straight forward as one would assume, but involves a lot of legal and financial procedures associated with bank accounts and assets. To that end I am deeply indebted to the efforts of Mr Rodney Tonkin and Mr Chris Mayers for their combined diligence and efforts in finalising the accounts of the Assembly.


A list of names of those that attended the initial meeting at Buckenderra back in 1966 reads like a who's who of Australian Freshwater fishing at that time. The legendary John Sautelle, Did Gadsby, Ron Mackenzie, Norman Gibb, Don Gillies, Dr John Halliday, Fred Hall, Alf Probert, Bill Rushton, Ash Garrard, Aub Hosking and Jim Dyball to name a few. The Assembly was formed to tackle issues of a national concern that crossed the State and Territory borders and hence the Assembly became the peak advisory body to the Australian Government on freshwater fishing in Australia.

With the birth of RECFISH, much of the work of the two organisations was being duplicated and funding and support divided. Hence it is with a feeling of inevitability that the Assembly should step aside and make way for the new, united body of RECFISH that combines the interests of both fresh and salt water fishermen.

The assets and accounts have been dispersed in accordance with the constitution of the Assembly and as directed by the last committee. In keeping with the concept of transparency the disbursements were to the Australian Red Cross \$6,878.17 from the Dinas Vawr Trust, and the balance of \$10,764.73 to the Pump Fishway Project being developed by Dr John H Harris of Harris Research Pty Ltd.

I wish to thank all those associated with the Assembly for having the courage of their convictions to voice their concerns over the issues associated with the birthright of future generations of Australians.

Tight lines



Frank Jones
President

Australian Freshwater Fishermen's Assembly

20th April 2010