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**NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INCORPORATED
COUNCIL MEETING 9.30 am SATURDAY 19 February 2011
BUCKENDERRA HOLIDAY VILLAGE**

Present:

Rodney Tonkin (President), Don Barton (CAS), Brenda Batho (ACTFF), Peter Batho (ACTFF), Radge Diakiw (SFR) Fred Dunford (MAS), Bill Foster (MAS), Peter Gibson (CTAA, RFS), Colin Henderson (SFRC), John Humphries (CCFC), Ian Keightley, (CAA) Ben Nieuwerth (GFC), John Robb (CCFC), Don Salter (LS), Steve Samuels (MAS) Betty Williams (CAS) and Tom Williams (CAS)

Invited Guests:

Fraser Perry, Christopher Robertson, Cameron Westaway (DII)

1 WELCOME AND COMMENCEMENT

Rodney Tonkin welcomed delegates and invited guests and commenced the Meeting at 9.30am.

Apologies

Chris Beale, Josh Burns, Scott Flynn, Daryl Girling, Ben Hicks, Alan Izzard, Neil Miles, Les Simshauser, Alistair McBurnie, Laurie Muldoon, Wayne Protheroe, Wendy Protheroe, Karl Schaerf, Les Simshauser, Steve Williamson, David Wilson and Robin Woodroof.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the General Meeting of 20 November 2010 were adopted. (Tonkin/Humphries)

3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM 20 NOVEMBER 2010 MEETING**3.1 Finance Committee update.**

Steve Samuels advised the Council that he expected to consult with Don Salter and Steve Williamson over the next month or so and in light of any submissions from delegates prepare a paper for the next meeting.

3.2 Murray Darling Basin developments

The Council was advised that SWAA had asked for a 4 page article about their concerns about the Murray Darling Basin Authority's Draft Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan in the Freshwater Fisher. The editor after consultation with members of the Executive offered to publish a summary of the article in the Freshwater Fisher with a link to the SWAA website so that those interested could access the full document. SWAA did not take up this offer. Subsequently, CAS (who were unaware of the offer to publish a summary and SWAA not taking up that offer) prepared a motion for consideration by the Council, (see Background Papers) that the original paper from SWAA be published. Rodney Tonkin also advised the Council that he had discussions with SWAA on this matter and there was an expectation that SWAA would be able to express its position at this meeting. Unfortunately no SWAA delegates attended this meeting.

Following discussions, CAS did not put that motion to the Council but a motion was put that:

SWAA be offered the opportunity to have its article put onto the NSWCFR website but with a disclaimer that the views expressed in the article did not necessarily express the views of the NSWCFR

(John Humphries/Ben Nieuwerth)

This motion was defeated. However the Council agreed to leave open the offer to publish a summary (without any disclaimer) and provide a link to the SWAA website.

The Council also noted that Rodney Tonkin had made a short email response to the Murray Darling Basin Authority's Draft Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan. Included in the response was NSWCFR's concern about the lack of fisheries related issues in the draft and the problems of inappropriate environmental water releases causing unacceptable fish kills.

The Council agreed that the President write to the new head of the Murray Darling Basin Authority (Craig Knowles) advising him that the NSWCFR is keen to continue to be involved and looks forward to the opportunity to contribute to the development of a revised draft. The Council noted that should the Council be successful, it would be an ideal opportunity for SWAA involvement.

3.3 Fishing safety DVD update

Peter Gibson advised that funds had been approved to produce 5000 copies and within the next few weeks the DVD's will then be circulated to Clubs so they can distribute them. The Council noted that the preparation and distribution of the DVD's would be a fitting tribute to the 2 Council members who died on Lake Eucumbene.

3.4 Fence Stiles Update

Cameron Westaway advised the Council that the project had been completed and 17 stiles had been erected. The stiles meet Australian Standards, are easy to distribute and erect. A final report has been provided to the Commonwealth. However organisations are encouraged to identify locations where stiles would be of benefit and submit small grant applications. He also advised that Snowy Hydro had offered to install 2 stiles in the first instance and that DII was consulting with MAS on the best place to erect those stiles. Other organisations eg local councils might also wish to put in stiles. In response to a request from NETAS, the Council noted that DII would be pleased to further consult with NETAS on placement of stiles in the Ebor area. Cameron Westaway also advised the Council, that should angling groups, in consultation with land owners identify sites for new stiles, they were encouraged to put in grant applications through the RFFTEC small grants program.

4 REPORTS

4.1 NSWCFA Executive

The Council adopted the minutes of the 6 February 2011 Executive minutes which were circulated to delegates in the background papers. (Tonkin/Diakiw)

4.2 RFA-NSW.

The Council noted that there had not been a meeting of the RFA meeting since the last NSWCFA meeting. The major activity of the RFA of specific concern to the NSWCFA was the filling of the Access Officer position. The Council noted that the RFA was soon to have its AGM and encouraged interested delegates to nominate for positions. At this stage Peter Gibson and David Screen are the NSWCFA delegates to the RFA.

4.3 Regional Reports

Below are regional reports from Region 2, Region 5 and VR Fish. Issues from other regions are detailed in the general minutes.

4.3.1 Region 2

Radge Diakiw advised the Council that he had omitted to bring a copy of the report on the Sydney Region prepared by Alan Izzard and that it would accompany the minutes

4.3.2 Region 5

Steve Samuels advised that MAS would ask Snowy Hydro to be more open and provide rationales for their water releases. MAS considered this action was necessary in light of recent releases by Snowy Hydro of Environmental water flows on top of flood flows.

4.3.3 VR Fish liaison

Ben Nieuwerth advised that VR Fish was establishing relations with the new Victorian State government

4.4 Treasurers Report

Don Salter talked to the Treasurer's Report (previously circulated to delegates with the Background papers) and at Attachment 1. Don Salter advised that he expected a deficit of about \$2000 this year which would be of the same order as the previous year's deficit. He also advised that the overall resources of the Council were \$22457. The Council adopted the Report. (Don Salter/John Humphries)

4.5 CFA Interclub Meeting

Further to the report provided in the background papers, John Humphries advised the Council that this year's Interclub falls on mothers day but hoped that the attendance would not be adversely affected. The Council adopted the report.(John Humphries/Rodney Tonkin)

4.6 ACoRF and RFFTEC

RFFTEC Cameron Westaway and Tom Williams advised that the last RFFTEC meeting was in November. The Freshwater Trust is fully subscribed so it will be a difficult time for the Committee to set priorities as it will not be able to fund all proposals. Budget Meetings will start in April. The Council expressed concern that RFFTEC members were unable to keep the Council up to date on issues considered by RFFTEC. The Council agreed that Tom Williams and Cameron Westaway consult on how best to keep the Council properly informed within the confidentiality restrictions placed on RFFTEC members. The Council noted whilst RFFTEC routinely considered Grant Applications at its April and October meetings, it would consider grant applications at other times.

John Humphries advised that a special meeting of ACoRF was held on 15 February. Among matters raised at this meeting were:

- A proposal that ACoRF members be allowed to divulge their views on recommendations put to the Minister whether or not those recommendations are accepted by the Minister
- The issues surrounding setting up an independent lobby group to represent recreational anglers.

It was recommended that committee members be fully independent either as angler funded or industry funded.

There was a sentiment within the Council that the Government, contrary to angler expectations has taken money offered by anglers through the fishing licence but has not in return given anglers enough say in how that money is used. As a result of this discussion the Council adopted the following motion:

That the NSWCFAs develop a strategy to negotiate with the next government of NSW to make changes to the administration of the NSW Angler fee.

(Steve Samuels/Radge Diakiw) For Attn: Executive

5 CORRESPONDENCE

Significant items of correspondence included are referred to in the Agenda Items

Other items include:

- The NSWCFAs submission to the Manly Dam Discussion Paper.(see background Papers)
- The Shooters and Fishers Party Position Papers. (see background Papers)
- A letter from the Office of Water stating that the NSW government is committed to working with partner governments to the Snowy Agreement in restoring the health of the Snowy River.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 NSW State Election

Cameron Westaway excluded himself from this item. Rodney Tonkin advised the Council that he had not yet had a response from Duncan Gay. He also advised that RFA NSW has and continues to have discussions with Duncan Gay.

The Council noted that RFA NSW had arranged meeting with the coalition parties. The Council considered that there would be benefit to raise issues of concern in relation to the upcoming election through RFA NSW. In line with these sentiments the Council endorsed the motion that:

NSWCFAs ask RFA NSW to liaise with political parties on issues of particular concern to The NSWCFAs.

(Samuels/Tonkin) For Attn: Radge Diakiw & Peter Gibson

The Council noted correspondence from Karl Schaerf relating to concerns about the fragmentation of fisheries conservation activities between DII and DECC. And in light of the upcoming election moved the motions below:

That NSWCFCA opposes any fragmentation of fishery conservation and management, and especially opposes any move to have DECC (NPWS) involved in any way in such matters.

That the Secretary of NSWCFCA ask RFA NSW to act on behalf of the NSWCFCA in their negotiations with the political parties to seek a commitment to restore and maintain NSW marine and freshwater fishery conservation and management under the control of a single government department, being I&I NSW.

Further, that the Secretary of NSWCFCA writes to constituent clubs, asking them to contact the candidates in their area in the forthcoming NSW elections, to the same effect.

.(Don Barton/ Tom Williams) For Attn: Radge Diakiw

The Council also agreed that the NSWCFCA also write to the political parties supporting the RFA NSW. For Attn: Radge Diakiw

6.2 NSW Fishing Inquiry response

The Council noted that the most concerning aspect of the report was that rather than reflecting the views of the attendees, it reflects the views of those judging. Whilst the report contains some valuable and useful information, the recommendations do not do justice. The Council moved that, before the election:

Steve Samuels draft a letter to political parties expressing the NSWCFCA's disappointment about the conduct of the review and seeking their views on the report and asking what if any recommendations they intend to support or implement when given the opportunity.

(Steve Samuels/John Humphries) For Attn: Steve Samuels

6.3 Proposals for fishing licence changes

The council discussed the draft proposal for licence changes in the background papers and noted that MAS had included in their submission to the statutory review of the Fisheries Act, made similar proposals as did the NSWCFCA (based on the MAS submission). Noting that the Council did not have a formal agreed position on this aspect of licences the Council agreed to a motion from Peter Gibson:

That the Executive attempt to develop a policy on recreational fishing licences in NSW, for Council endorsement.

(Peter Gibson/John Humphries) For Attn: Executive

Council would then be better placed to lobby government for any amendments it proposed.

The Council noted that developing a practicable and affordable insurance regime that covered anglers and landowners within the recreational angling licence would be a complex exercise where issues such as whether the licence should be personal injury or third party only would need to be resolved.

6.4 Illegal religious fish stocking

Cameron Westaway advised that permits were required to release fish into NSW waterways. He advised that it was traditional for Buddhists to release animals including fish. For some years now DII had been trying to alert the Buddhist community of the need to gain prior approval from DII to ensure that any fish released were consistent with the DII Fish Management Strategy. Because the Buddhist community is so disparate, not all Buddhist groups have sought approvals. He advised that when his group was alerted to a recent attempted release of silver perch into the Nepean River the information was passed onto the compliance unit of DII. The compliance unit investigated but were not able to establish the source of the silver perch but it was possible that they were obtained from an aquarium. Cameron Westaway emphasised that DII was very concerned about illegal releases.

In response to this recent incident Don Barton tabled a draft press release that he had prepared. The Council agreed to the motion that:

Don Barton make some minor amendments to the release and that it be released with Don as the contact officer.

(Don Barton/John Humphries) For Attn: Don Barton & Radge Diakiw

6.5 Use of light emitting fish attractors and lures

Rodney Tonkin advised the Council that the Executive had decided to await more detailed proposals before addressing this matter. Cameron Westaway also advised that further to advice from ACoRF and from within the Department DII will consider action if these lures have a dramatically increased catch rate so as to compromise the fishery. Cameron Westaway noted however that such lures were not legal in trout waters.

6.6 Use of Environmental Defenders Office to act on:

- **Wakool / Edwards River fish kills**
- **Norske Skog paper mill waste water releases**

Steve Samuels reminded the Council that some years ago he had approached the Environmental Defenders Office to seek redress for a fish kill on the Lachlan River arising out of an environmental water release. At the time the Environmental Defenders Office did not take action because in his opinion the Office was poorly resourced and had other priorities. Since then Steve Samuels advised that ACoRF's rules had changed to enable ACoRF to spend money on protecting fisheries.

Noting that there was now a possibility that ACoRF could decide to help fund the Environmental Defenders Office, the Council endorsed a resolution that:

Steve Samuels, prepare an application, for Executive consideration for RFFTEC to finance the Environmental Defenders Office to investigate:

- **the 3 recent fish kills in Edwards / Wakool River system; and**
- **the other to environmental Impacts of the Norske Skog proposal to release paper mill waste water into the Murray River system**

with a view to prosecuting any person found to be negligent or at fault or broken the law.

(Steve Samuels/Ben Nieuwerth) For Attn: Steve Samuels

The council noted advice from Peter Gibson that in mid 2010 the Blue Mountains Conservation Society, in their action against Delta Energy relating to the pollution of the Cox River, the Land and Environment Court made a ruling that limited the legal costs incurred by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society to \$20,000 with the government picking up the rest of the bill. This was considered a ground breaking ruling and hopefully the same sort of thing may be possible in the proposed action. Ben Nieuwerth also advised that there may be similar actions being taken in Victoria relating to the Goulburn River and that he would pass this information onto Steve Samuels.

6.7 Compliance Officers

The Council noted that further to a request from Tom Williams, Karl Schaerf had complained about the lack of compliance officers in the Bathurst/Dubbo area in particular, over the summer holiday period. Cameron Westaway advised the Council that within the resources available to the Compliance Unit, the staffing regime before the complaint was appropriate. However, as a result of the complaint, changes were made which could compromise the work of the Compliance Unit in the future. The Council noted that this complaint may not have been necessary had there been more compliance officers available and the issue has more to do with the lack of compliance officers rather than how the Department deploys those it has.

6.8 Impact of Salmonids on Native Fish Report

In response to a request from Rodney Tonkin, Steve Samuels advised the Council that a draft report on the Impact of Salmonids on Native Fish undertaken by Wayne Fulton was with the federal Minister Mr Bourke. Further, Steve Samuels advised that the Minister was awaiting a peer review of the document before he would make a decision on its release.

The Council noted with concern that there had been an unnecessary delay in the release of this report.

6.9 Redfin Update

The council noted the summary provided by Dr Leone Faulks in the background papers. Rodney Tonkin also advised the Council that the Council was not consulted in the governments decision to declare redfin as a noxious species. Cameron Westaway advised the Council that DII and many angler groups were concerned about the spread of redfin. Because there are no acceptable ways of removing redfin from major waterways and impoundments, DII has no plans to do so. DII is however concerned by the recent spread of redfin in the Lachlan, the Wollondilly, and the Cox. Redfin pose a threat to the native fishery, threatened species and the trout fishery, for this reason they have been declared noxious. The noxious species declaration means, that among other things, it is illegal to have live redfin in possession unless they have just been caught. Although it is not illegal to release redfin back to the waters from which they were caught, DII encourages their disposal. It is however illegal to move live redfin from one section of waterway to another. There is no bag limit on redfin

In summary, where redfin have established themselves, DII is not stopping people from fishing for them. However if redfin were to be found in a new location, which was discrete and controllable and where say, threatened species could be put at risk by the redfin , DII would investigate ways of stopping them. Thus DII is concentrating on stopping the further spread of redfin.

Rodney Tonkin noted that following the stocking of Lake Canobolas with golden Perch the average size of redfin captured has risen from 10 cm to 25 cm, the implication being that the golden perch are predated on the redfin.

The Council did however, note that it was possible that Water Authorities could be contributing to the spread of redfin. For example water releases from Oberon Dam (west of the range) could end up in the Cox River (east of the range) and this route may have provided a way for redfin to get into the Cox River from Oberon Dam. Such water releases have the potential to compromise the fisheries in Lake Lyell and Lake Wallace and possible even Thompsons Creek Dam with redfin. Any such water releases also pose translocation threats for a number of species.

6.10 Access to Western Lands Division

The Council noted recent correspondence from Karl Schaerf stating that essentially there is no access to angling to much of the Western Division Lands. Most of the Western Division Lands is leased crown land. In the

past, Darling leaseholders had concerns about shooters, miners and others undertaking inappropriate activities on the land they had leased. The leaseholders in the Western Division got the legislation changed so that access to western lands had to be legislated. Since then, the Mining sector has negotiated legislative changes to gain access to this leasehold land. However, most other sectors of the community including tourists and anglers are excluded. There are no reserves because there was nothing there and there was no need to have a reserve at the time the leases were established. There are a couple of national parks - At Menindee there is access to angling but the new one at Warrego, you can't get there. So tourists to the Darling and other areas have no access unless they know a leaseholder. Even TSR's in the western division don't provide angling access to the general public.

The Council consider this situation is unacceptable and moved that:
subject to minor typographical amendments, the draft letter prepared by John Humphries in consultation with Karl Schaerf, be sent to the Premier
(John Humphries/Radge Diakiw) For Attn: John Humphries & Radge Diakiw

6.11 CMA Proposals for Aquatic Reserves

The Council, in response to reports that at least 2 Catchment Management Authorities had been considering proposals to establish Aquatic Reserves moved that:

Radge Diakiw investigate the reports and report the findings to the Council

(Radge Diakiw/John Humphries)

6.12 Access to Electricity Generating Industry Water Supply Dams

Further to a letter from the Treasurer, advising that angler access to electricity generating water supply dams would not change, Karl Schaerf drafted a letter to the Opposition (see background papers) seeking a similar assurance. Further to an earlier decision that RFA NSW be asked to present NSWCFAs issues to the political parties, the Council adopted the motion that:

RFA NSW be asked to seek an assurance from the opposition on this matter in line with the draft prepared by Karl Schaerf. Should RFA NSW not be able to seek such an assurance, NSWCFAs will make the request directly to the Opposition.

(Peter Gibson/Radge Diakiw) For Attn: Radge Diakiw

6.13 Water Saving from Willow Removal

Rodney Tonkin commended the article titled Water Saving from Willow Removal in a recent Freshwater Fisher. This article provided evidence of

the benefits of Willow removal and justified all the hard work done to remove willows.

6.14 NSWCFR Caps and Patches

John Humphries noted that NSWCFR had bought caps and patches in the past and that these could be used as gifts/mementos for invited guests, but there were none left. The Council agreed that the Executive consider obtaining more of these items.

6.15 Habitat Rehabilitation Funding

The Council noted that the Premier had not yet responded to a request for more funding for habitat rehabilitation. The Council agreed that the Premier be reminded of the request and our wish for a reply. For Attn: Rodney Tonkin

6.16 Capping of Court Costs

The Council accepted the offer from Fred Dunford to provide a copy of the press release relating to the capping of court costs of the plaintiff, Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc, in proceedings against Delta Electricity in the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales (see Agenda Item 6.6) so that the Council work out how it could best use this decision in protecting the NSW fishery.

6.17 CAS developments

Tom Williams advised the Council that DII were to release the endangered Macquarie perch into a waterway in the central tablelands. The fish came from a successful breeding program developed by DII at Narrandera. The Council looked forward to the successful reintroduction of these fish into the wild. Tom Williams also advised that in early February native fish were stocked into Carcoar and Wyangala Dams.

6.18 Macquarie Perch Breeding Programs

Ben Nieuwerth applauded the success in breeding Macquarie Perch at Narrandera. He also advised that fisheries in Victoria were also breeding Macquarie perch and he looked forward to the 2 groups working together where possible to speed up the reintroduction of Macquarie perch.

6.19 Fraser Perry

Fraser Perry was a participant in the RFA Future Leaders Program 2 years ago. Since then he has spent a year in Finland and currently he is participating in the Commonwealth government funded National Seafood and Industry leadership program. Whilst in Finland he undertook research (funded in part by the Trust Funds and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. Fraser noted that fisheries management in Finland differed from that in Australia and there were opportunities to learn from the Finnish approach. He expected that his final report would be

available in May and looked forward to the opportunity to present his findings to the NSWCFCA.

7 GUEST SPEAKER

Christopher Robertson - Access

Christopher Robertson advised the Council that in Dec 2010 he was appointed to ensure and improve access for recreational anglers and others to crown land in NSW. He is funded from a grant of \$183,000 from the fishing trusts provided to RFA NSW. His work is overseen by a Steering Committee which includes representatives from DII Land and Property Management Authority and RFA NSW.

He expects the project will run for 18 months. Initially 6 priority access sites have been identified (3 freshwater and 3 saltwater). A further 6 secondary sites have been identified just in case there are difficulties which involve significant time delays with any of the priority sites. There is also an evolving list of over 100 sites that can be worked on as opportunities arise.

Christopher Robertson advised that he is heartened by the support he has receives fro DII, LPMA and recreational angling groups and he is particularly appreciative of LPMA for making a senior officer available for the project for 50% of the time of the project.

The aims of the project include:

- Provision and preservation of rec fishing access to iconic streams etc for future generations
- Reduce loss of access
- Prepare a guide to establish trusts to assist recreational angling groups now and in the future get access to waterways
- Liaise and encourage recreational angling groups to seek access through trusts etc.

The benefits include:

- Better utilisation of crown land for all
- Increased access for anglers
- Improved angler access

Christopher Robertson looked forward to working with angling groups in the near future to achieve the aims and benefits outlined above.

The Council Congratulated Christopher on an excellent presentation and adopted the motion that Motion:

That NSWCFR, with the help of RFA NSW seek funding from the Department of Sport and Recreation and any other source to support the activities of Christopher Robertson in improving recreational angling access in NSW.

(Rodney Tonkin/Steve Samuels) For Attn: Rodney Tonkin

8 NEXT MEETING

The Council noted that the DII Habitat Forum which was scheduled for the 3rd weekend in May at Tamworth, clashed with the May General Meeting of the Council. Noting that a number of Delegates planned to attend the DII Forum , the Council considered rescheduling the May General meeting. Among the options were having the meeting a week earlier or holding the meeting at Tamworth on Sunday 22 May. The Council agreed that the Executive decide on when and where to hold the next Council meeting.

9 CLOSE

Rodney Tonkin closed the meeting at 3.15pm.

NSWCFA FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 3 MONTHS ENDED 31 JANUARY 2011

\$		\$	
(a) STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	3 mths		Year to date
Income:			
Affiliation fees			
Central Acclimatisation Society		300	
South West Anglers		300	
NSW Rodfishers		300	
Monaro Acclimatisation Society	300		300
ACT Flyfishers		126	
Illawarra Flyfishers		120	
Barrington Club Inc		111	
Lakeside Fly Fishing Club	97		97
Big River Bass Club		67	
Canberra Anglers		61	
Central Coast Fly Rodders	54		54
Bass Sydney		39	
Fly Fish Bathurst		35	
Professional Fishing Guides		31	
Anglers Action Group		30	
Mid North Coast Flyrodders		20	
OTAS	20		20
The Lakes Club	13		13
484		2,024	
Investment & Other income			
Term deposit interest (St George)		997	
Current account interest (Orange Cr Union)	1		2
485		3,023	
Expenditure:			
"Freshwater Fisher" monthly newsletter (Jul to Jan)	1,435		3,350
Meeting expenses		656	
Postage & stationery	316		316
Insurance	264		264
RFA affiliation	220		220
Annual Return lodgement fee		48	
2,235		4,854	
Net deficit for period	(1,750)		(1,831)
(b) STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 JAN 2011			
Accumulated working funds:			
Balance b'fwd 1 Nov, 1 Jul 2010	24,207		24,288
Net deficit for period	(1,750)		(1,831)
Balance c'fwd 31 Jan 2011	22,457		22,457
<i>Represented by:</i>			
Current assets			
St George Bank - Grants account	1		1
Orange Cr Union - current account	2,045		2,045
Investments	2,046		2,046
St George Term Deposits:			
Maturing Sep 2012 @ 6.00%		10,059	10,059
Maturing Oct 2011 @ 6.00%		5,346	5,346
Maturing Aug 2011 @ 6.00%		5,216	5,216
20,621		20,621	
Orange Cr Union membership shares	10		10
Current liabilities			
Interclub receipts	(220)		(220)
Net assets	22,457		22,457
DA Salter			
10 Feb 2011			

NSWCFA COUNCIL MEETING 19 February 2011

CFA VP report Sydney Basin 16/2/2011

I have received a report and a DVD taken by one of the BS members recently of the weed explosion, cannot describe it any other way, in the Nepean River. The section of river at Castlereagh has a boom to contain the weed and I am told that some of the weed there is up to 1 meter high. Have tried to get something done and but have been informed by the person that manages the weed harvester (from the Hawkesbury River County Council) that they will get to it in about 5-6 weeks, evidently they need to harvest around the Tench Reserve and Rowing Club areas at Penrith first, that area is much easier to see by the public. He says they cannot do it more often because of the lack of funds??? Have tried to find out just who is responsible, no luck so far. Have sent an email to the local member and await a reply.

Have not heard any more from Alistair at fisheries regarding the “karma” fish releases. We hope to meet with the Buddhist hierarchy and see if we can come to some kind of agreement as to a course of action.

Sorry I could not be there, but as you read this I will sitting in my kayak conducting the 2nd part of the Hawkesbury Nepean Bass catch.

Have had reports that some small Bass have been caught upstream which indicates that the new fishways that were installed on the weirs in the river are working well and the flows have been increased, however we are still concerned about the nutrient levels of some of these flows (as they come from STP’s) and we will try to do some streamwatch testing at the Penrith outflow.

Alan Izzard.
Bass Sydney.