



## FRESHWATER SPORT FISHERY SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT

A Select Committee of the House of Assembly, initiated by the Government and chaired by a Government Member and former Minister for Inland Fisheries, has voiced total support for, and confidence in, the Inland Fisheries Commission.

The House of Assembly appointed a Select Committee on 27 March 1985 and reappointed it on 20 March 1986, to enquire into and report upon the freshwater sport fishery in Tasmania, having regard to –

1. any improvements which may be made to the fishery;
2. the desirability of introducing other species of fish;
3. the financial contribution made to the State's economy by anglers; and
4. any matters incidental thereto.

The Committee, chaired by Mr Neil Robson, M.H.A., received written and verbal submissions from over seventy interest groups and/or individuals, and the Committee's Report was tabled in State Parliament on 10 April 1986.

The Committee strongly supported the Inland Fisheries Commission - "All submissions voiced substantial support for and confidence in the current Inland Fisheries Commission structure, policies and personalities. The underlying belief is that the present body has adopted a more practical angler orientated approach than existed in the past".

The report highlighted the importance of Tasmania's trout fishery and in particular, the potential of the fishery to attract visitors to the State. It was reported that some 35 000 Tasmanians and 10 000 visitors (over 15 years of age) fish for trout in Tasmania each year.

The Committee voiced strong support for the Commission's Twenty Point Plan of November 1984 (see IFC Newsletter Vol. 13 No. 3, 1984). In fact, one could be excused for concluding that the Committee's recommendations regarding the IFC were virtually a restatement of the Twenty Point Plan.

The Select Committee Report made 76 recommendations in all, and many of these were directly related to IFC funding, staffing and suggested priorities.

A synopsis of the report is provided below.

### Commission

All submissions voiced substantial support for, and confidence in the current Inland Fisheries Commission structure, policies and personalities. There was strong opposition to any suggestions of amalgamation. Substantial support was expressed for the Commission's Twenty Point Plan of November 1984.

### Licence Fee

The majority view was that the adult licence fee was high enough but there was a demand for reintroductions of a pensioner and juvenile licence at a nominal fee.

### Poaching

The great majority of submissions requested increased surveillance to combat poaching. The

Committee recommended an immediate increase in IFC inspectors from 8 to 12 with one of these appointments at senior level with prosecuting experience. The angling fraternity believed that fines for fisheries offences were inadequate and should be reviewed and increased - power to confiscate equipment was regarded as the most effective deterrent.

### Regulations

A number of specific regulation changes were suggested but the majority view was for the status quo. The Committee recommended that such changes be canvassed by the IFC through the normal consultative process.

### Research

There was strong support for an increased research effort by the IFC and the Committee recognised the importance of research. The need to maintain the survey team established last year, on a permanent basis, was recommended, as was a realistic research budget. An annual \$5 000 research bursary to foster post-graduate studies was proposed by the Committee.

### Whitebait

There was wholehearted support for the continued closure of the whitebait fishery until current investigations are complete. Increased penalties for whitebait poachers were advocated.

### Access

There was overwhelming concern over access to public waterways. It was felt that legislation is needed to guarantee freedom of access along river banks and lake shores. The Committee recognised access as a very complex issue which greatly concerns Tasmanian anglers and recommended the formation of an Inter-Departmental Committee to study the problem. Access to Woods Lake, Lake Fergus and Lake Echo were seen as priorities.

### Facilities

The need for improved facilities, particularly access roads, boat ramps and camping areas in the Highlands was emphasised. Arthurs Lake was seen as a priority area for development as a tourist showpiece. The Committee recommended that the IFC and Lands Department should be funded to provide these developments and should work closely to set future funding priorities. Continued funding for IFC to provide boat ramps on inland waters was advocated. The recently formed Central Highlands Advisory Committee was seen as playing a major coordinating role in the future.

### Roads

The standard of roads in the Highlands was seen as a major problem. There was strong support for sealing of the major link roads and the Committee recommended that the Government

## CONTENTS

### NEWS

Freshwater Sport Fishery Select Committee Report

Arthurs Lake Facilities

Listing of Angling Clubs

Brook Trout Program

Commission Stocking Summary

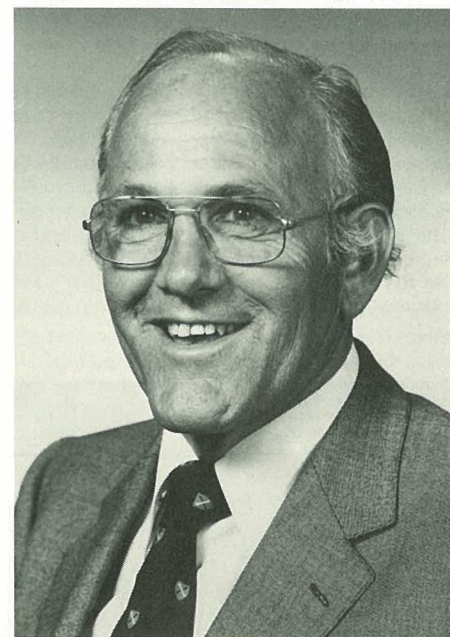
Circular Head Stocking

Stream Survey Update

### ARTICLE

Trout Surveys of Lakes Crescent, Mackenzie and Mikany

by Stuart Chilcott and Bill Thompson



*The Chairman of the Select Committee,  
Mr NEIL ROBSON MHA.*

fund capital road works for public access to fishing areas in the Highlands and then let local councils maintain them.

### Private Fisheries

Anglers were vehement in their opposition to private fisheries and the Committee recommended that the IFC should control the registration, licensing and regulations applying to private fisheries. Changes to the Fisheries Act and Regulations were envisaged.



## Habitat

Concern was expressed regarding the construction of farm dams on recognised streams, stream channellisation, and the proliferation of willows along stream banks. The problem of fish passage created by the RWSC gauging weirs was highlighted and the removal of weirs and construction of fish ladders was recommended. Pollution of waterways and inadequate surveillance of water quality was seen as a further problem.

## Water

Irrigation was seen as a major threat to trout streams. The Committee suggested that research and positive management guidelines are needed. The Committee also urged the Hydro-Electric Commission to provide and maintain flows and reasonable summer lake levels on important trout waters. Further funding of spawning stream improvement works was recommended.

## Boating

Great dissatisfaction was expressed over boating registration. Many anglers pay a boat licence and registration fee but their boats are only ever used on inland waters. The Navigation and Survey Authority and Marine Boards do not provide funds for boat ramps and navigational aids on inland waters. The Committee considered this to be unsatisfactory. Evidence was presented that a Transport Research and Facilities Trust Fund established by the Lowe Government in 1981/82 was to provide finance for boating, water safety etc. No such funds have been spent on inland waters and the Committee recommended that the administration of this Fund be reviewed.

## Development Proposals

Specific development proposals included unanimous support for the rehabilitation of Shannon Lagoon, and mixed support for the creation of a lake at Four Springs. The Committee recommended that the Government should fund both developments. The Committee also recommended that Curries River Dam (a RWSC storage near George Town) be stocked with trout and opened to fishing.

## Problem Fisheries

(a) The bitter conflict between anglers and irrigators over the use of water from lakes Sorell and Crescent was highlighted by the Committee, which recommended that minimum seasonal draw down levels be established to protect the fisheries.

(b) Lake Leake was highlighted as a controversial problem fishery and the Committee recommended that the Commission be provided with funds to investigate the lake and formulate future management policy.

(c) The lower Mersey River was also highlighted as a problem fishery and it was claimed that stocks of resident and sea-run trout had declined.

## Western Lakes

Considerable evidence was received regarding the Western Lakes area and Central Plateau Management Plan. The Committee recommended shortening of the angling season in this region by two months and increased enforcement of regulations. A House of Assembly Committee was suggested to review the Central Plateau Management Plan.

## Tourism

The Tasmanian trout fishery was recognised as being one of the State's greatest natural assets which had great tourist potential. However, the Department of Tourism was criticised in its role of promoting the fishery. The Committee recognised that fishing-related tourism should form a vital part of the development of tourism in Tasmania and recommended that the Department of Tourism take heed of the evidence presented, and all promotional material be vetted by the IFC. Funds to restore and develop the Salmon Ponds museum/display centre and establish a similar centre at Liawenee were recommended.

## New Species

The Committee could find no support for the introduction of further exotic sport fish but considered that the IFC should investigate the feasibility of an Atlantic salmon fishery and continue its work with triploid trout, hybrid trout and brook trout.

## Economy

The Committee established that the multi-million dollar trout fishing industry forms a significant part of the economy of Tasmania and recommended that the Government take cognizance of this fact when formulating budgets.

Copies of the Select Committee Report are available from

CLERK OF PAPERS  
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE,  
HOBART, TAS. 7000

## ARTHURS LAKE FACILITIES

The Minister for Lands, the Hon. John Bennett MHA, recently announced a joint project between the Lands Department, Inland Fisheries Commission, Hydro-Electric Commission and the Bothwell Council, to upgrade access to the Jonah Bay area of Arthurs Lake.

The project will provide a launching ramp and parking area at Jonah Bay as well as upgrading, to Council standard, the access track from the Poatina Highway. This development will ensure a safe avenue of access to the northern end of Arthurs Lake which is presently only serviced by the ramps at the southern end and can prove extremely dangerous for boating in some weather conditions.



*Crown Land Warden Val Dell and Assistant Warden Glen Atkinson preparing the new camping area at Pumphouse Bay, Arthurs Lake.*

The project has resulted from a recommendation by the Central Highlands Advisory Committee which was established by the Government during 1985 and highlights the cooperative approach being taken in the Central Highlands area.

The Jonah Bay project will cost an estimated \$100 000 to complete, with \$75 000 being provided through the Lands Department, \$15 000 through the Inland Fisheries Commission and \$10 000 through the Hydro-Electric Commission. The Bothwell Council's contribution will be to take over the on-going maintenance of the road.

Anglers are advised that the Gunns Marsh or Cowpaddock track may be closed for periods prior to completion of the road works in November. At present the new road has been formed but will not be surfaced until after the winter months.

Mr Bennett also announced that the camping area being constructed at Pumphouse Bay, Arthurs Lake, to replace the unsafe informal camping area under power transmission lines, is very close to completion.

The camping ground, which will have grassed level areas for 50 campsites and separate areas for 21 caravans, is to be serviced by toilets, barbecue shelters and a day use area. This development should also be ready for use by the public in early November, giving an enormous boost to access and enjoyment of one of Tasmania's premier fishing waters.

In addition, during the above development, the opportunity was taken to provide an access to the foreshore at Flintstone Drive to allow filling of fire tankers, giving a measure of protection to the nearby shack area.

# TROUT SURVEYS OF LAKES CRESCENT, MacKENZIE & MIKANY

by

Stuart Chilcott and Bill Thompson  
Inland Fisheries Commission

## Introduction

During last summer three lake surveys were undertaken by Inland Fisheries Commission staff. Lake Mackenzie, Lake Mikany and Lake Crescent were surveyed in order to assess their trout populations in terms of relative abundance, age structure, growth and diet. The Lake Mackenzie and Lake Mikany surveys were requested by the North Western Fisheries Association as these waters were seen to have specific problems.

Lake Mackenzie was considered by anglers to be fishing poorly and the NWFA had requested that the lake be stocked by the Inland Fisheries Commission. Lake Mikany represented a rather different problem, with many anglers considering the lake to be understocked, whilst others felt that this water was overstocked resulting in trout of relatively poor condition and small size.

Lake Crescent was surveyed as part of a study to determine the effects on the fishery of a proposed 60cm water level increase.

## Stocking History

The three lakes represent contrasting stocking histories and management policies.

Lake Crescent (2365ha) is essentially a natural water with extensive shoreline marshes. Water is extracted for summer irrigation in the Clyde River system. The lake has been regularly stocked with small numbers of brown trout since 1868 when 80 small brown trout were released. A lack of suitable spawning creeks has necessitated regular stocking in order to maintain the trout population. The I.F.C. recognises the capacity of this lake to consistently produce large fish and has recently stocked Lake Crescent with both brown trout and rainbow trout (see Table 1.).

Lake Mikany (88ha) is a domestic water supply storage servicing the Smithton region. It is one of the few domestic storages where recreational fishing is permitted. Records show it was stocked with 65 000 brown trout fry in 1973 and has not been stocked since.

The Chudleigh lake system, which includes Lake Mackenzie (296ha), was originally stocked with brown trout in 1871. Formerly a natural lake, Lake Mackenzie has been manipulated as a hydro-electric storage since 1972. This can cause marked fluctuations in water levels, up to 8 metres in a single year. Although stocked in 1871, fishing was not permitted in this water until 1903 to enable a self-supporting population to establish. Stocking records indicate that Lake Mackenzie has not been stocked by the I.F.C. in recent times.

Table 1.

### Stocking History of Lake Crescent

Year	Species	Fry	Fingerlings	Adults
1975	Brown			500
1976	Brown			400
1977	Brown			400
1978	Brown			400
1984	Brown	100 000	4 580	
1985	Brown	30 000	2 000	
1986	Brown		33 500	
1986	Rainbow		13 370	

## Methods

The lake surveys were undertaken using five different types and sizes of gill nets.

At Lake Mikany, graball (100mm) and mullet (50mm) nets were set overnight on the 2 April 1986. These were recovered the following morning and the trout taken for analysis at the Hobart laboratories.

The Lake Mackenzie survey also used a single trammel net (central mesh 90mm) in addition to the types of nets mentioned above. These nets were set overnight on 20 March 1986.

The survey of Lake Crescent comprised two nettings and a sample of brown trout spawners which were trapped at the Interlaken Canal. On the 13 February 1986, graball (100mm) and mullet (50mm) nets were set overnight, adjacent to the northern marsh areas of the lake. In order to gauge the relative importance of the Lake Crescent marshes an additional netting was conducted on the night of the 6 May 1986. The nets were of two sizes, 150mm and 200mm, and were concentrated in the mid-waters of the southern end of the lake. The brown trout spawning run at Lake Crescent was sampled on 7 May 1986 by trapping in the Interlaken Canal. The three separate samples from Lake Crescent have been combined in this analysis.

## Survey Results

The results of the survey are listed in Table 2. It can be seen that Lake Crescent produced the largest fish, with an average weight of brown trout at 2.47 kg and the largest at 5.650 kg. Two rainbow trout were also sampled at an average of 2.47 kg, the largest weighing 2.80 kg.

With the exception of 29 trout which were sampled in the canal, all the trout were caught in water near the marshes. This establishes the importance of the marsh areas to the Lake Crescent fishery.

The survey results show that Lake Mackenzie has a large population of brown trout that are well conditioned; the average weight was 0.74 kg and the largest was 1.64 kg.

The trout population in Lake Mikany is composed of the smallest fish of the lakes surveyed; the average weight was 0.42 kg with the largest

reaching 1.034 kg. This lake appears to support a large population of relatively small trout.

## Growth

Scale samples taken from each trout yield information on age and previous growth history, and allow growth curves to be determined for each lake and the growth characteristics of different populations to be compared.

The rate of growth of trout in Lake Crescent is probably the highest of any lake in Tasmania. Growth in this water is clearly superior to Lake Mackenzie and Lake Mikany (see Figures 1 and 2).

Annual increase in weight of trout is most marked in Lake Crescent, being almost four times that of trout in Lake Mackenzie and almost eight times that of trout in Lake Mikany. After the first two years this rate of growth decreases but remains superior to that of fish in other waters.

Growth of trout in Lake Mackenzie is slightly greater than that of trout in Lake Mikany. Growth in Lake Mikany appears similar to growth of trout in the popular Arthurs Lake. Here, a large population of trout is competing for a limited food resource, which results in slower growth and smaller trout. In Lake Crescent a small trout population is sharing an abundant food resource; food is not a limiting factor. This allows for high growth rates and results in large, well conditioned fish.

Trout from Lake Mackenzie show two life history patterns. Some fish spend their whole life in the lake whilst others spend a period in the rivers which flow into the lake. Approximately 30% of the sampled population had spent either one or two years in a river before reaching the richer feeding grounds. Growth rates in these river fish are initially slower than that of lake residents, but increase once they enter the lake.

Table 2. Survey Results

Water	Species	No.	Average Weight (g)	Range of Weight (g)	Average Length (mm)	Range of Length (mm)
L. Mackenzie	Brown	77	738	177-1638	381	239-541
L. Mikany	Brown	54	416	184-1034	312	249-435
L. Crescent	Brown	66	2473	200-5650	515	254-688
L. Crescent	Rainbow	2	2475	2150-2800	547	523-570



Lake Crescent holds trophy brown trout like the 5.6 kg beauty.

## Diet

The diet of each population was analysed and several interesting trends were revealed. The trout population in Lake Crescent was found to be feeding exclusively on the native galaxiid, *Galaxias auratus*. This is surprising considering the extensive marsh areas and abundance of invertebrate life within them. No doubt this piscivorous diet is responsible for the rapid growth rate and the large size attained by trout in this water.

In Lake Mikany the diet was dominated by three food items (Fig. 3). These were hemipterans (water boatmen), trichopterans (stick

caddis) and dipteran pupae (mosquito pupae). Hemipterans were the dominant dietary items of the first three age classes, however, the larger, older fish were found to contain a more varied range of food items.

The diet of trout in Lake Mackenzie is summarised in Fig. 4. The three most important food items were phreatoicids (scud), trichopterans and daphnia (water fleas). In the first two age classes the diet was dominated by daphnia whilst phreatoicids and trichopterans were more common in the older trout. The native climbing galaxias, *G. brevipinnis*, also occurred in the diet although these were only found in large trout.

The analysis shows that the larger, older fish appeared to feed on the phreatoid beds on the lake bottom whilst the smaller, younger trout fed predominately in the water column.

## Summary

Lake Mackenzie supports a relatively large population of trout which show a healthy growth rate. The surrounding rivers play an important role in maintaining the population by providing suitable spawning and nursery grounds. The ability of this trout population to remain self-sustaining is evident, since it has not been stocked in modern times. Stocking Lake Mackenzie at present seems unnecessary.

Lake Mikany appears to exemplify the situation that occurs in other waters such as Lake King William and Arthurs Lake, where there are extensive populations of relatively small, slow growing trout. This reflects an excessive trout population in relation to the food resources. Stocking of Lake Mikany could only worsen the existing situation.

The trout in Lake Crescent show high growth rates and are in excellent condition. Stocking is required in this lake to maintain the trout population and compensate for the lack of natural spawning grounds. Recent releases of brown trout and rainbow trout fingerlings should ensure that this water will continue to produce trophy specimens. This is a water to watch in the future.

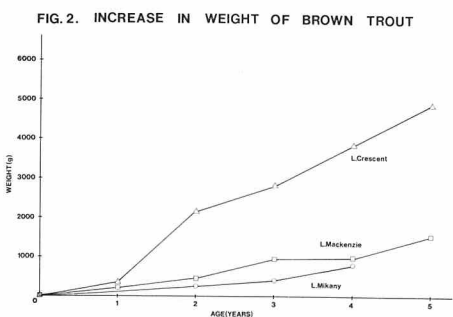
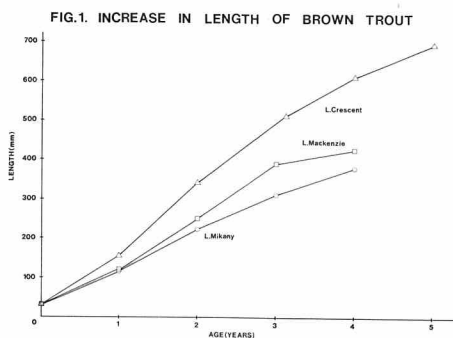


Fig. 3. DIET OF TROUT IN L. MIKANY

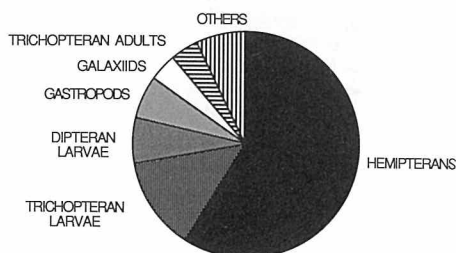
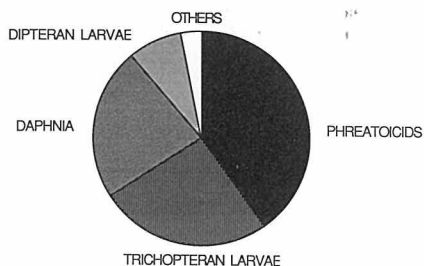


Fig. 4. DIET OF TROUT IN L. MACKENZIE



## LIST OF ANGLING CLUBS

In the last Newsletter, details of Southern Tasmanian angling clubs were provided in an attempt to encourage membership. Further details of Tasmanian angling clubs are listed below.

CLUB TITLE	SECRETARY / ADDRESS	PRESIDENT / ADDRESS	MEMBERSHIP
<b>NORTH WESTERN TASMANIA</b>			
North Western Fisheries Association	Mr Richard Barnard 4 Dahlia Court, Devonport, 7310 (004) 24 1951	Mr Basil Hays R.S.D. 727, Devonport, 7310 (004) 28 2676	*
North West Fly Fishers Club of Tasmania	Mr Bryan Green PO. Box 306, Burnie, 7320 (004) 31 4678	Mr Peter Shrosbree 16 Bay Road, Parklands, 7320 (004) 31 1908	40 seniors
Devonport Branch	Mr R.M. Fifield PO. Don, 7310 (004) 28 2208	Mr Basil Hays R.S.D. 727, Devonport, 7310 (004) 28 2676	200 senior 20 junior
Sheffield Branch	Mr K. Harrex 63 High Street, Sheffield, 7306 (004) 91 1366	Mr G. Cubit	21 senior 4 junior
Freshwater Anglers Council of Tasmania	Mr Maurice Banks 7 Reynolds Rd, Midway Point 7171 (002) 65 2853	Mr Peter Quinn 18 Amy Street, Moonah, 7009	*
Burnie Branch	Mr Brian Viney 12 Grant Street, Havenview, 7320 (002) 31 5970	Mr M. Elliot	115 senior
Circular Head Branch	Mr Max Medwin Edgcumbe Beach, Rocky Cape P.O., 7321 (004) 43 4263	Mr Roy Wells Forest, 7330 (004) 58 3133	76 senior 5 junior
Gunns Plains Branch	Mr R. Johns R.S.D. 123, Ulverstone, 7315		
Penguin Branch	Mr R. Peebles 48 Mission Hill Road, Penguin, 7316 (004) 37 2276	Mr Les Templar 26 Hogarth Road, Sulphur Creek, 7321 (004) 35 4215	71 senior 13 junior
Queenstown Branch		Mr J. Young 46 Orr St, Queenstown, 7467	
Ridgley Branch	Mr B. Green 4 Futuna Avenue, Burnie, 7320 (004) 31 4678	Mr Rex Johnson 8 Acacia Drive, Burnie, 7320	45 senior
Rosebery Branch	Mr Richard Rose 16 Dalmeny St, Rosebery, 7470 (004) 73 1537	Mr Steven Powell 17 Proposting St, Rosebery, 7470 (004) 73 1482	48 senior 9 junior
Wilmot Branch	Mr Basil Hays R.S.D. 727, Devonport, 7310 (004) 28 2676		
Zeehan Branch	Mr M. Gandy P.O. Box 91, Zeehan, 7469		
<b>NORTHERN TASMANIA</b>			
Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association	Mr David McLeod 34 Mary Street, Launceston, 7250 (003) 31 6652	Mr I. Carins 50 Wellington St, Longford, 7301 (003) 91 1402	*
Westbury Branch	Mr R. Woodberry 19 Lyall Street, Westbury, 7303 (003) 93 1317	Mr R. Bishop 8 Connaught Cres., L'ton, 7250 (003) 31 8550	80 senior 10 junior
Ross Branch	Mrs B. Pulford Church Street, Ross, 7209 (003) 81 5269	Mr W.J. Pulford High Street, Ross, 7209 (003) 81 5278	93 senior 14 junior
Scottsdale Branch	Mr N. Hodgetts PO. Box 81, Scottsdale, 7254 (003) 52 2137	Mr S. Blackwell Springfield, 7254 (003) 52 7236	34 senior
Longford Branch	Mrs A.C. Ibbott 85a Wellington St, Longford, 7301 (003) 91 1320	Mr T.W. Spencer 33 Bulwer Street, Longford, 7301 (003) 91 1545	58 senior 43 junior
Ringarooma Branch	Mr A. Bounday Branxholm, 7254		
Launceston Branch	Mr B. Murfet 48 Hingston St, Norwood, 7250 (003) 44 5440	Mr J. Thomas 26 Clare Street, Mowbray, 7250 (003) 26 1849	
Lake Leake Branch	Mr P. Simmel P.O. Box 717, Devonport, 7310	Mr L. Wallace 13 Pendennis St, Riverside, 7250 (003) 27 3576	40 senior 4 junior
Cressy Branch	Mr E. Preece Cressy, 7302	Mr P. Roach Main Road, Cressy, 7302 (003) 97 6361	
Exeter Branch	Mr H. Barratt Gravelly Beach, 7251 (003) 94 4446	Mr A. Cameron Exeter, 7251 (003) 94 4146	
Bishopsbourne Branch	Mr B. Goss R.S.D. 287, Longford, 7301 (003) 97 3218	Mr V. Spencer Bishopsbourne, 7302 (003) 97 3235	51 senior 28 junior
The Fly-Fishers' Club of Tasmania	Mr Max Bertram 28 Granville St, Launceston, 7250 (003) 31 7334	Mr John Dekkers 2 Jillian St, Kings Meadows, 7250 (003) 44 8885	129 senior 1 junior

\* Parent Body - Membership not applicable.



# BROOK TROUT PROGRAM

The Commission is continuing its policy of brook trout propagation at Salmon Ponds and has again undertaken the collection of ova from fish in the wild. On 23 and 24 April 1986, Commission staff visited Clarence Lagoon and used a number of monofilament nets to capture brook trout in spawning condition. Three female fish were netted near the Clarence River outlet and transferred alive to the Salmon Ponds.

A check of the spawning tributaries at the northern end of the lagoon was carried out. However, spate conditions made it impossible to locate any spawners.

Age determination of the transferred fish showed them to be two and three year olds. The last stocking of Clarence Lagoon by the Commission was made in 1982 and it is therefore apparent that successful natural recruitment is still occurring.

Ova were subsequently obtained from the fish at Salmon Ponds on 8 and 15 May. Males obtained from Clarence Lagoon in 1985 were used to fertilise the ova and approximately 10 000 eggs are currently being incubated at Plenty.

Brook trout in Tasmania have a history of low

hatching success. However, it is hoped to rear sufficient fingerlings for limited liberation in 1987. The Commission currently has over 1 000 well grown yearling brook trout at Salmon Ponds and these are soon to be placed on display.

Details of the brook trout caught this year at Clarence Lagoon are set out below.

Sex	Weight (g)	Total Length (mm)	Age
Female	750	335	1+
Female	750	330	1+
Female	1 300	422	2+

## COMMISSION STOCKING SUMMARY

Full details of the Inland Fisheries Commission's 1986 fingerling/yearling trout stocking program are provided below.

Date	Number	Species	Location	Liberation Point	Average Weight (g)	Average Length (mm)
13.1.86	25 000	Brown	Lake Crescent	Eastern Shore	3.08	75
26.3.86	8 500	Brown	Lake Crescent	Eastern Shore	3.50	80
11.4.86	7 670	Rainbow	Lake Crescent	Eastern Shore	39.00	150
22.4.86	5 700	Rainbow	Lake Crescent	Eastern Shore	32.80	140
4.2.86	25 000	Brown	Lake Leake	Kalangadoo Bay	3.30	80
14.1.86	7 000	Brown	Lake Dulverton	Boat Ramp	3.08	75
14.1.86	5 000	Rainbow	Lake Dulverton	Boat Ramp	5.00	90
5.2.86	7 000	Brown	Penstock Lagoon	Canal Mouth	3.30	80
27.2.86	9 500	Brown	Lagoon of Islands	Ripple Creek Diverson	3.40	75
13.1.86	5 000	Rainbow	Pawleena Dam	Creek Mouth	5.00	90
20.1.86	5 000	Rainbow	Blackmans Lagoon	Southern Shore	5.00	90
20.1.86	5 000	Rainbow	Little Waterhouse Lake	Dam End	5.00	90
11.2.86	10 000	Rainbow	Meadowbank Dam	Dunrobin Bridge	9.50	100
15.4.86	25 000	Rainbow	Lake Barrington	Rowing Course	5.50	40
17.4.86	13 000	Rainbow	Lake Mackintosh	Boat Ramp	30.70	140
30.4.86	4 000	Rainbow *	Dee Lagoon	Below Power Station	36.5	140
30.4.86	8 000	Rainbow *	Lagoon of Islands	Boat Ramp	20.9	125
30.4.86	500	Rainbow *	Little Blue Lake		20.9	125
30.4.86	500	Rainbow *	Lake Botsford	Northern End	20.9	125
1.5.86	6 870	Rainbow	Great Lake	Canal Bay	10.9	100
1.5.86	1 000	Rainbow	Leven River	Loongana	10.9	100
15.5.86	3 500	Brown	Big Lagoon, Bruny Island	South and North Shore	8.5	85
15.5.86	3 500	Rainbow	Big Lagoon, Bruny Island	South and North Shore	12.7	105

\* Adipose fin-clipped triploids

## ITEMS IN BRIEF

### Brown Trout Ova Collection

The collection of brown trout ova from high-land spawners formed part of the Liawenee Field Station Open Day on 4 May 1986. Staff handled approximately 600 ripe fish and a total of 47 litres of ova was collected and transferred to Salmon Ponds hatchery. A second stripping was made at Liawenee on 8 May and an additional 49 litres of ova obtained. With ova size on both occasions being 11 500 per litre, this provided a total of 1.1 million eggs currently being incubated at Plenty. The production of triploid brown trout will again be undertaken by the Commission in 1986-87 and over 100 000 ova were collected and heat shocked to induce polyploidy on 21 May. The incubation and rearing facilities at Salmon Ponds hatchery have recently been upgraded and further ova collections are planned for later in the spawning season.

### Trout Fishing Film

A documentary film portraying the unique aspects of trout fishing in Tasmania is nearing completion. The film is being produced by the Tasmanian Film Corporation and includes some early season wet fly fishing, fishing to tailing trout, polaroiding, trolling and natural bait fishing. Footage includes West Coast rivers and lakes, the Western Lakes, Lagoon of Islands, Lake Sorell, Arthurs Lake and northern streams. The film should be available for viewing by angling clubs early in the new season.

## CIRCULAR HEAD STOCKING

The Circular Head Branch of the North Western Fisheries Association has provided details of its brown trout fingerling liberations for the current year.

The Branch received 10 000 brown trout fry from the Inland Fisheries Commission and successfully reared and released 3 336 fingerlings to approved farm dams as listed below.

Name of dam owner	Locality	Number
S. Ball (1)	Main Road, Mawbanna	100
M. Buckley (1)	Backline Road, Forest	50
S.A. Ferguson & Sons (2)	Boys Road, Forest	150
D. House (2)	Main Road, Lileah	200
L. & O. House & Sons (3)	South Road, Forest	150
L. & O. House & Sons (4)	Fords Road, Forest	350
N. House (3)	Houses Road, Lileah	250
N. House (3)	Main Road, Lileah	150
N. House (2)	Johns Road, Lileah	100
N. House (1)	Alcome Road, Lileah	100
D. Ling & Son (2)	Houses Road, Lileah	150
R.W. & N.A. Ling (3)	Jocks Road, Forest	250
K. Moelder (2)	Main Road, Mawbanna	100
G. Neale (5)	Jocks Road, Forest	250
J.B. Spinks (3)	South Road, Forest	436
J.B. Spinks (2)	Backline Road, Forest	50
A. Tuxworth (1)	Cyathea Road, Forest	100
Tuxworth Bros. (3)	South Road, Forest	150
Tuxworth Bros. (2)	Fords Road, Forest	100
W. Vaness (2)	Main Road, Mawbanna	150
<b>Total Liberations</b>		<b>4 336</b>

### Liawenee Open Day

A highly successful Open Day was held at the Commission's Liawenee Field Station on Sunday 4 May. The Open Day was attended by the Minister for Inland Fisheries, Mr Peter Hodgman MHA. A feature of the day was an excellent aquarium display which included some of Tasmania's rare native fish. The sight of thousands of spawning brown trout is always a major attraction. Hatchery staff demonstrated ova stripping techniques, whilst research staff and enforcement staff answered questions from the public and explained some of the Commission's activities.

Part of the Open day laboratory display.



## STREAM SURVEY UPDATE

The stream survey is now in its final stages. This summer 28 sites were electrofished, of which 16 were sites electrofished last year. Of those 16, ten sites have shown no change in numbers or weights of trout since last year, four have shown a decrease, and two an increase.

The lower Plenty River and Coiler Creek sites have shown increases in trout numbers and weight. Some effort has been made to clean up Coiler Creek and, although it is early days, the Commission will regularly check the trout population with interest. Decreases in the trout population were found at sites in the lower Inglis, Don, upper Leven and St. Patrick's rivers and seem to be due to increased angling pressure and the lateness of the season when sampled. These sites had a good number of fingerlings and yearlings and growth rates are sustained at previous levels.

An attempt was made to electrofish deep sites in several rivers by using belly boats, in conjunction with waders and flippers. This technique was remarkably unsuccessful in the lower North Esk and Meander Rivers where a combination of deep water and low conductivity made fish stunning impossible. It was, however, successfully used in the Leven River at Gunns Plains and Purtons Flats, and in the Mersey river at Mersey Lea. Both these streams had conductivities high enough to allow efficient use of the electroshocking equipment while floating. They also gave some interesting results.

The Leven River at Gunns Plains was found to hold a large head of brown trout (35 per 100m) despite the lateness of the angling season when it was sampled (18/3), and these included a good number of fingerlings and yearlings which represent the naturally reproduced stock for the fishery. Further down the Leven at Purton's Flats the pool sites yielded only 5 trout in 200m. Despite the stocking program of the N.W.F.A. only one of these was a fingerling. It appears that this stretch of the river is dominated by blackfish, spotted galaxias and sandies and the habitat may be unsuitable for brown trout. However, the faster flowing sections in this area of the Leven, electrofished last year hold a good population of trout.

The upper Leven at Loongana and the Jeanbrook are now devoid of rainbow trout and hold excellent brown trout populations with good natural recruitment. The Leven at Loongana holds 4-6kg/100m with some 12-15 takeable fish still resident at the end of the season. The Jeanbrook, once home of a good rainbow population, now holds a remarkable 60 brown trout per 100m, some 10-15 of which are takeable with several 1-2lb fish among them and with 25 fingerlings per 100m. No rainbow trout were found in the 200m of stream electrofished. Although it appears unlikely that rainbow trout could be successfully re-established in this area in the light of the very successful natural stocking of the competitive brown trout, the Commission has made a commitment to attempt to re-establish a wild rainbow fishery in the upper Leven.

The Mersey River was electrofished by two teams, one equipped with belly boats, at Mersey Lea, a very popular fishing spot, and the result was a surprise to us all. The Mersey held 94 trout per 100m of which 56 were takeable, and the rest, bar one, were fingerlings, at a total weight of 15kg brown trout per 100m. It also supports a further 14kg/100m of eels, blackfish, sandies and jollytails.

It was decided that surveys of bigger sections of stream would not be possible without a properly equipped electroshocking boat, and the Commission is investigating the purchase of suitable equipment.

## PROSECUTIONS

Successful prosecutions since the last Newsletter are listed below.

Court Date	Offender and Address	Nature of Offence	Fine	Costs	Penalty
13.1.86	Stephen Charles COLBECK 7 Somerset Street, Rosebery	Fishing without a licence	100-00	15-10	
21.2.86	Gerald Peter SNOOKS 190 Alanvale Road, Newnham	More than 1 rod and line	20-00	15-10	
21.2.86	Paul Anthony RIGBY 21 Henry Street Ravenswood	Fishing without a licence Falsely representing to be licensed Possession of assembled rod	100-00 30-00 20-00	15-10	
21.2.86	Paul Anthony REINMUTH 27 David Street, Launceston	Fishing without a licence More than 1 rod and line	100-00 20-00	15-10	
21.2.86	Lloyd Tasman PONTING 31 Lawrence Vale Road Launceston	Fishing without a licence Possession of assembled rod	100-00 20-00	15-10	
21.2.86	Ian James AXTON 17 Barclay Street, Evandale	Fishing without a licence			Probation of Offenders
21.2.86	Steven Paul KELLY 2/3 Walkers Avenue, Newnham	Unattended set rod	20-00	15-10	
21.2.86	William John KELLY 296 Balfour Street, Launceston	Unattended set rod	20-00	15-10	
21.2.86	Kent Andrew EDMUNDS 37 Outram Street West Launceston	Fishing without a licence Unattended set rod	100-00 20-00	15-10	
21.2.86	George Frederick RUSHTON Commercial Hotel George Street Launceston	Fishing without a licence Falsely representing to be licensed False name and address Possession of assembled rod	100-00 50-00 30-00 20-00	15-10	
21.2.86	David William PLANCKE 2 Kelvin Grove Road Thornbury, Vic.	Fishing without a licence	100-00	15-10	
21.2.86	David Kenneth HILL 13 Bumbury Street, Waverley	Unattended set rod	20-00	15-10	
7.3.86	Robert Earnest MEAD RSD 449 Eugenana	Take whitebait Possession of net Possession of whitebait	50-00 20-00 50-00	15-10	
7.3.86	Jamie David ROCKCLIFF RSD Sassafras	Take whitebait Possession of whitebait Possession of net	50-00 50-00 20-00	15-10	
3.4.86	Andrew KRASNICKI 25 Eighth Avenue, West Moonah	More than 1 rod and line	30-00	15-10	
3.4.86	Rose Ann NETTLEFOLD 22 Hilton Road, Claremont	Fishing without a licence Possession of assembled rod	30-00 30-00	15-10	
3.4.86	Elizabeth MEYER Manuka Road, Kettering	More than 1 rod and line Unattended set rod	30-00	15-10	Conviction recorded
7.4.86	Richard Cleave FLINT Hellyer Beach, Rocky Cape	Possession of net Possession of whitebait	50-00 20-00	15-10	
9.4.86	Keith Jason HALLETT 38 Fisher Drive Gagebrook	Disturb spawning fish Other than rod and line Take trout from closed waters		105 work orders 15-10	80-00 80-00
9.4.86	Michael John QUILLIAM 18 Tecoma Road Risdon Vale	Disturb spawning fish Other than rod and line Take trout from closed waters		105 work orders 15-10	80-00 80-00
23.4.86	John Gregory BELBIN 51 Stephen Street, East Devonport	Take whitebait Possession of net	100-00 50-00	15-10	
19.2.86	Timothy Richard FLINT 11 Hellyer Street, Smithton	Take whitebait Possession of net	50-00 20-00	15-10	
6.3.86	Graeme Trevor MORGAN Camp Road, Waratah	Fishing without a licence	100-00	15-10	
7.3.86	Gary John LYND 38 Torquay Street, East Devonport	Possession of whitebait Purchase of whitebait	50-00 20-00	15-10	
28.2.86	John Clarence LYDON 28 Mary Street, George Town	More than 1 rod and line Unattended set rod	20-00 20-00	15-10	
28.2.86	John Edward SHANLEY 2 Esplanade South, George Town	More than 1 rod and line Unattended set rod	20-00 20-00	15-10	
20.3.86	Maxwell Wallace HOMAN 16a Mary Street, Ulverstone	Other than rod and line Unattended set rod	20-00 20-00	23-10	
21.4.86	Peter Francis WISE RSD 25a, Table Cape	Buy whitebait Possession of whitebait			Conviction recorded 60-00 46-10
23.4.86	Allen James HOUSE "Tregarie", Smithton	Take whitebait Possession of whitebait net	50-00	30-10	Conviction recorded