

# INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 No. 11

### Field Station

The Commission has been unsuccessful in obtaining funds from the Government for the construction of a field station. So far, no alternative accommodation has been available at Bronte to house an inspector who is to be stationed in the highlands. The Commission is continuing to seek accommodation to house a replacement enforcement officer.

### Arthurs Lake - Angling Reserve

The Commission is proceeding with its endeavours to obtain land in the vicinity of the Hydro-Electric Commission's pumping station at Arthurs Lake for the development of a camp and recreational area for anglers. An area of approximately 10 acres would be necessary. In addition, a smaller area of land would be required in the vicinity of Hydro Creek for the development of the Commission's installations there.

### Scientists

A party of three scientists from Monash and Melbourne Universities are to visit Tasmania in October to study the benthos, i.e. the bottom living organisms in various lakes. The information so gained could assist in the understanding of the availability of food for trout in these areas.

### Lake Pedder

After due consideration of all the factors involved in developing a fishery at Lake Pedder the Commission liberated 350,000 brown trout fry in Lake Pedder between the 14th and 18th September, 1972.

The liberations were made at a number of points between the Serpentine Dam and Scott's Peak Dam.

A survey by the Commission earlier this year found brown trout in a number of the streams which enter Lake Pedder and Lake Gordon.

The liberation of fry is expected to augment existing stocks of brown trout in the area and the liberated fish can take advantage of the terrestrial food available in the newly inundated areas.

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#### Eel farming

A growing interest in eel farming in Tasmania is evident by the number of enquiries by local and overseas companies. The Commission is considering appropriate regulations and fees for the supervision of the industry and its operation.

It is proposed to introduce a \$1,000 penalty for illegal taking of elvers.

#### Improvements at Corra Linn

Many favourable comments have been received on the improvements to Corra Linn grounds which are a popular spot for visitors and picnickers who pay no charge towards the cost of the upkeep of the grounds.

The Commission proposes to approach the Tourist Department with a view to getting financial assistance in maintaining these premises as a tourist attraction and recreational amenity.

#### New Regulations

The draft regulations to introduce the metric system into Inland Fisheries Regulations are at an advanced stage. At the same time the opportunity has been taken to consolidate the Regulations and it is proposed to introduce a new regulation to close Canal Bay at Great Lake on the 31st March in order to protect the spawning run of brown trout at Liawenee Canal. In recent years there has been attempts to poach brown trout as they enter the Canal.

The Commission has been unable to fulfil requests from angling associations for supplies of adult brown trout for stocking waters without spawning grounds.

### Access to No. 3 Weir - Brumby Creek

Negotiations are in course between the Hydro-Electric Commission, the Inland Fisheries Commission, the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association, and the Cressy Branch, with a view to obtaining improved access for anglers to the No. 3 weir and to develop the weir as an attractive area for anglers and visitors.

### Boating on Inland Waters

Officers of the Inland Fisheries Commission have been brief by the Navigation and Survey Authority on aspects of boating on inland waters and the officers have been appointed to act on behalf of the Navigation and Survey Authority in ensuing that regulations regarding boating on inland waters are observed.

### Brown trout from the Highlands

Late runs of brown trout at Hydro Creek, Arthurs Lake enabled the Commissions field staff to collect and transfer adult brown trout to farm dams used as juvenile ponds. In all, 800 brown trout were caught and transferred as follows:-

C.O. Pringle's dam	Scamander	100
Cullenswood	St. Mary's	75
Stieglitz	St. Helen's	150
H. Bennett	Winnaleah	100
Winnaleah Dam	Winnaleah	75
B. Wish Wilson	Scottsdale	100
View Point Dam	Campbell Town	200

### Distribution of browr trout

Distribution of brown trout fry to the North West Coast was successfully carried out on the 23rd September, 1972. Fry were distributed at farm dams and municipal water supplies. Liberations were made in the north to Blackman's Lagoon and Big Waterhouse Lake and arrangements are in course for a shipment of brown trout fry to go to King Island.

## River Derwent

The Commission has noticed the recent statement for the Minister responsible for the Environment and noted that several bodies are working towards the improvement in the water quality of the river. Anglers as well as the general public have an interest in improving the water quality of the Derwent River and the Commission feels that a cooperative approach to the problem is the one most likely to bring about a beneficial improvement.

## Donations for Corra Linn

The Commission is grateful to Mr. H.R. Diprose for the use of mechanical equipment to dig a drain at Corra Linn and to assist with scrubbing operations. Mr. Diprose has made these facilities available to the Commission free of charge.

## Associate Commissioner's visit to New Zealand

While on leave of absence from the Commission from the 10th May, 1972, until the 10th July, 1972, Mr. P. Wallace visited New Zealand and fished Tongariro River. He reported the following details of his angling experiences.

Number of days fishing	68
Number of days no fishing	18
Number of days no fishing because of weather,	14
Number of days with no fish caught	11
Number of fish caught	179
Average fish per day	2
Largest bag of fish per day	10
Largest fish caught weighed	6½ lb
Estimated average weight	4½ lb

## Machinery Creek Dam

The North Western Fisheries Association is interested in undertaking a project at the dam on Machinery Creek also known as Cockatoo Dam, with a view to developing it as a fishery. The dam extends over an estimated 35 acres and was formally used by the Hydro-Electric Commission as a water supply for Gowrie Park but it is no longer used for such purpose.

The Inland Fisheries Commission proposes to support the application of the North Western Fisheries Association in its project to develop this water as a fishery. The storage has provided good fishing in the past when stocked with adult brown trout from Great Lake.

#### Mersey River

Anglers fishing the Mersey have noted that sea run brown trout appear to be moving through the tidal waters without feeding until they arrive at the upper reaches where most fish have been taken by anglers using natural bait at night. Anglers suggest that the poor quality of the water in the Mersey River is responsible for the fish not spending much time in the lower reaches of the Mersey this year.

#### Whitebait fishery

Very poor runs of whitebait occurred in all north west coast streams this year.

#### Late James Alfred Berry

After a short illness, Mr. James Alfred Berry died on the 6th August, 1972.

Mr. Berry commenced duty with the Inland Fisheries Commission on the 21st September, 1957, and was based at Osterley. He became well known to anglers and visitors to the central highlands.

Among his duties was cooperating with the local Hydro Electric Commission officers in looking after the interests of the trout at all times but especially at times of sudden changes in water flows and levels in the various canals and storages. At times it was necessary to salvage trout in severe weather conditions.

Mr. Berry was always zealous in carrying out his duties in a most conscientious manner. Easy courtesy made him popular with international scientists who found him a delightful character with a fund of Australian bushman's expressions. His knowledge of the local conditions in the central western highlands will be missed by the Inland Fisheries Commission and Mr. Berry himself will be missed by fellow workers and by the many anglers and visitors who had the good fortune to know him.

## Poaching

The vigilance of fisheries inspectors resulted in a number of apprehensions for poaching spawning streams over the last two months. Proceedings are in course against one person for taking 8 fish from Hydro Creek, another person will be charged with assaulting a fisheries officer at Hydro Creek. Two poachers were caught shooting fish in a tributary at Arthurs Lake and two other poachers were caught shooting fish or attempting to shoot fish at Lagoon of Islands.

The Commission has seized three rifles and an automatic shot gun. Other poachers were apprehended for disturbing spawning fish at Lagoon of Islands.

A net and a boat have been seized from a person netting in the Huon River. A deadliner has been caught fishing in the Huon area and a person has been detected illegally netting for bream in the Great Forrester River.

## College of Advanced Education

Following representations from the College of Advanced Education it was agreed to permit Physical Education Trainee Teachers at the College to take out an inland angling licenced at a fee of \$2. The licences are to be issued by the Commission office to persons whose names are submitted by the College. The trainee teachers are to undertake a course on trout angling as a part of their studies so that they can pass on the knowledge to school children.

An application to get Ridgeway Dam and Risdon Vale Dam opened to the students to angle was unsuccessful. It appears that 20 permits are issued to anglers to fish Ridgeway Dam and there is a waiting list to obtain these permits. In general terms, the Metropolitan Water Board considers it undesirable for angling to be permitted in its storage.

### Queenstown Branch

The Queenstown Branch of the North Western Fisheries Association has forwarded a cheque for \$200 as an advance payment for the purchase of rainbow trout fry for liberation in Lake Bellinger.

### North West Bay Rivulet

Messrs. Isaac and a rural worker made some improvement to the North West Bay Rivulet to permit the trout to move upstream. The Public Works Department has recently carried out some construction work in the area and it would appear that a poacher had taken the opportunity to leave the area in such a way that fish were easy to poach.

### Fish passes

The Commission have examined a design for <sup>a</sup> fish pass to the Smithton Water Supply and the pass appears to be satisfactory for the movement of brown trout in and out of the system.

### Fish passes for native fish

The Commission proposes to continue negotiations with the Rivers and Water Supply Commission with a view to obtaining improved access upstream for small native fish at low level gauging weirs erected to measure stream flows on an all the year round basis.

D.D. Lynch  
Commissioner  
2nd October, 1972.