

AAT GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2008, THE GRANGE CAMPBELL TOWN

Present

T Byard (Acting Chair), R Dax, A Hope, T Lambert, R McCarthy, D Edwards, T Williams, C Smith, M Caminada, N Pinkard, R Dene, G Davis, P Williams, J Broomby, D Jones, P Murphy, H Stewart

Apologies

M Stevens, R Butler, S Bax, S Jackson, P Maloney

Meeting opened by Vice Chair T Byard at 10.00am

New committee member

Denis Edwards, the new Southern Independent Representative
Rex McCarthy, representing Roger Butler, as the TGALT rep
Helene Stewart, Deputy Exec Officer, assisting Richard Dax with AAT administration. Initially 1 day per week. Contact: 0419 524 388 helene03@bigpond.net.au

Club representation

Members from clubs (in addition to reps from STLAA and Northern Forum) are very welcome to attend meetings but are reminded that if a vote is required, they are ineligible to vote.

If direct representation from clubs continues to grow, the cost of meetings (ie catering) will increase. This needs consideration from a budget view point. TB suggested not providing lunch; instead schedule a lunch break long enough to allow people to leave the building and purchase own lunch.

Both Devonport and Longford members expressed interest in attending in future.

➤ *AAT Executive Committee to consider options and report at next meeting*

Minutes of last meeting

Motion: That Minutes of the meeting held 16 September 2007 be accepted.

Moved: N Pinkard Seconded: M Caminada Carried

Matters arising

All items will be covered in the current meeting agenda

Financial Report

Financial Report prepared by R Butler distributed to meeting. R Dax reported on behalf of RB, and following no queries, recommended report for acceptance. The report will be tabled at the next AAT Exec meeting for acceptance.

End of financial year audited statement provided for viewing.

Executive Officer's Report

An Exec Officer Activity Report was provided, copy attached.

R Dax reported the following:

DAFF funding is no longer available. At an appropriate time contact will be made with the new Federal Minister.

Met with Recfish research committee and gave a 30 minute talk.

Tourism Tasmania's primary contacts for RFDP implementation are Clare Ellis and Gillian Miles.

Recreational Lakes Committee members are: PAWS, MAST, Tourism Tas, IFS, Hydro, Sport & Rec, Central Highlands Council, AAT. Seeking a solution for rubbish management and camping issues in the Central Plateau.

D Jones advised of the current Central Highland's Council Economic Development Plan call for submissions and suggested AAT have input to this process.

➤ *R Dax to prepare submission*

John Diggle IFS arrived 10.50am and morning tea break taken

IFS Report by John Diggle

Reminder that the IFS State Plan submission close date is 11 February 2008.

Have nearly completed work on the NW corner of Lake Echo Road. Directional signage to the boat ramp will be erected in coming weeks.

Mid January Lake Echo was stocked with 42,000 Rainbow Trout.

IFS Hatchery currently has Rainbow and Brown Trout, however will not be stocking from the Hatchery till March or April. The Hatchery is available for group tours.

Business Clean-Up Day is on 26 February – part of Clean-Up Australia Day (2 March). IFS will be involved and will have an increasingly active role in litter reduction in the future. Clubs will be in attendance at the clean-up at Brushy Lagoon on 1 March, including Devonport, Longford, Westbury and 4WD clubs. No activity has been co-ordinated for southern clubs.

➤ *Exec Officer to add to agenda for July 2008 meeting for discussion.*

Lake levels are an ongoing concern and IFS is working with Hydro to prioritise usage.

Discussion held on the following waters:

Brumby's – Hydro will be removing some willows in coming weeks and have an ongoing weed eradication programme in place in partnership with the local Council.

TL advised that the Duck Hole at Brumby's is full of weeds and asked if weed eradication can take place so it can be used as a fishing water once again. The likelihood is that climatic conditions are the cause but RD will mention to Hydro.

Penstock Lagoon – issues raised regarding boating activity

Lake Leake – The Lake Leake Club had to cancel its competition due to the amount of weed.

➤ *RD to raise in meeting with Northern Midlands Council*

Tooms Lake – Management Plan

Clyde River – Objections sent re current irrigation issue. Full information available on the AAT website.

Bruiser's Lagoon - P Williams queried the stocking and bag limits, advising that fish numbers seemed very low. JD advised that Bruisers is on the list for IFS to review both bag limits and size limits.

The meeting suggested to JD that over fishing, crowding and unruly behaviour at time of salmon releases might be minimised if IFS did not advise public of lake stocking till 1-2 weeks after the event, so as to allow fish to disperse more. JD told of an expectation from fishing tackle shops to be advised, but would take the meeting's request on board.

MC queried JD – Is there a cost difference to produce triploids rather than diploids? JD advised it takes more time to produce triploids and therefore slightly more cost.

RM suggested using the release of fish as an educational opportunity to advise the public re littering, one line per 14 year old, and any other current issues, including general 'code of ethics' expectations.

Russell River – A new salmon hatchery has been built. IFS, AAT and the landowner protested at the massive weed growth which resulted from nutrients. Matter addressed by the hatchery owner and a positive result was gained.

St Clair Lagoon – A development application has been lodged for a tourism development at Pumphouse Point. There is an intention to close Pumphouse Point off to vehicular access (but not foot traffic) and for no fishing off the jetty.

The meeting noted the proposal includes an intention to develop the water as a specialist fly fishery. The nature of the water is such that it is only relevant as a fly fishery so is it necessary to regulate as such?

RM concerned of the effect of closure to vehicular traffic on disability access.

- *RD to raise with developer Simon Currant together with any other matters that may be of interest in the development application*

Submissions to the Pumphouse Point development are due by 29 February 2008.

- *RD to draft a submission and circulate for member's comment/approval.*

Lunch break 12.30-1.15pm / J Diggle left

Grant projects

Junior Anglers – 2 main parts to program:

1. The establishment of a 'trailer' for clubs to borrow, providing a suggested format and necessary equipment for 'junior angler' activities.
2. A school program – information and activities for teachers to integrate into curriculum.

Didymo – This same trailer will be designed so that it can also be used to provide Didymo and IFS information. Information/awareness brochure is currently being printed.

River access – N Morrow IFS is working on the project currently.

ATDP marketing – RD to commence implementation immediately including branding, naming, competitions, filming, presentations and partnerships.

TL suggested using some of the film footage to create a video to use in schools as part of the Junior Angler program.

Also include the 'littering' message in the video, which may receive funding from the Government's new litter campaign??

RM advised he has copies of the junior's education kit used in the past by schools such as Woodbridge, Bothwell and Longford.

Insurances – Professional Indemnity and Public Liability have been taken out at a cost of \$900. Currently negotiating for group insurance for TGALT, then will do same for clubs.

Animal cruelty – the issue will not be going away so have to be prepared. AACT newsletter circulated for info.

CDMA phones – Telstra is receptive to changing 3G phones which give unsatisfactory performance.

Communication and databases – HS working with IFS to update databases and contact lists. Remind members of the existence of the AAT website as the site will increasingly become the primary source of information and communication.

Recreational Vehicles Working Group – RD is a member of the working group. PWS have a two-day seminar in April to address usage regulations and access for recreational vehicles.

Web cam – Arthur's Lake web cam is receiving 5,000 hits per day. Any suggestions for other sites, please advise. Sites need to have 3G access, good security for camera and a scene interesting to anglers.

Angler's Guide – 70,000 reprint currently underway.

Habitat Fund - \$60,000 held in a Trust Fund. Suggestions for use welcomed but must be for major programmes.

Tarfish – The Minister has recognised AAT as the freshwater angler's representative body. Recreational Marine Fishing Tasmania Select Committee call for submissions advertised on 2/2.

➤ *RD to prepare submission*

Code of Ethics

Final comments received and discussion held on draft.

Code of Ethics (or part thereof) to be displayed, for example:

- On AAT website
- On signage at waters
- On brochures
- In Junior Angler education
- In IFS booklet on purchase of license

Discussion followed on the use of barbless hooks if intending to release.

➤ *RD to produce final copy and provide to Exec Committee then to AAT Committee before wider distribution*

Clean-Up Australia – discussed previously

Irrigation and water use – discussed previously

Fish releases and stocking policies – discussed previously

Tyenna River access – there has been an issue with the landowner re fishers on the Riverbank. FFA will be contacting landowner to express their disapproval, but awaiting RD's attendance at Tyenna access meeting.

Future committee make-up

Northern Forum established

NWFA – hopeful in time they will return to AAT

- *Exec to consider larger representation at meetings vs cost of meeting*

Combined fishing licenses

NSW and VIC have statewide fishing licenses which have proved very successful. Interested in member's views as to whether a combined freshwater and saltwater license would be worth pursuing in the future.

Arthur's Lake turn-off

Numerous reports of an unsafe section of road.

- *RD to visit, draft letter and raise at Rec Lakes Committee*

AGM

Suggestion to hold a dinner (partners welcome) following the AGM in September.

- *Member comment sought at next meeting*

Future Chair

Mike Stevens will not be seeking re-election to position of Chair. RD advised he would be willing to fill role of Chair once Exec Officer role has been passed to HS. Would be an active Chair and would continue working on marketing plan.

- *Exec to discuss next meeting*

General business

AH asked is it likely that the Lake Highway will be sealed in near future? It is an agenda item for the Central Highlands Council and apparently a priority of the Mayor.

- *RD to draft a letter to Mayor Flint seeking comment*

MC – Lake Waverley in Launceston is an underutilised designated junior water. Perhaps the image could be raised by stocking with trophy fish.

- *RD to discuss with IFS*

RM – Commented on the positive tone and actions of AAT.

TW – Wrote to Hydro re road works.

Warns to be careful stocking junior waters with trophy fish as children can become upset if they don't continue catching fish of that size.

Taylor's Dam access issues have been resolved. Now club will go ahead to develop area further.

DE – Expressed a positive view of the meeting and AAT and Devonport club in full support of AAT.

PM – First meeting attended and impressed with progress of AAT.

RD – Advised of article in Tas Country newspaper on current water issues and that ongoing attention should be paid to these matters. Minister is addressing water issues at the next IFAC meeting.

Next meeting Sunday 27 April 2008

Suggested that next meeting be held at IFS so could view Hatchery. TB suggested July a better time for Hatchery.

- *T Byard to organise meeting room and hatchery tour for July meeting*

For your information: Meeting dates 2008

Northern Forum

18 April
11 July
19 September

AAT general committee

27 April
20 July
28 September (AGM)