

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT- YEAR 2007/ 08

AGM Sunday 21st September 2008

The past year has been busy and productive and seen AAT become stronger in its endeavours to strengthen Tasmania's sport fishing resource through partnerships and the Recreational Fishing Development Plan.

It has been particularly pleasing to have the continuing support of Northern Clubs despite the loss of the NTFA. The majority of these clubs have attended AAT committee meetings with full participation and because of the interest of Clubs throughout the State we will be researching how the makeup of AAT can be expanded into the future. I see this as an important issue over the next twelve months.

Relationships with our partners continue to strengthen particularly with the IFS and Hydro Tasmania. This next year will see further changes in our relationships with the IFS as access programmes and the Marketing Implementation Plan proceed and these will again be to the benefit of all licensed anglers.

Hydro Tasmania continue to be very supportive of the IFS and AAT and matters of mutual interest are now often dealt with through the now regularly functioning Recreational Lakes Committee. This committee is now handling problems that would have previously been dealt with in isolation through any number of land tenure and Council bodies to the disadvantage of anglers.

The RFDP marketing plan is proceeding well although behind schedule due to the slow reorganisation of Tourism Tasmania. AAT is about to sign off on a shared course of action with Tourism Tas, which will result in the acceleration of the plan.

The new marketing web portal is close to being on line and you may watch its progress through www.fishingtasmania.net/live. This site promises to be very exciting for the angling community in general.

The AAT public risk insurance is now operating and most clubs are now taking part as are the greater number of guiding services. Given the important extra cover that this policy provides it is difficult to understand how other clubs have made a decision not to join as I am sure that it places their membership at a considerable disadvantage.

AAT has continued to fight against any water being released from Lakes Crescent and Sorell as well as keeping a watchful eye on the Government's "Drought Proofing Tasmania" strategy.

These plans demand the attention of all anglers as they may well threaten the environment and ecology for which Tasmania is World famous and we as members of the Tasmanian Community derive many of our leisure hours. I urge the close attention of all to the sometimes selfish demands of the agricultural lobby. Without doubt agriculture is a major and worthy consideration but not the sole benefactor of our State's diminishing water resources.

However it is very important to note that the Government's proposed irrigation schemes may hold some real advantages for all and they must be judged on their individual merits through thorough community consultation. I suggest that all anglers contribute to the consultative process as it occurs on an ongoing basis.

2008/09 promises to be an exciting year as the RFDP proceeds and should see AAT becoming gradually financially independent as more partnerships and sponsors come on board.

The administrative side of my position is being transferred to Helene Stewart and she will assume full responsibility for both administration and AAT's management over the coming months. I am sure that Helene will provide you with even greater efficiencies than I have been able to over the past twelve months.

My thanks to all on the committee of AAT and all non committee participants who have enabled us to get this far so successfully. Particular thanks to the executive committee who have guided the organisation throughout the year and also Mike Stevens for his past Chairmanship.

I eagerly look forward to working with all anglers and their various associations to further the ideals of our universally accepted organisation.

Richard C. Dax
(Executive Officer)