

MAY



COMMERCIAL CLUB
ALBURY

Fishing Section

2024

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News and information

Our next event is Eucumbene at Anglers reach. Remember that this event is Saturday to Monday, May 18—20, not the usual Friday to Sunday. I have the names for the lodge, if others are coming, can you please advise me before Tuesday the 14th for catering. Remember that you will not get access before 2pm and will need to have all your gear out by 10am on the Monday. Accommodation cost is to be paid to the club not the park.

The AGM had 30 members attend which was good to see. The committee for 2024/25 is unchanged except for the addition of Alex Fraser, welcome Alex.

The Dartmouth trip planned for April was cancelled due to low numbers.

The calendar for 2024/25 should be in the next newsletter. The June event will be an inhouse event at either the brewhouse or the golf club, date to be confirmed, and the July event, 12-14, will be the interclub at Dartmouth.

Happy birthday to the following member/members, Wendy, John and Brady.

Memberships are now open for the 2024/25 season. Please pay.

Committee 2019—2020

President	Adrian Kent	58 Firestone Way Wodonga	6059 3765
Vice President	Jeff McEachern	14 Cole Court Wodonga	60242473
Hon. Secretary/ Treasurer	Ian Guthridge	12 Garnett Circuit Wodonga	0458746577
Committee	Ed Merrett	60 Greentree Way West Albury	60411199
	Gary Williams	861 Miller St Albury	0408664690
	Bruce Williams	11 Hampton Crt Wodonga	0477561366
	Brendan McKnight	13 Central Plc Wodonga	0481909814
	Judy Clarke	23 Whitehall Ave Springdale Heights	0412000992
	Terry Williams	23 Whitehall Ave Springdale heights	0417270176
	Alex Fraser		0412133954

Calendar 2023-2024

Apr 12
Apr 26-28
May 18-20
Jun 22
Jul 12-14

AGM
Dart
Eucumbene
In house
Interclub

Import tariff on fishing reels to be cut

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers says the government will cut the 5 per cent import tariff for hundreds of items, including fishing reels. The cuts will be included in the May budget and will take effect on July 1.

Chalmers says the tariffs are a nuisance for business, raise little money and ultimately the business compliance costs and the process of applying for exemptions lead to higher prices costs, which are being recovered from consumers in the form of higher prices.

Import tariffs, some more than 20%, were introduced soon after Federation as a means to protect Australian producers from imported goods. They were once an important revenue source for the government. However they have reduced over the years because of negotiated free trade agreements between Australia and other countries and are now less than 1 per cent of government revenue

Recreational fishers blind-sided by NSW Fisheries stocking ban

From Steve Samuels, Monaro Acclimatisation Society

In August last year I received advice from NSW Fisheries that a number of our traditional trout stocking sites would no longer be allowed to be stocked due to a decision by the NSW Fisheries Threatened Species Unit. This was a real shock to the Monaro Acclimatisation Society, as we had no inkling that any such move was afoot. We were allowed to make the 2023 – 24 stockings but about eight weeks ago the Secretary, Rod Whiteway, and I had a meeting with the NSW Fisheries, Recreational Fishing Unit, where the extent of the stocking bans for 2024-25 were explained to us.

There were two reasons given for the bans and they relate to separate threatened species. I will discuss each in turn.

In March 2023 the Commonwealth declared that a galaxias found across the Monaro had been declared a new threatened species. This new species, *Galaxias Terenassus* has been co-existing with trout since stocking began in the 1800s, and despite the research indicating that the species is increasing on the Monaro the limited research to establish a limited population was enough for the fish to be declared endangered.

As a result of this we are no longer allowed to stock a significant section of the middle Maclaughlin River, about half of the Cambalong Creek, a significant section of the Snowy River which includes the reach that runs through Dalgety township and most of the Delegate River which also includes the reach that runs through the Delegate township. There is no doubt there will be more of this to come.

The most disappointing thing about all of this is not so much the decision, but the clandestine way the process has unfolded. Throughout the Commonwealth's listing process the MAS was unaware that it was occurring, and as it turns out neither was the Recreational Fishing Unit of NSW Fisheries. We know that the Threatened Species Unit had some prior knowledge as some of their research was used in the determination and that Unit knew of the listing when they objected to our 2023 stocking plan.

At first glance it appears to the Executive of the MAS that there is a significant level of dysfunction in NSW Fisheries where the Threatened Species Unit is not prepared to share information with the Recreational Fishing Unit and outside organisations such as the MAS. The NSW Fisheries Threatened Species Unit seems unconcerned about how their decisions affect recreational fishing. But in today's world the public expects its public service to be open and transparent with decisions that affect the public, but it seems to be lacking in this case.

But it does not stop there. At the same meeting we were also informed that we would no longer be able to stock rainbow trout in the whole of Adjungbilly Creek near Tumut and the whole of the Murrumbidgee River upstream from the Numeralla River confluence to Tantangara Dam and beyond. The MAS stopped stocking brown trout in these sections in 2004 in line with the regulations to protect Macquarie perch, but the extension to now prohibit rainbows was again a complete surprise.

We have tried to elicit from NSW Fisheries what has changed to bring about this decision but all we have been told is that it is to do with Macquarie Perch. We have no other details, and it seems neither does the NSW Fisheries Recreational Fishing Unit. Again, this has been kept secret with little to no information provided from the NSW Fisheries Threatened Species Unit.

Secrecy and clandestine operations seem to be the latest trend of the NSW Fisheries Threatened Species Unit and obviously this is tolerated by the leadership group.

In an earlier example, the stocking of trout cod in the Goodradigbee River by the Threatened Species Unit was not disclosed and the MAS only found out when a trout cod was discovered by one of our members. If this had not happened the clandestine stocking could have continued for years and anglers jeopardized if they kept one for the table thinking it was a Murray cod.

To be quite honest, this closed-door policy towards the MAS, and the silo mentality within NSW Fisheries has played heavily on my mind. I have spent the last months trying to figure out why the MAS would be treated like this. I believe we have always tried to work with NSW Fisheries, and we have helped the Threatened Species Unit, especially on Macquarie perch, but it seems that the hatred for trout within that unit knows no bounds.

A word of advice here: "be careful what you wish for". Across NSW when trout fisheries have disappeared the void has been filled by redfin perch. To say I feel betrayed is an understatement, and to say I am worried for the future is a fact.

I did not stand for the role of President of the MAS at the AGM in February. I have enjoyed my time as President, and I believe that the MAS has achieved some great wins during my time.

*Steve Samuels
Immediate Past President
Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc*



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For Sale

The clothing that was for sale is no longer for sale at this stage. Once the new colours and design are approved, new shirts and jumpers will be again offered..

Phone numbers

Nillahcootie (Midland caravan)
0357682416

Buckenderra 1800339461

Burrinjuck 0262278114

Angler Reach Lakeside Village
0264542276

Angler reach C/Park 0264542223

Dartmouth motel 0428603025