



PRESTON ANGLING CLUB & FISH PROTECTION SOCIETY INC.

A faded, blue-toned photograph of a two-story wooden building with a gabled roof and a central entrance. A group of seven people, four men and three women, are standing in front of the building. The text "75 Years" is overlaid in a large, elegant script font across the lower half of the image.

75 Years

1922 – 1997

75 Years of History and Progress

Seventy-five years ago (1922) a well-known Preston citizen, viz. Mr F.P. Bird J.P., inserted an advertisement in the local paper that he was convening a meeting in the Preston Library Hall, with the object of forming an angling club. What sound judgment and foresight was shown by Mr Bird. As we perused and browsed through the Minutes and Records of the club over the years, it is with pleasure that we present to you - "A Brief History of the Preston Angling Club and Fish Protection Society Incorporated" - for the past 75 years.

This is not an all encompassing historical document, but I have endeavoured to put as much data and information as possible into a limited space and is written in the spirit, that it may be the means and inspiration to keep alive the spirit: That of Good Fellowship - that always exists amongst anglers.

The above is taken from the comments of the authors of the 25 year history of the club and is still as applicable today as it was then. I hope the following provides an insight into the history of our club and may the 100 year history book be written with as much enjoyment and interest as I have had in putting this brief history together.

L. J. Penrose

August 1997



Mr. F.P. Bird J.P., Founding President

PRESTON FISH PROTECTION SOCIETY AND ANGLING CLUB

~ Founded July 4th, 1922 ~

Our History 1922 - 1997

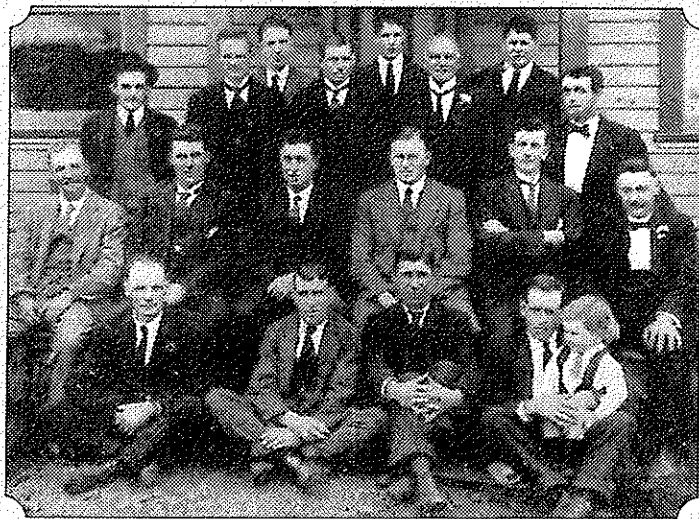
After a meeting in the Preston Library hall by our original members to discuss the formation of an angling club, Mr F.P. Bird J.P. called the club's first official meeting in the Preston Town Hall on July 4th. The following gentlemen were elected to the various offices viz:

<i>President:</i>	Mr F.P. Bird J.P.
<i>Vice President's:</i>	Messrs H.P. Zwar J.P., J.W. Holliday, J.E. Thomson, J. Sinclair, Cr. McFadyen.
<i>General & Social Committee:</i>	Messrs J.E. Thomson, J.W. Holliday, T. Sinclair, J.S. Hopkins, C. Whittig.
<i>Angling Committee:</i>	Messrs V.E. Davies, W. Smith, Cr. McFadyen
<i>Honorary Secretary:</i>	Mr R.J. Wheelens
<i>Honorary Assis. Secretary:</i>	Mr V.E. Davies
<i>Honorary Treasurer:</i>	Mr A.F. Deakin J.P.
<i>Auditors:</i>	Mr Llewellyn Jones and Mr J.S. Hopkins
<i>Trustees:</i>	Messrs H.P. Zwar, A.F. Deakin J.P., J.W. Holliday
<i>V.P.C. Delegates:</i>	Messrs C. Harrigan, E. Gardener

Foundation Members ~ 4th July 1922

At rear
(left to right):
N. Knowen
L.H. Clark
C. Clark

Back Row:
E. Nebel
N. Hanna
R. Wilson
T. Brompton
H. Chapman



Centre Row:
A. Powell
A.F. Deakin (Treasurer)
F.P. Bird (President)
R.J. Wheelens (Hon. Sec.)
V. Davies
W.G. McCausland

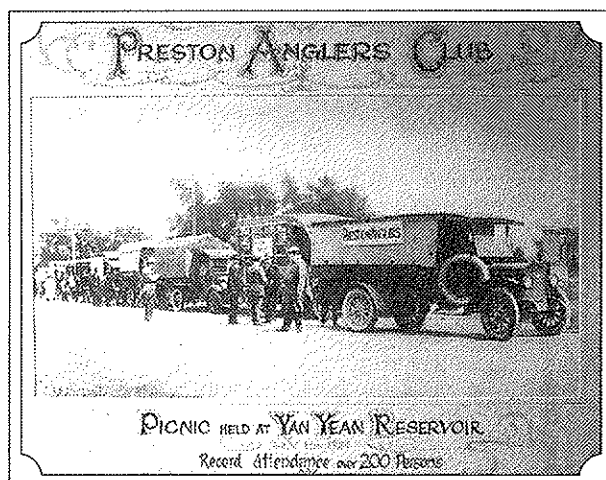
Front Row:
Geo. P. Daye
T. Coleman
C. Ricardo
F. Smith

What an active body of men and of vision they proved to be, for within a few weeks, through the generosity of Mr H.P. Zwar, who loaned the club 75 pounds, they purchased the land in Murray Rd – where our clubrooms stand today. After devoting much of their time and labour, this same body of men finally took occupancy of the clubrooms in 1923. The club was then faced with a debt of 350 pounds of which 200 pounds was a loan from the local branch of the United Ancient Order of Druids Society at an interest rate of 6 percent. With the acquisition of new members, the issue of 1 pound debentures, the holding of Euchre parties, socials and social efforts, the debt was finally paid out in 1930. Quite an achievement considering the times and that they still took part in club competitions, and stocking of local streams and lakes. Many who purchased debentures donated them back to the club. A ladies committee was formed and was instrumental in raising over 100 pounds for the building fund besides helping in many social functions.

In the first year of the club, membership was 113, then slowly dropped until in the thirty's it was 65. It started to rise again until 1947 where it stood at 156 and had maintained approximately 160 or more to this day.

In 1926 due to the untiring effort of Mr A.F. Deakin J.P. the club approached the Preston City Council with a request to install a trout hatchery at Edwardes Park Lake at Reservoir. After agreeing to finance the scheme for 50 pounds if the club would maintain the hatchery, the MMBW refused to install a pump so the scheme was dropped. Mr Deakin then installed and operated a hatchery in the rear of his home where

a 97% success rate was obtained. In 1928 28,000 fry were released into Edwardes Park Lake, 1929 32,700, and in 1930 32,735, a remarkable achievement for a backyard hatchery. In 1931 the Preston council with a working party from the club erected a hatchery at the lake and further good liberations were made. When Redfin were discovered in the lake it was decided to release yearlings instead of fry. Later owing to alterations to parklands and other causes, the liberations ceased. Fish to 4 pounds were recorded as being caught in the lake in the years that followed.






Club Picnic at Yan Yean, Reservoir where a record attendance of 200 was achieved.



Messrs. A.F. Deakin & W. McCausland in the doorway of the club's hatchery at Edwardes Park Lake, Reservoir.

Many trips were organised to the Goulburn and tributaries to obtain Macquarie Perch to release in the Yarra River. Mr George Daye was always on hand to transport these fish. During this period members fished interclub competitions and eventually won and kept the Hartley shield. In 1933 Mr D. McIntyre and Les Downey, with the assistance of other members, organised the junior club for boys from 12 to 16. The junior club flourished with juniors entering senior ranks at age 16. After 9 years, due to lack of transport and materials because of the war, the junior club was forced to disband in 1943.

Your club was proud of the fact that 27 of our members offered their services to their country during the time of war. Those members were given a right royal welcome home, a social night and the unveiling of our honour board was made by Mr H.P. Zwar J.P. Also, many other men who were not members then also enlisted, as did many of our ex-junior members; two of them paid the supreme sacrifice. The names of members inscribed on the honour roll are:

		
J. Allen*	T. Lowery	K. Woolf (P.O.W.)
A.C. Brown	C. Morris	K. Kennedy
E. Cronin	R. Pearce	J. Rhodes
A. Duxbury	V. Rule	P. Rhodes
A. Dusting	N. Jarvis	F. Rhodes
A. Dancey (P.O.W.)	E. Jessop	A. Rhodes
D. Deipenau	M. Smith (P.O.W.)	J. Glen
A. Haigh	E. Greatz	L. Haygarth
R. Harrison	D. Whitechurch	L. O'Brien

* Deceased

Office Bearers 1947-48

<i>President:</i>	J.H. Voice
<i>Vice Presidents:</i>	J. Connel, S. Nash, T. Duncan
<i>Hon. Secretary:</i>	J.W. Curwood
<i>Hon. Assist. Sec:</i>	L.F. Downey
<i>Treasurer:</i>	L.F. Downey
<i>Committee:</i>	T. Butler, G. Higgins, J. Rowland, C. Miller, H. Rose
<i>Auditors:</i>	R. Thomson, A. Hayes
<i>Press Correspondent:</i>	J. Connell
<i>V.P.C. Delegates:</i>	R. Perriman, C. Miller



Mr. J.H. Voice, President 1939-47

In September 1949, Mr. John Connell (Jack) as editor of his journal "The Optimist" had it typed for the very first time. It grew to an eight page printed journal some months later and six copies per club were mailed to nearly every angling club in Victoria as well as angling organisations in other states. We also sent copies to New Zealand and the United States. There were problems with publishers from time to time as it was getting expensive to print and they found it hard to make it pay. When Mr. Connell was very ill Mr. J. Voice, Mr. L. Downey and Mr. C. McCann were determined "The Optimist" would not die. We had to honour our financial obligations to our advertisers. Mr. Downey took over as editor, Mr. McCann looked after the accounts and Mr. Voice the advertisers. It was not easy, but with the help of donations from other clubs and our members we managed. Each month before one of the meetings club members wrapped "The Optimist" for postage to other clubs. Alex Whitaker handled the writing of the names and addresses. This journal was respected by clubs all over Victoria and overseas and Preston can be very proud of the reputation our club enjoyed because of it.

Exactly twenty years later it was decided to cease publication due to rising costs and increasing financial losses. On September 1969 "The Optimist" as it was then ceased. Les Downey was editor, Ken Ely sub-editor and Cliff McCann our President. The spirit of "The Optimist" lived on and it was resurrected on a duplicator purchased by the club for use on annual reports and the syllabus etc. We have had help from editors over the years, those being Ken Ely, John Penrose and Les Penrose. At least four issues a year are currently printed mainly for distribution to our own club members. The costs were part borne by Frank O'Rielly's sports store over this period and in later years joined by Bob Ford.

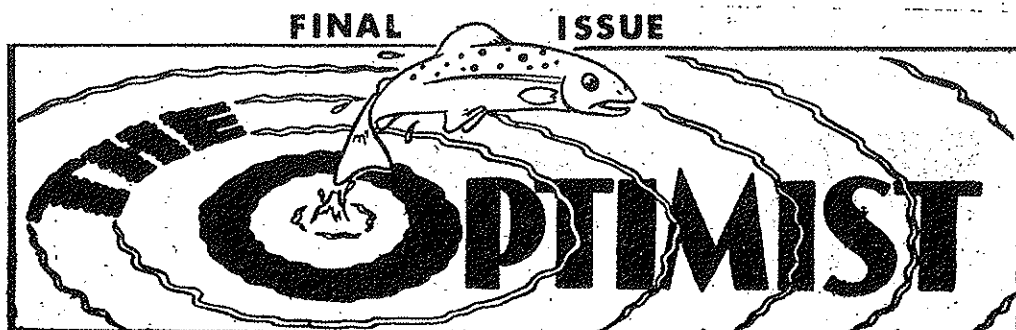
When John Voice retired as president in 1959, he had been elected unopposed for twenty years. Under his leadership the club membership grew as did it's finances. John was a man's man, a strong leader and respected by all who knew him. The late Jack Connell's son-in-law Mr. Cliff McCann became President un-opposed after serving as treasurer for two years and social chairman for eight years. Cliff had the uncanny ability to involve those around him to perform at their highest level. Be it interclub cards, re-building our clubrooms or our lodge at Eildon, he was always a gentle and sincere man. During Cliff's thirteen years as President, our club saw many changes to our clubrooms (more on that later).

We had a lodge at Eildon, two in fact because our first burnt down. Members worked very hard to maintain the Eildon Lodge which was considered to be the best of any of the clubs who also had lodges. Members such as Alan Russell would drive to Eildon on a Sunday morning just to cut the grass. We vacated that lodge after many years due to the caravan park requiring the land for expansion.

We purchased three boats for club use, two of which were bay boats and a punt for freshwater use. Through this, members gained experience and opportunity to have a boat on the bay and eventually the members built up a very good fleet of privately owned boats.

Our library had it's beginning on the way home from Eucumbene in 1963 by Les Penrose, who decided that it was what we needed in the club to learn about those areas we are likely to fish in the future. It is now very up to date in 1997 and includes many good videos.

In 1953 it was necessary to lay a new floor in the clubrooms, so volunteers went to work and whilst they were at it also put in a new plaster ceiling. About this time, a young group of budding anglers were starting to make their presence felt in the club. They left their mark – in the ceiling that is, and names like Russell, Penrose, Smart and Co. were discovered when further renovations were being done in 1978.



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61 Jessie Street, Preston, 3072.
Telephone: 47-2589.
Sub Editor: Mr. KEN ELY.

The Journal of the
**PRESTON FISH PROTECTION SOCIETY
AND ANGLING CLUB**

Hon. Sec.: L. J. PENROSE,
21 Poplar Street, Thomastown, 3074.
Telephone: 465-2220.

Vol. 16, No. 20

President: MR. C. G. McCANN.

SEPTEMBER, 1969.

The Story of the Optimist and How It Originated

Very few members of the Preston Angling Club and the members of kindred angling clubs know just how this fine journal was first started and the following, I hope, will be of interest to all our readers.

In September, 1949, "The Optimist" was the brainchild of the late Mr. John Connell who was the Editor. The publication, for some time, consisted of two sheets (typed) with Club news only, from which it has grown to its present eight page journal and properly

published we had hoped in the future to increase its size. Practically every Angling Club in Victoria received, by mail each month, no less than six copies, as well as other angling organisations in other Australian States, and at one period, it was being mailed to New Zealand and the U.S.A. and as the demand grew we increased the number of copies.

Some months after our first issue, it was decided to get the assistance of a publisher. This good lady did quite a lot for us, but after six months she found she could not make it pay, after which the paper lapsed for some time. We then found a publisher, who was going to play wonders, and we were again on the rocks as far as a publisher was concerned. Not one member of the Club knew the first thing about publication, but Mr. C. McCann, Mr. L. Downey and myself were determined that this paper must not "die" for at that time our Editor, Mr. J. Connell, was in very bad health and could not give us any assistance whatever; also, we were left with financial obligations to our Advertisers which we were determined to honour in full (which we did). Mr. L. Downey took over the Editor's work, Mr. C. McCann looked after the accounts and finance and to myself fell the job of getting the advertisements which is a difficult job when one has to earn a living. The only contact you have with your prospect is by telephone or letter, which - of

course - is nothing like a personal interview. The cost of printing this paper was not nearly covered by the advertisements and loss each month was considerable for a small Club, but the loss would have been far greater but for the generous assistance (financially) from many kindred angling clubs and small donations from our members and others.

The cost of printing this paper was not the only cost for the wrapping and postage was considerable and the members rallied around on the second Thursday of each month and wrapped up various numbers of issues of your copies of "The Optimist" and were pleased to do so. The writing of the addresses from the mailing list on to the wrappers was carried out by Alex Whitaker, who was one of our outstanding Secretaries.

In conclusion, to our kindred clubs: The financial response to our appeals, from the majority of you, has over the years been wonderful and appreciated.

To all those people who sent along personal donations and who assisted our special efforts appeal at our Smoke Nights, we extend our sincere thanks. Despite our drawbacks, not once did we charge anything for our paper which was always GRATIS.

J. H. G. VOICE,
Past President.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

At the Annual Meeting of the Preston Angling Club it was decided to discontinue publication of our journal "The Optimist". Our last issue will be in September, thus giving a continuity of 20 years publication. We regret our decision, but with rising costs over the past years and financial losses increasing, we find we are unable to carry on. We do sincerely thank our advertisers, our donors, and all who have made this paper the great success it has been.

C. G. McCANN.

During 1968 a new kitchen was built with fifty percent more room, a refrigerator, updated gas stove and hot water service. A large servery and bench replaced the peep hole between the kitchen and hall. This was considered a big project at the time.

During the next ten years much time was spent discussing an extension to the clubrooms and many sets of plans were presented by our club architect. While this was going on we were still putting up with the original outside tin toilets. Whilst attending a presentation night with the Healesville Angling Club, we were shown their new brick toilets. They kindly loaned us their plans and with some slight alterations the members and Preston council accepted them. The slab was poured in April 1973 and the toilets completed in 1974. The club was thankful for the services of member Charlie Plane "The Drainer".

In 1972 the Preston Angling Club was holding the junior angling day at Edwardes Park on behalf of the Victorian Piscatorial Council with the assistance of some Melbourne clubs. Early on Sunday morning we received word that our President Cliff McCann had taken ill. While the junior day was an outstanding success for us, we also remembered it as the day Cliff retired as President due to his health. We had thirteen years with Cliff McCann as President and during this time he lifted our image to become one of the most respected angling clubs in Victoria. Bob Ford became our next President after he and Alan Russell were nominated to the position. Les Penrose remained as Secretary to help with the sudden change of President due to Cliff's retirement. We are pleased to say our club never took a step backwards due to the wealth of experience Cliff built up in his thirteen years.

Finally, a decision to extend the hall three metres towards Murray Road, re-roofing and brick veneering the sides was made. First we had a contractor re-block the hall in 1978. A builder was engaged late in 1978 and we held meetings in the church hall opposite until 1979 when we again returned to our own hall. These extensions cost \$18,549.77. During the next two years the brick walls were extended the full length of the hall, more plastering and wall board attached to the inside of the hall. Jack O'Loughlin, working at Presswell Panels generously donated the wallboard. That project cost a further \$2,169.00. A good team of members headed by Jim Kirkpatrick and Paul Nancarrow concreted a new front path and car park area. Some landscaping was done later to finish their good work.

In 1983 a motion to have junior angling members in the club again was defeated. The following year after intense lobbying we once again admitted junior members to the Preston Angling Club. It took thirty-seven years, but we have finally honoured Les Downey's pledge to have juniors in the club again. One of our first juniors admitted, John Penrose has now been our treasurer for the last six years. All juniors who have become seniors are a credit to the club.

* * *

There was to be no rest for our members for as hard as they worked to raise money for projects, they worked harder to complete those projects. Although we were not to know it then, the next ten years would prove to be the busiest and hardest in terms of work ever undertaken by our club. With a healthy bank balance once more, we set about working on the final stage of renovations to extend our hall to the rear lane and enclose our toilets as a part of the main building. A new committee room, kitchen and a bar to go with our liquor license. In 1986 we engaged a builder to keep our voluntary labour on the right track.

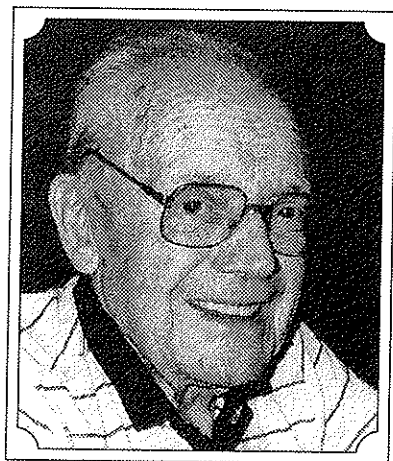
As our plans had finally been approved, work began in earnest. Foundations for the sides and back wall were dug by hand and a large slab poured over the total area. During construction we had many problems to deal with and we thank Alan Smith who eventually took over the builder's role and took the project through to completion. Ted Boots and Ken Ely handled administration with Mal Simmonds, Perc Gravenall and Arthur Shoesmith Plastering, etc. A sum of money left to us by the late Tommy Tomic was wisely used to fit out our modern kitchen. Those of our members who worked very hard on all stages of our hall, whether as tradesmen or labourers, you are to be congratulated for a magnificent job. We thank you.

We had an official hall opening on June 18th 1988 in the form of a dinner dance and Mrs. Molly McCann, wife of our late President Cliff, officially opened the hall.

The Preston Angling Club became incorporated in October 1987. Our Constitution brought in line with the rules of incorporation that allowed no room for error due to the cost of any subsequent changes. Our current constitution and rule book was first printed in 1991.

One of the major changes to the club, a decision that shook us right down to our foundation members, rest their souls, was to admit women to our club as members. That honour went to Helen Warne. It must be noted however, that our roof did not fall in nor any male members resign, in fact nothing changed. We have three ladies in our current membership of 170 members. It is interesting to note we have quite a few junior girls who really enjoy their fishing.

After some discussion prompted by Les Chadwick regarding some type of recognition for continuous service to the club, Alec Goodfellow and Arthur Nixon came up with the idea of striking a twenty five year and fifty year medallion in recognition of continuous years service. We thank Arthur Nixon and Alex Goodfellow for creating our solid silver twenty five year and nine carat gold fifty year medallions. They were made as a badge or to be worn around the neck on a matching chain. The size of a ten cent coin, they have a beautiful fish over the letters P.A.C. "25" or "50". We have to date presented forty of the twenty five year medallions and four gold fifty year medallions. All members presented, wear them with pride and the twenty five year recipients look forward to getting their gold. We have a number of members coming up for their gold around the year 2000. Charlie Ely (now deceased) was our first to gain gold, followed by George Letchford, Jack O'Loughlin and Ron Holliday (Ron also now deceased).



*The Club's First Two
Recipients of the*

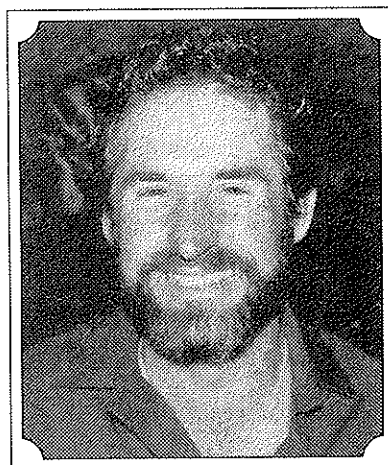
*50 Year
Gold Medallion*

*Charlie Ely &
George Letchford*



Office Bearers 1972-73

<i>President:</i>	R. Ford
<i>Vice Presidents:</i>	A. Russell, A. Goodfellow, K. Ely
<i>Secretary:</i>	L.J. Penrose
<i>Treasurer:</i>	D. Bertram
<i>Committee:</i>	T. Malone, A. Whitaker, F. Burgess, B. Davis, F. Flak
<i>V.P.C. Delegates:</i>	C. McCann, R. Ford, K. Ely
<i>A.A.A. Delegates:</i>	T. Malone, G. Watts
<i>Auditors:</i>	J. Rawady, A. Whitaker



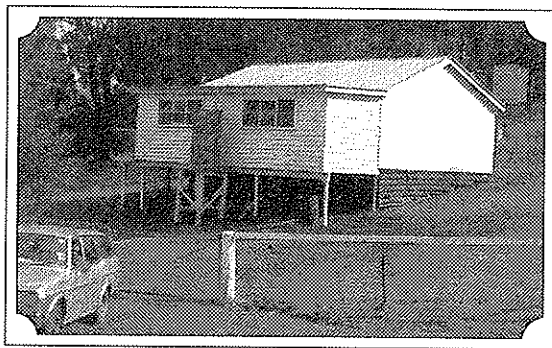
Mr. R. Ford, President 1972-94

In 1980 we purchased a small billiard table and conducted a winter competition among our members. The competition has been a huge success with up to forty members taking part each year. This competition is named after the late Abe Dolphin, who was respected for his skills with the cue. We use the table before and after meetings and it is always the centre of attention. Our first table wore out as did the second and it's replacement is on order.

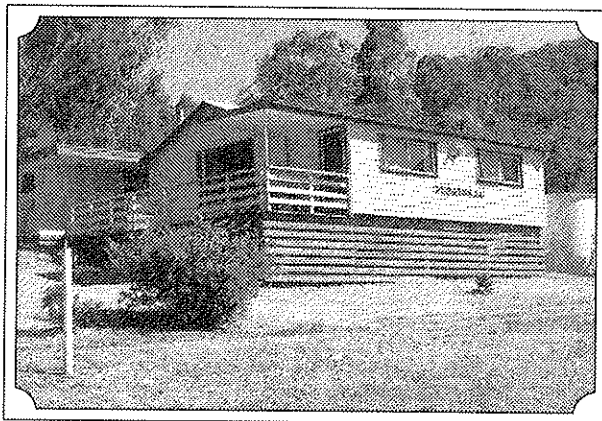
In 1987, a meeting with the committee members of the Northcote Angling Club together with our committee, chaired by our President Bob Ford, resulted in Preston purchasing Northcote's Lodge building at Howqua. With Alan Smith in charge, members worked weekend after weekend, much of the time in shocking weather, to bring the building to a livable condition so we could sleep in the building whilst on working bees. After re-blocking, we stripped the complete inside of the building and started from scratch. Alan had planned very early into the project just how the finished building was going to be. After excavating the rear of the lodge, a toilet block and shower with a covered concreted area between the new rear bedroom were added. A new three metre wide balcony was built down one side and two large concrete water tanks and a wood shed were put in on the other side. The septic sewer, gravity fed water tank and Coonara wood heater were also added. Site works including our road and car park, an all weather road to the bottom gate and landscaping at the rear with barbecue built in, completed the picture. It is almost impossible to recognise the original building now.

Thanks go to Alan Smith for his work and foresight on the project, Ken Ely for his expertise and leadership, Barry LeFever, Dennis Hughes and Charlie Harrison builders, Perc Gravenal and Phil Treble painters and tilers, Gordon Mackenzie for helping manage us around the red tape and to Bob Ford and Les Penrose for their management of volunteers throughout the project. A special thanks to our plasterers who not only donated their time but also most of the plaster used in the building. A top effort considering they were not members of our club. We cannot name everyone here for we would have to name almost the entire club, but to our welders, mechanics, painters, builders, plumbers, electricians, cooks, brick layers,

gardeners and workers, the Preston Angling Club thank you all. We still have at least three working bees a year for maintenance and members look forward to the social get together at the barbecue afterwards. A special thanks to our co-opted local care takers Mick and Judy Hogan.

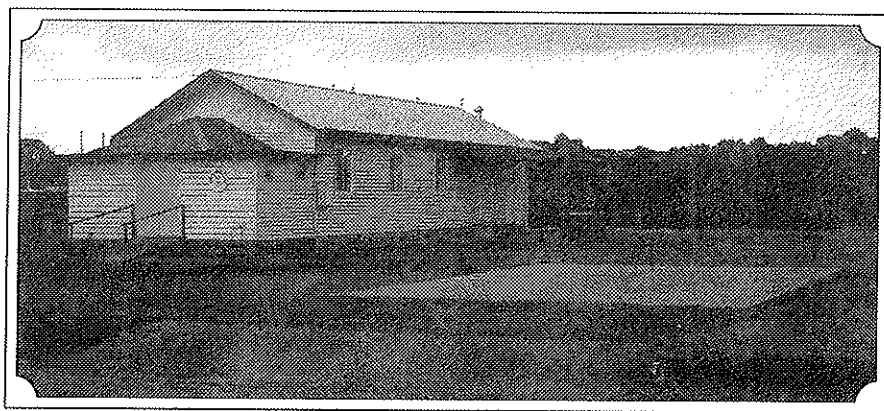


Howqua Lodge -- when acquired &



Howqua Lodge -- Present day

Not content with getting Howqua finished and having spent around \$20,000 on the project, your executive examined the possibility of purchasing a property at Port Albert in 1992. A hall on a large block of land near the water seemed ideal for a salt water lodge. Your executive at the time recommended to the members the Port Albert property at a cost of \$40,000 was feasible. The members took up the challenge and many members made loans to the club to bridge the gap between the clubs available funds and the total cost. We thanks those members and those that also donated their loans. Special thanks to Bob Ford, Tony Marino and Joe Perri for their involvement. Once again a building committee formed and work started. Fortunately the hall was in fair condition with repairs, painting, plumbing and electrical works needed, plus internal refurbishment. A hot water service and electrical wiring including a new switch board were put in place. A barbecue was built outside and other site works include a garage that will make future work easier due to the ability to store building materials was erected. Many home comforts including a television have been added to fill in time when the weather keeps the boats on land. With Les Chadwick



Port Albert Lodge

organising the original building committee we must thank Arthur Shoesmith, Rob Ward and Don Beeson. Thanks to the members and friends of members who have helped in some way to make Port Albert the wonderful asset it is to the Preston Angling Club.

We have notice that the sewage service will go through Port Albert in the next year and that will be an improvement on the overworked septic system we have at present. Mick Ciarma is works organiser for on-going projects for future working bees.

It is with great satisfaction that by 1996 we had, through sheer hard work and dedication completely repaid our debt on Port Albert. Apart from the funds needed for on-going work, our fund raising efforts fully paid the \$40,000. Our members must be very proud to be involved in such a demanding project.

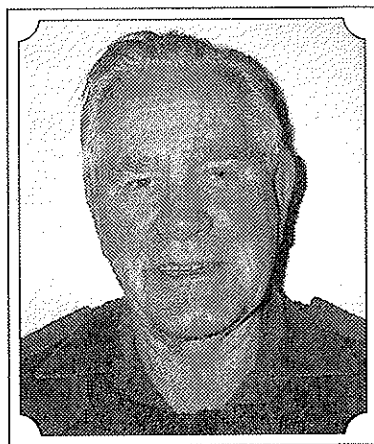
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After a record twenty two years as our President presiding over the greatest growth period in the club's history, Bob Ford retired and Kevin Turner was elected our new President. We thank Bob for the sincere dedication he has shown over those years as President. No one has worked harder on the tasks undertaken by the club than Bob Ford.

In the three years Kevin Turner has been our President we have had many new ideas from a different point of view and members are keenly participating in Port Albert competitions. Kevin introduced the concept of "fish capture records", which involves recognition for the heaviest fish of each species caught over the history of the club. Research going back to the beginning was undertaken to find the heaviest of each species taken on club competitions. At our 1996 presentation night, members were presented with a framed certificate to acknowledge their record.

Our weekly meetings regularly record an attendance of over seventy members. Working bees to both our lodges and our hall are well attended and special bus trips for surf, freshwater and picnics are always full. Presentation nights in the form of a dinner dance have always been well attended. Kevin introduced the President's perpetual trophy in 1995-96, which was presented to Les Penrose by Kevin for best clubman 1995-96. Some fine guest speakers, long range trips, tackle auctions and novel fundraising ideas are keeping members involved in the running of the club.

Some very special achievements by club members over the years have seen life member Pat Lewton, past President of the Victorian Piscatorial Council and present President of the Metropolitan Anglers Association, be awarded the Order of Australia Medal for services to angling. Three of our members on their own undertaking organised the "Save Angling In Victoria" rally to Parliament House in order to help raise the profile of Victorian angler's concerns. Thanks to Regan Carr, Tom Dislakis and John Penrose. Freshwater competition champions Leo Van Exel (11 times) and Dennis Hughes (8 times) and in saltwater Charlie Ely (11 times) have been our best so far. Andrew Brandi, our first to come from junior ranks to win a championship. He won the salt water and surf-estuary champions in the 1996-97 season.



W.F. Lewton O.A.M. - Life Member

Alec Whitaker's two separate terms as secretary, Dave Bertram and Dave Fleming, our past treasurers, left some big shoes to fill and have set a standard in the administration of the club that we have come to expect. Our current secretary Ross Halligan (11 years to date), also was social secretary for some years before taking up the secretary's position, has earned the respect of all members for his dedication to the club. The club would not be complete without personalities of the likes of George Letchford, our oldest participating member and gold medallion holder and Alan Russell alias the "boy wonder" (named by the late Cliff McCann), present holder of both the heaviest Brown and Rainbow trout caught on competition in the club's history. Ken Minnitt, our printer from way back and Ron Wood who could always catch fish in a bucket. And Graham (Mick) Coats, a member with seven lives, never out of trouble but always easy going.

Angling changes over many years saw saltwater go from hire boats from places like St. Leonards to having members private boats being used in bay and Port Albert competitions. Freshwater's biggest change has been from buses (furniture vans) to private transport. With cars becoming available after the war years it was still a long time before the furniture vans were laid to rest. There were lots of reasons, including high costs, drivers needing to remain with bus on trips, lack of comfort, road transport regulations and cars being able to tow boats as we moved into boats on freshwater trips. A good example of this were the Kyalite trips where boats were never used in the early days. Back then we took a boat in the van so that members could find their way across the river. Nowadays, on a trip there nearly every car takes a boat. Whilst you cannot stop progress, most members would agree it tore the heart out of angling. We lost the togetherness, the fun being in the back of the van, playing cards, eating together, stops at the pubs to wash the dust down and the mateship that goes with travelling long distances in the same vehicle. Our bus drivers were part of the club and would help whenever needed. Stan Nash, our driver in the early days who only had one arm, was a remarkable driver and also won our freshwater championship. Then came Stan Buck, who drove us until the day we ceased using vans as our prime mode of transport. Stan was a real character who enjoyed his trips, never let us down, was a top driver and one of the boys. For the older members the good old days will always remain the best part of their lives with the club.

The championship points system also made a couple of changes, the first being a win 40 points, second 35 points, third 32 points, fourth 30 points then descending one point at a time after that. This replaced the 40, 39, 38, 37 etc. system that prevailed before the change. This change resulted in a fairer system of reward for the participating anglers. Then instead of an aggregate of all trips on the syllabus deciding the champion, being the angler who had most total points, we changed that to the most points from a set number of trips. If there were twenty one freshwater trips for the season, it may be the best eleven weigh-ins that count in deciding the champion. This is considered a superior system as it allows more anglers to have a chance as not everyone is able to attend every trip. This also allows for more of those anglers who are not single to win a championship. Salt water, Estuary and Junior championships are also based on the same method.

Our 75th anniversary dinner dance was combined with the 74th trophy presentation night on August 9th, 1997. The members made it a night to remember with special guests Mrs Molly McCann and Mr and Mrs Carl Kirkwood attending, whose association with the club traces back many years. The venue was Oakville Receptions in High St. Preston where 160 members and partners were well catered for in fine style. Our members excelled in making this special night a part of our history. Now we can look forward to that night in 2022 – Our 100th anniversary.



**PRESTON ANGLING CLUB
& FISH PROTECTION
SOCIETY INC.**

Current Life Members

Back Row (l to r):

R. Ford
P. Treble
P. Gravenal
D. Hughes
A. Russell

Front Row:

L.J. Penrose
D. Bertram
A. Whitaker
A. Goodfellow

Absent:

W.F. Lewton O.A.M.



Office Bearers 1997-98

<i>President:</i>	K. Turner
<i>Vice Presidents:</i>	L.J. Penrose, J. Costa
<i>Hon. Secretary:</i>	R. Halligan
<i>Hon. Treasurer:</i>	J.L. Penrose
<i>Committee:</i>	R. Beeson, R. Carr, T. Dislakis, E. Palmer, R. Wolfe, A. Brandi
<i>Auditors:</i>	D. Fleming, W. Tillack
<i>A.A.A. Delegates:</i>	J. Costa, J. Deveson
<i>M.A.A. Delegates:</i>	W.F. Lewton O.A.M., J.L. Penrose, T. Jones, S. Cunsolo
<i>Public Officer:</i>	L.J. Penrose

Deceased Life Members:

H.P. Zwear JP, OBE	W. Curwood
G.P. Daye	W. Haigh
J. Voice	C. Ely
G.C. McCann	W.G. McCausland
A. Beck	J.J. Connell
D. McIntyre	N. Hanna
A.F. Deacon JP	L. VanExel
L.F. Downey	J. Watkins



Finally, as in most sporting clubs, some members over a long period of time become recognised as "legends" in their own time and will undoubtedly remain part of our history forever. Names such as Slim Owens, Eddie Hearn, The Evans and Haigh brothers, Pat Tehan, Max Dellbridge, John Hipgrave, Pop and Rex Pitman, Arthur Clayden, Ron Deipenau, Tom Duncan, Tom Butler, George Watts, "Tich" Hinton, "Scrubby" Young, "Big Black" John and Jerry Kay. Many others have also been named throughout this 75th year book, some holding office, others receiving awards or during working projects – all legends in some special way. No doubt, some of our present members will be remembered and there are a few who will leave their mark and receive mention in the 100th year book. Our minute books are our history and our window of the future.

