

VRFish report Continued ...

and the future management of recreational fishing in Gippsland Lakes. We currently are inviting fishers to complete surveys on shark and ray fishing and interactions to support a best practice program with Monash University, and another for anyone who fishes from a boat or kayak in the lower Yarra River, as part of the review of waterway rules.

In addition to our *Have Your Say* page, we are reinvigorating our Reference Group structure as part of our consultation with fishers. These groups will report to the VRFish Board and be a key avenue how VRFish forms and consolidates its advice and policy positions. To find out more about our Reference Groups and how you can get involved, click [HERE](#).

Last year, we launched our new inclusive membership structure which has allowed us to unite a diverse group of fishers to be a part of Victoria's largest fishing community. We have had 80 individual fishers join as well as over 100 fishing clubs and associations and four affiliated organisations. Our aim is to have every fishing club in the state signed up so we can continue to be a strong and united voice across Victoria. Check out our events web page [HERE](#) for more information.

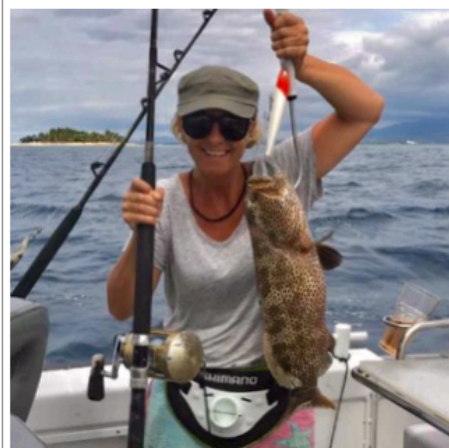
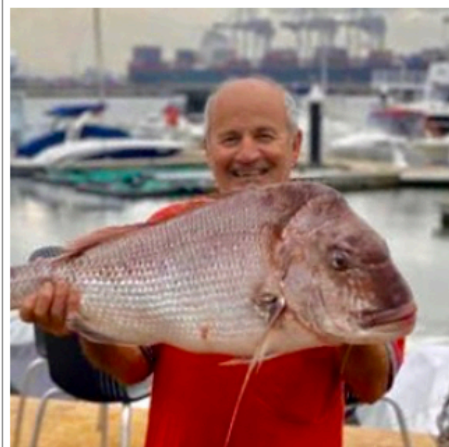


VRFish was honoured to receive the award for Excellence in Recreational Fishing Communication at the National Recreational Fishing Conference in Hobart. We are proud to represent the most passionate recreational fishers in the country.

We know that good communications are critical to get the word out on issues affecting your fishing and how we can all work together to make fishing better, for everyone!

We send out a monthly e-newsletter, *Fishing Lines*, to over 53,000 subscribers which features the latest news on fishing in Victoria. If you aren't receiving *Fishing Lines* and you want to keep up-to-date on the latest news from the VRFish office, be sure to sign up today on our website [HERE](#).

- Mike Burgess



received by attendees. We hope to strengthen the OzFish APYAC chapter in 2020 and provide some great outcomes for fish Habitat in Port Phillip Bay and beyond.

Some updates of our projects nationally and some inspiration for future OzFish APYAC restoration efforts:

Seeds For Snapper

Cockburn Sound, WA

West Australian recreational fishers and divers have worked to restore the lost seagrass meadows of Cockburn Sound for the second consecutive year by collecting and spreading seeds to speed the plant's restoration and improve the habitat for Pink Snapper. Cockburn Sound is the state's most ecologically important southwest region Snapper spawning ground but has lost 80% of its seagrass meadows. Seagrass provides critical foraging and nursery grounds for many fish species as

OzFish Unlimited

By Ben Cleveland

OzFishers Nationally have been busy over the summer months, working hard to spread the Fish habitat message and provide on ground outcomes for our national waterways. OzFish Staff and members attended the National Recreational Fishing Conference in Hobart in December, the conference was a great success,

with delegates from all over the country, including fishers, scientists and government from both marine and freshwater environments.

Our Presentations included an insight into the vast benefits of shellfish restoration and how recreational fishers are getting involved, in particular APYACs efforts to restore the shellfish reefs of Port Phillip Bay, which was well