



Minister Pulford at the launch of the *Golden Tag* competition, Lakes Entrance, holding tagged black bream with colleague **Jordan Crugnale MP**, Member for Bass.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: We are very grateful to the Minister for her tireless work in this portfolio, and her personalised article for APYAC. We have not bothered her for an update since the CoronaVirus restrictions were enacted shortly after she submitted this article.]

Victoria. She has shown sound leadership on many projects including:

Netting

Closure of commercial netting in Port Phillip Bay and Corio Bay.

Better Boating

Creation of Better Boating Victoria and the resulting commitment to return every cent of marine licensing and boat registration fees to improving boating safety and facilities through the establishment of a Better Boating fund.

Infrastructure Upgrades

The Victorian Budget 2019/20 invested \$47.2 million in boating to deliver urgent upgrades to six of the state's busiest boat ramps, scrap fees and review infrastructure management at Port Phillip and Western Port.

Boat Ramps

Free boat launching at all public boat launching ramps in Victoria.

Shellfish Reef

Supporting the club's project, (together with the Victorian Fisheries Authority and The Nature Conservancy), to naturally regrow shellfish (mussel and native oyster) reefs. This successful project will provide long term benefits for the health of the Bay.

Reclaiming The Lakes

Implementing a 'phase out' of commercial netting in the Gippsland Lakes.

New Hatchery

Construction of a new Native Fish Hatchery in Shepparton.

Few Victorian recreational fishers and boaters would have imagined that we'd ever be served by a Ministry in the State Government, let alone one headed by such a proactive Minister.

Taking the Minister Pulford and her staff out fishing was our way of saying thanks. We all had great time, even though the fish did not cooperate. Better luck next time.



And Furthermore...

By Bob Pearce

We were delighted to take Minister Pulford and staff out fishing just prior to Christmas, with hopes of connecting up with 'Big Red' Snapper. Unfortunately, the weather gods were extremely unkind, providing strong winds and rough conditions. We tried our luck on the edge of the Port Melbourne channel but the fishing conditions were extremely difficult with lines constantly running under the boat. Closer to Williamstown conditions were more comfortable, but no 'Big Reds' made an appearance. Nevertheless, it was an extremely pleasant morning and an opportunity for all on board to relax after another year of hard work.

There is little doubt that Minister Pulford is the best Minister for Fishing and Boating we have seen in

On the first Wednesday evening of every month the Club Meeting is held. The bar is open from 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7.30 p.m. The Manager and Committee Members quickly report the status of the club, then a guest speaker gives a talk. The great thing is that; as well as partaking in the free party pies and sausage rolls at the end of the night; you always leave smarter than when you arrived! All members are welcome.



The 21-day rolling cycle takes into account the COVID-19 incubation period and the time it takes to get tested. When someone is diagnosed with COVID-19, state and territory health officials will ask them or their parent/guardian who they have been in contact with. If they have the COVIDSafe app and provide their permission, the encrypted contact information from the app will be accessed.