

# The Vic McCristal Sportfishing Writers Scholarship 2018



## Why is this being offered?

The Queensland Branch of the Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA QLD) is offering this scholarship to help play a part in nurturing the next batch of sportfishing journalists in Queensland. ANSA QLD is committed to cultivating this art form as a pathway to promote sport, conservation and integrity in fishing.

Sportfishing journalism has been an integral thread for many in the organization including Vic McCristal, a founding member and one of the most influential fishing and outdoor writers that Australia has ever produced. The Scholarship is named after Vic in recognition of his contribution to both journalism and nurturing many current journalists that followed in his footsteps.

## Who Can Apply?

Anyone who resides in Queensland and is interested in making a start in Sportfishing journalism is welcome to apply. There are no age restrictions, but preference will be given to applicants with limited sportfishing journalism experience.

Applicants are expected to possess a high level writing proficiency and a willingness to apply this to Sportfishing journalism. Membership to ANSA QLD is not expected, noting that at least one of the applicants selected will be a current member of ANSA QLD.

## What's offered under the Scholarship?

- A mentor to assist in honing your sportfishing writing skills
- Internal publication of your sportfishing article
- Support will endeavor to see your articles published in a mainstream recreational fishing publication
- A \$250 scholarship payment, once submission is finalised and accepted by ANSA QLD.

## What is expected of the applicant?

- Willingness to learn and accept constructive guidance from the mentor
- Willingness to prepare an article with a focus of Sport, Conservation and/or Integrity in fishing within the scholarship timeframe (May – December 2018)

## How to Apply

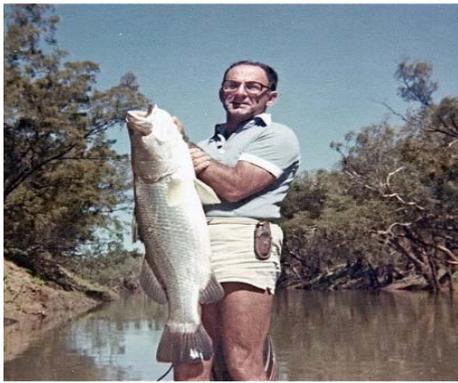
Applying is easy! Simply prepare a single, well written paragraph or two (150 words max) introducing the article topic you would like to write about for the scholarship and submit this via email to [president@ansaqld.com.au](mailto:president@ansaqld.com.au) before 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 Applicants will be notified within two weeks of the application deadline



*This project is supported by funding from the Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.*

SPORT CONSERVATION INTEGRITY

## About Vic McCristal



Vic McCristal was a pivotal character, founding member and the first President of ANSA. A renowned writer of magazine articles, columns and books, Vic McCristal was a pioneer in the world of sportfishing writing and conservation. Arguably Australia's most influential sportfishing writer, Vic McCristal passed away in 2015 leaving a legacy of written materials as relevant today as the day they were penned. ANSA Qld feels privileged to offer this scholarship in honour of Vic McCristal.

## Our Scholarship Mentors

### Bill Bowtell

Bill started fishing with his father, on the banks of the Brisbane River, when he was just four years of age. He began writing fishing and outdoor articles in 1978 for publications such as Australian Angler's Fishing World and Australian Outdoors, as well as several local periodicals. In 1984 Bill started writing for North Qld Fish & Boat magazine where he became their feature story writer.



As a young writer Bill was mentored by such people as Vic McCristal and Ron Dempster and through these associations he became a founding member of the Australian Outdoor Writers Association to progress the rights of "freelance" writers. Bill is

still writes regularly as well as enjoying the outdoors with his family.

### Adam Royle



Residing in the North Qld fishing mecca of Hinchinbrook, fishing was a part of Adam's life since before he can remember. Adam started writing for fishing publications and newspapers columns in 2004, where for the best part of a decade he wrote everything from general interest articles through to regular "Junior Angler" and "Back 2 Basics" segments for the Fish and Boat publication.

As president of the Hinchinbrook sportfishing club, and current vice president of ANSA Qld, Adam doesn't get the opportunity to contribute to fishing publications as often as he once did, instead choosing to spend his spare time fishing with family and friends.



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## Warren Steptoe

After a career as a professional fishing and boating writer and photographer that stretched from the late 1970's until his retirement in 2015, Warren Steptoe is well recognised in Australian fishing. Warren Steptoe joined the Brisbane Sportfishing club in 1979 and became a member of the club executive soon after. From there he stepped into a role as an ANSA delegate to Sunfish which he fulfilled for many years before stepping aside to serve as recreational fishing spokesperson on the State Government's Freshwater Management Advisory for 15 years.

Along the way Warren also served two terms on the ANSAQ State Executive, was a founding father of the fish stocking movement in Qld, and got deeply involved in fishing political issues including stopping commercial fishers netting bass in the Noosa River, the rescue of Mary River cod from near extinction, stopping the commercial ring netting of small mackerel in Qld, and the introduction of the SIPS scheme which today funds fish stocking in Qld. Warren's dedication has been recognised with Life Memberships of Sunfish and the Brisbane Sportfishing Club, and by ANSA Qld with our prestigious Eric Moller and Ron Dempster Awards.



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