AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND

Ron Dempster Award

(2017 - Marina Hoare)

Some may say that Marina’s introduction to ANSA was somewhat of an accidental affair; others may go as far as to say it was destiny.

Joining the Cairns Sportfishing Club in 1982, after her husband Keith had mentioned to fellow club members how good she was at putting a newsletter together, Marina took up the position of club publicity officer. In typical Marina style she devoted herself to the role, although she later admitted to finding it somewhat interesting considering she knew very little about recreational fishing or ANSA at the time.

After just 4 years as publicity officer Marina was elected as club president; no mean feat considering the role had been dominated by males for almost 20 years. Although acutely aware that she was the first woman to be elected as president of an ANSA club, in typical Marina style she committed herself to the role.

After 6 years at the helm, Marina voluntarily stepped aside to make way for “new blood” as she called it. Apart from her impact on the Cairns club, Marina’s reign saw no less than 6 other women take up the role of president in other ANSA clubs.

Marina’s time on the Cairns executive had obviously not gone unnoticed. Within a year she found herself on the Qld state executive, and within another 2 years she was once again at the helm; this time as president of ANSA Qld.

Admitting herself that having a woman in the role seemed somewhat novel to several of her male counterparts, over time Marina not only proved her worth as president but managed to turn some of her most ardent opponents into her strongest supporters.

Although Marina had proven to many within ANSA that a women could in fact do the job, as spokesperson for a peak Sportfishing organisation she still faced many challenges. Having to deal with representatives from other organisations and governing bodies including ministers, fisheries management and even the media was difficult enough for her male counterparts, let alone a woman who was still pioneering her way through a male dominated world.

Despite these challenges, Marina went on to serve as ANSA Qld president for 6 years before once again standing aside to make way for new blood. After stepping down as president Marina remained active on the state executive as publicity officer and by the time she finally decided to call it a day she had spent a total of 14 years with ANSA Qld.

Once asked how she would describe her time with on the state executive Marina replied” We had egos running rampant; we had strong wills and strong voices; we had hot heads and hard heads and we had initiatives coming out of our proverbials!”

To look at Marina’s time with ANSA Qld merely as years served would be somewhat of an injustice. During her reign as president and her time as publicity officer, Marina had overseen a number of pivotal changes to recreational fishing in Queensland for which ANSA Qld had played a part. Some examples include; the move towards length based records and awards, the stocked impoundment and SIP funding model and the Burns inquiry into recreational fishing in Qld; for which Marina was herself the North Qld representative.

Marina’s abilities in running a club and state executive were also matched by her skills as an angler. No more evident was this than at the North Qld Sportfishing Championships where she beat some of the best anglers in the state to take out champion overall angler, champion female angler, champion team and a number of line class categories.

In 1992, a decade after it was first awarded, Marina was formally recognised by her peers for her outstanding commitment and versatility when she was awarded the Eric Moller award. One of ANSA Qld’s most prestigious awards, the Eric Moller award is bestowed on a very select group for combined fishing versatility and club involvement.

Despite her obvious multitude of skills, Marina’s legacy will most likely be remembered as a pioneer for women within ANSA and the wider community. So pivotal has Marina been in progressing the role of women that her name now resides as signatory on the National Pioneer Women’s Hall of Fame Quilt.

To give you some scope as to the importance of this honour, Marina’s name now stands aside other pioneering women such as Dawn Fraser, Janet Holmes a Court, Marjorie Jackson, Nancy Bird and of course our own Jennifer Mondora.

Now a life member of ANSA Qld, Marina has since found a home with her husband Keith at the Cardwell Sportfishing club where she still remains active as club secretary.