

# The Vic McCristal Sportfishing Writers Scholarship 2019



## Why is this being offered?

The Queensland Branch of the Australian National Sportfishing Association (Qld Sportfishers) is offering this scholarship to help play a part in nurturing the next batch of sportfishing journalists in Queensland. Qld Sportfishers 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 of writing proficiency and a willingness to apply this to Sportfishing journalism. Membership to Qld Sportfishers is not expected, noting that at least one of the applicants selected will be a current member of Qld Sportfishers.

## What's offered under the Scholarship?

- Mentorship to assist in honing your sportfishing writing skills
- Internal publication of your sportfishing feature article
- Support will endeavor to see your feature article published in a mainstream recreational fishing publication
- A \$250 scholarship payment, once final submission is accepted by Qld Sportfishers.

## What is expected of the applicant?

- Willingness to learn and accept constructive guidance from our mentors
- Willingness to prepare an article with a focus of Sport, Conservation and/or Integrity in fishing within the scholarship timeframe (May – December 2019)

## 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@ansagld.com.au](mailto:president@ansagld.com.au) before 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Applicants will be notified within two weeks of the application deadline

SPORT CONSERVATION INTEGRITY



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## About Vic McCristal



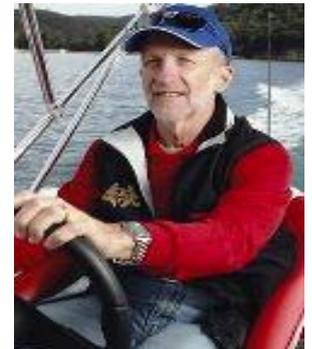
Vic McCristal was a pivotal character, founding member and the first president of the Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA). A renowned writer of magazine articles, columns and books, Vic McCristal was a pioneer in the world of sportfishing writing and conservation. Arguably Australia's 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. Qld Sportfishers feels privileged to be able to offer this scholarship in honour of Vic McCristal.

## Our Scholarship Mentors

### 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 also served on the Qld Sportfishers executive before becoming a recreational fishing spokesperson on the State Government's Freshwater Management Advisory.

Regarded as a founding father of the fish stocking movement in Qld, Warren was 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, 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 Qld Sportfishers as the recipient of our prestigious Eric Moller and Ron Dempster Awards.



### 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 it was through these associations that he became a founding member of the Australian Outdoor Writers Association to progress the rights of "freelance" writers. Bill still writes regularly as well as enjoying the outdoors with his family.

### Adam Royle

Residing in the North Qld fishing mecca of Hinchinbrook, fishing has been a part of Adam's life since before he can remember. Adam started writing for fishing publications and newspapers columns in 2004, where for almost a decade he wrote everything from feature articles to regular Junior Angler and Back 2 Basics segments for Fish and Boat magazine.

Current president of the Hinchinbrook sportfishing club and vice president of Qld Sportfishers, Adam spends much of his time promoting and supporting recreational fishing but can still be found fishing with family and friends on most weekends. Adam continues to write for recreational fishing publications, as well as playing a pivotal role in the Vic McCristal Sportfishing Writers Scholarship.



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