

Do you really believe that their anger is misplaced? Are they not committed to Kellock Lodge providing outstanding care to its residents?

Have you considered the feelings of the Kellock family members who have expressed their opposition to the proposal?

Again, I ask you to inform the bishop that you respect the overwhelming majority of this community's wishes (nearing 2000 petition signatures) and withdraw your support for the proposal. This community will greatly respect you for doing so.

Frank Devries, Alexandra

Open letter to all Victorian recreational fishing associations

I AM seeking your urgent support to stop the potential destruction of the Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery.

VicForests will be conducting industrial scale clear-fell logging within the Snobs Creek Valley. While a temporary Federal Court injunction is currently in place to prevent clear-fell logging going ahead, if this injunction was to be overturned in the next couple of months, logging will seriously affect the water quality, flow and temperature at the fish hatchery.

Data released under Freedom of Information indicates the average water temperature and turbidity at the hatchery have increased since logging commenced five years ago in the Snobs Creek Valley.

I live just below the hatchery and my father (Derek Falconer) spent his working life as manager of the facility and was a pioneer in respect to many of the successful breeding programs of salmonids and native fish here at Snobs Creek.

I am extremely concerned about the likely impact of the imminent forest destruction in the Snobs Creek catchment. The Fish Hatchery is critically dependent upon the quality of Snobs Creek water. Any disturbance to the catchment's forest will seriously affect water quality. One only has to witness the destruction of forest biodiversity by clear felling operations in the adjacent Rubicon Valley, to understand my/our concern!

The site of Snobs Creek Fish hatchery was chosen for three key reasons: consistent low water temperatures and water purity critical for the survival and reproduction of trout, low evaporation due to the heavily timbered slopes and steepness of Snobs Creek Valley, and a year-round water supply.

For more than 60 years Snobs Creek Hatchery has produced fish for recreational fisheries and stocked 200 waterways across Victoria. The hatchery produces and grows salmonids and native fish and was responsible for distributing six million fish across Victoria between April 2017 and April 2018.

In the 2016/17 financial year, Victorian Anglers contributed over \$8.5 million to the Victorian Government in Recreational Fishing Licenses. In 2015, it was estimated that amateur fishing added in excess of \$7 billion to the Victorian economy.

Vic Forest and DELWP claim they care for our forests and consider local community needs. This is far from the actual truth. Their clear-felling practices of forests across the Central Highlands demonstrate a blatant disregard for forestry/ecological biodiversity.

Vic Forest's sole modus operandi is to fulfill an out dated 80 year old legislated contract to supply woodchips to the Australian Paper Mill (APM) which is wholly owned and controlled by a Japanese company(Nippon).

We won't have a government run fish hatchery if logging continues on the scale seen in this video: [youtube.com/watch?v=mMftBYm5acg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMftBYm5acg&feature=youtu.be). See also youtu.be/uB76paZKWM0

I urge you to take action and invite you to have a look at what is taking place in our area. Also, please contact your local member of parliament.

Rod Falconer, Snobs Creek



THUMBS DOWN: To the ridiculous notion of reducing the Back Eildon Road to 80k/h. What next? Walking pace only?

THUMBS UP: To the Alexandra Secondary College. Our children are so lucky to have such a wonderful school with supportive and amazing teachers.

THUMBS UP: To the *Alexandra Standard* for publicising the letter from the Kellock family and also the acknowledgment from the Bishop on Facebook. The Kellock family letter was beautifully written and to the point.

THUMBS DOWN: Let's not be blinkered or sidetracked with all the happenings at Kellock Lodge. The cursory unsigned report re the old hospital did not mention that the old hospital itself was going to be completely fenced off in such haste and why. We need to keep up to the minute with developments here as things do happen and so quickly by stealth when it becomes too late to remedy them. We need all our facilities, Kellock as well as our new hospital too. Be aware. Situations change very rapidly. We must keep abreast of what is happening in our community. Communication is vital and the lifeblood of our community.

THUMBS UP: At last part of the garden at the hospital entrance is being resurrected. Hope it will soon be completed.

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