

NWFA relief fund for Australian trout streams affected by bush fires reaches \$2795

Northwest Fly Anglers have created a fund to help rehabilitate trout streams damaged by the recent bush fires in Australia. Launched at the monthly members' meeting on February 20, the plan was enthusiastically supported, and to date (March 12, 2020), \$2795, including a \$1000 club match, has been raised. You are encouraged to contribute.

At the meeting, club President Matt Moore said, "these fires have devastated Australian fly fishing streams and we should support our angling brothers and sisters Down Under as much as we can."

The funds will initially be used to help rehabilitate the Cobungra and Bundara rivers in the Australian state of Victoria. These are classic mountain streams in the south east of the state. They are the home waters of the Bairnsdale Fly Fishing Club, with whom Northwest Fly Anglers are cooperating and supporting in the relief effort. Parts of both rivers were seriously affected by the fires in January and February this year. Riparian habitats, animals and insects were severely impacted and water quality was seriously diminished. These rivers and their wild and self-sustaining populations of rainbow and brown trout need your help.

NWFA members and friends can contribute on the club's website northwestflyanglers.org. Click on **Support**, then click on **Donate**. Identify your donation as being for Australia Trout Stream Bush Fire Relief.

Member Alan Pilkington, who is organizing the relief effort, is giving a signed copy of his book, **Rivers Of My Memory**, to every donor who makes a contribution of \$50 or more. The book is a collection of poems and short stories of rivers Alan has fished, including some of the rivers affected by the current fires.