

SPORTING CHANCE

ANSA has played a big role
promoting the sport of fishing in
Australia over the past half century.

By *John Burgess*

ANSA congratulates *Fishing World* and its staff in the celebration of its 50th year celebration. It was only two years ago that ANSA itself celebrated the achievement of such a significant milestone.

ANSA has enjoyed a 50 year special relationship with *Fishing World* with many of its members being regular contributors to magazines over this time. Fishing legends such as Vic McCristal, Eric Moller, Dick Lewers, Ron Dempster, Jack Erskine and John Bethune regularly captured the imagination of readers with their great stories and practical advice on recreational fishing.

ANSA recognises the importance of a vibrant recreational fishing media and actively supports and encourages its members to share their fishing experiences via the print media. In 2017 ANSA Qld established the Vic McCristal Sportfishing Writers Scholarship to support budding writers on their sportfishing writers journey. There's always another great story to be told and *Fishing World* remains the key to sharing these stories. Keep the stories rolling, *Fishing World*.

THE ANSA STORY

ANSA was kicked off in 1967 by a small group of likeminded recreational fishers from NSW and Qld who had for some time been looking for a fresh approach to enjoy fishing based on core values of "Sport, Conservation and Integrity". These ambitions came to a climax during a meeting in February 1967 at Yorkey's Knob just north of Cairns and the Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA) was born with these core values as the basis for what ANSA stood for – values that have weathered the test of time and are as relevant today as they were in those early formative days.

Clubs were formed in Qld and NSW shortly thereafter and the growth of ANSA progressively spread across all Australian States and Territories. A State and Territorial branch structure evolved to cater for this national expansion of club membership. The ANSA National Record Chart was established in 1970 with the merger of the Qld and NSW Record charts and today is regarded as one of the oldest, largest and most prestigious