



VICTORIA Inc. Regional Group VICNEWS

Number 145 February 2026

ANGFA Victoria Inc. is a regional group member of
AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION INC.

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ANGFA Vic FISH MEGA AUCTION

Friday 6th February
2026



February 6th Fish Mega Auction

Lots on offer for auction will include the following species:

Glossolepis doryti

Glossolepis wanamensis

Melanotaenia macculochi (Hopevale)

Melanotaenia oktediensis

Melanotaenia trifasciata (Batavia Rainforest, Cape York Qld)

Melanotaenia trifasciata (Goyder River)

Melanotaenia trifasciata (Giddy River)

Melanotaenia boesemani

Melanotaenia inornata (Flat Rock Creek)

Melanotaenia s splendida (Wallaby Creek)

Melanotaenia sp. (Hilda Creek Rainbow)

Melanotaenia lacustris

Melanotaenia wilsoni

Melanotaenia praecox

Melanotaenia parkinsoni (Yellow form)

Melanotaenia parkinsoni (Orange form)

Melanotaenia pierucciae

Melanotaenia sp. (Running River Rainbow)

Melanotaenia sahulensis (Moa Island)

Pseudomugil sp. Golden Blue Eye

Pseudomugil gertrudae (Chartu Island)

Pseudomugil furcatus

Pseudomugil luminatus

Scaturiginichthys vermeilipinnis Red-finned Blue-eye

Iriatherina werneri Threadfin Rainbowfish

Nannoperca australis Southern Pygmy Perch

Nannaperca obscura Yarra Pygmy Perch

Melanotaenia fluviatilis Murray River Rainbowfish

Pseudomugil mellis Honey Blue-eye

Galaxiella pusilla Dwarf Galaxias

Notopala waterhousei Waterhouse Snail

Notopala alisoni Fitzroy River Snail

Darwin Red-nose Shrimp

River Prawns

White-claw Yabbies



Recently discovered 'Hilda Creek' Rainbowfish - Photo: Keith Martin



Our next Field Trip is: Joint ANGFA / NFA Murray River field trip Friday 6th to Monday 9th March 2026



When: March 6th - 9th 2026 (Vic Labour Day long weekend)

Where: Murray River downstream of Yarrawonga on the Victorian side of the river at Bourkes Beach #1 (there are three beaches total). If you put these coordinates into Google Maps <http://maps.google.com.au/> or Google Earth it will show you the final destination -35.976863 145.835180. See map attached to this post.

Fishes: this region provides excellent opportunities for collecting smaller and larger native fishes. Many smaller native fishes are present including: Murray Rainbowfish, Unspeckled Hardyhead, Smelt, various Carp Gudgeons (4 types), Flathead Gudgeon, plus we usually see lots of small cod and a very occasional River Blackfish. There are lots of exotic fishes like Carp, Goldfish, Weatherloach and Gambusia too. The folks from NFA are usually happy to take some folks out on the boat for cod fishing as well as other large natives like golden perch.
Note you will need a NSW fishing license.

Accommodation: Camping is permitted at Bourkes Beach #1 and most other places in the forest. Other options include caravan parks, hotels, etc in Yarrawonga.

Directions: Heading east on the Murray-Valley Highway there is a "way side stop" on the left shortly after the big bend in the road. At the back of that rest stop is the start of Bourkes Bend Track, follow that through the forest (see maps) until you see the turn off for Bourkes Beach #1. As long as conditions are fairly dry then any vehicle can make it to the beach.

For more information: contact Greg Martin on 0407 094 313 or gregmartinfishman@gmail.com.



You must be a current financial member of ANGFA Victoria Inc. to attend an ANGFA Victoria Inc. field trip.

It is a requirement of ANGFA Victoria Inc. that any persons under the age of 18 who wish to attend an ANGFA Victoria Inc. field trip must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

ANGFA Victoria Inc. operates its field trips within the rules of our General Research Permit (RP1559) being Catch-Photograph-Release. All non-noxious fishes caught shall be returned to the water immediately after being photographed.

Contents

February 2026 fish mega auction promo	1-2
Labour Day long weekend Murray River field trip promo	3
President's report	4
Convention 2026 - tickets are now selling!	5
Some highlights from the Wetland Warriors Floodplain Specialist Fish Science Forum, Buronga NSW, October 2025	6-11
Empire Gudgeon found at Bairnsdale!	12
Club meeting details and key contacts	13

President's Report February 2026



Welcome to VICNews 145! At our December club meeting Tim Fernando, joined by Fraser Asquith, gave us an update on the fast-evolving knowledge of the Flat-headed Galaxias *Galaxias rostratus*, often referred to as the "Ghost Fish". Tim, an employee of the Arthur Rylah Institute, has been surveying for this cryptic species, both to monitor its whereabouts, and to collect broodstock for conservation breeding endeavours at Middle Creek and Snobs Creeks Conservation Hatcheries. Fraser is in the process of doing his Masters degree at Melbourne Uni on *Galaxias rostratus*.

Flat-headed Galaxias are a cryptic species and their natural history is not yet fully understood. The knowledge gaps in our understanding of Flat-headed Galaxias in the wild: their behaviour, (and therefore how likely you are to find them when surveying),

preferred habitat types and in-water structure, distribution, abundance and dispersion patterns when it floods and water conditions are being investigated by Tarmo Raadik, Tim, Frazer and a number of others. Detailed breeding information and the strive to 'crack the code' is being actively pursued by Chris Lamin at Middle Creek Farm and the team at Snobs Creek.

Enjoy this (brief) edition and we'll see you on Friday 6th February at our next club meeting - the first for 2026! It has been a while since we've had a fish sale so we are starting off the year with a fish mega auction. Auctions are a lot of fun and a great way to get hold of some hard-to-get rainbowfish and other Aussie natives (see previous page for a list of expected lots for offer on the night). Dave Wilson is sending us a few oddities as well, so there will be plenty variety for everyone.

ANGFA Vic members who would normally contribute fish and plants to the club meeting trade table, are discouraged from bringing anything this meeting, due to the auction. Remember, **you need to be an ANGFA Vic member to bid at the auction. New members can join on the night.** As usual it will be a fun evening with plenty of chat time and catching up with fellow fishos! Supper will be provided after the auction.

Memberships are now due, as the ANGFA membership year follows the calendar year. If you are uncertain as to whether your membership is current contact our membership officer Rod Wubben on 0409 890 866.

Our next field trip is our annual Labour Day long weekend field trip to the Murray River at Burkes Beach downstream from Yarrawonga. See page 3 for our promo with lots of details.

As always, a big thank you to our members who continue to support the ANGFA ethos by attending our field trips - it is always worth the effort and field tripping is so much fun!

Please note that our April club meeting, which this year falls on Easter Friday, has been moved to the following friday (Friday 10th April)



A huge thank you to Jenny Briggs for supplying this gorgeous supper, with a Christmas theme, for our December club meeting (and for all the amazing suppers she has supplied throughout the year). Photos: Greg Martin

**TICKETS ARE NOW
AVAILABLE
FOR OUR**



PHOTO: John Lenagan

ANGFA

Australia New Guinea Fishes Association
NATIONAL CONVENTION 2026

**Best Western Convention Centre,
Attwood Hotel, Melbourne
16th - 19th October**

[Book here](#)

Wetland Warriors Floodplain Specialist Fish Science Forum - Agenda

Day 1 Wednesday 15th October

8:30 – Registrations

9:00 – Welcome to Country

9:15 – Introduction to the Forum – objectives, housekeeping (MC Iain Ellis)

Session 1 – Floodplain specialist fish

9:25 Stranger Fins: Saving the Ghost Fish in 2025. Tim Fernando (Arthur Rylah Institute) and Fraser Asquith (Melbourne University)

9:45 Effect of soft-release experience on anti-predator behaviour, parasites and microbiome in Southern pygmy perch (*Nannoperca australis*). Prof. Rafael Freire (Charles Sturt University)

10:05 Improving conservation outcomes for native fish in floodplain wetlands. Prof. Nick Bond (LaTrobe University)

10:25 Conservation Hatchery Update – Dr Brett Ingram and Dylan White (Victorian Fisheries Authority)

10:45 – 11:15 Morning tea

Session 2 – River refugees

11:15 Reintroducing a lost icon – bringing back the mighty Murray Cray to SA. Dr Sylvia Zukowski (Nature Glenelg Trust)

11:35 Update on genetic results and advice for the magnificent six. Dr Peter Unmack (Unmack AquaEvolutionary)

11:55 A new reproductive indicator to support crayfish conservation and management. Dr Scott Raymond (Arthur Rylah Institute)

12:15 VFA wetlands stocking trial: what have we learnt? Andrew Briggs (Victorian Fisheries Authority)

12:35 – 1:20 – Lunch

Session 3 Murray Hardyhead field trip

1:20 – 5:00 Bus tour of local wetlands with a focus on recovery of Marvelous Murray Hardyhead. Sites include Catfish Billabong, Brickworks Billabong, Lake Hawthorn, Ornamental Lakes, and (time permitting) Kings Billabong (Hosted by Mallee CMA, Nature Glenelg Trust and Millewa Pumping)

5:00 – Close

6:30 – 10:00pm Forum Dinner – Australian Inland Botanic Gardens

Day 2 Thursday 16th October

8:30 Reflections Day 1 (facilitated by Peter Kelly).

8:50 Restoring wetland hydrology and vegetation to benefit multiple threatened species at Wirra Lo on the lower Loddon River. Damien Cook (Wetland Revival Trust)

9:10 Six years of focused floodplain fish recovery through the Murray NRM Tri-State Alliance – what has been achieved through partnerships and where are we heading? Peter Rose (North Central CMA)

9:25 Workshop 1. How can we expand our collective impact? (Facilitator Peter Kelly)

10:15 – 10:45 Morning Tea

Session 3 Wild site management

10:45 Henry Creek case study: Creating a landscape scale pest-free paradise. James Walker (Nature Glenelg Trust)

11:05 Managing wild sites through extreme events. Darren Willis (Landscape SA Murrayland and Riverland)

11:30 - Workshop 2. Managing wild sites for threatened floodplain specialist fish persistence (Facilitator Peter Kelly)

12:20 – 1:30 Lunch and tour of the Australia Inland Botanic Gardens wetlands

Session 4 Engagement and partnerships

1:30 Working with partners in the Goulburn-Broken catchment to engage youth in Native Fish Recovery. Tim Curmi (Native Fish Australia) and Jason Mullins (Goulburn Broken CMA)

1:50 River Murray Youth Council model. Ilyth Burton (Murray River Youth Council)

2:10 Yawiir Withwinny "Fish Will Return". Laura Kirby (North Central CMA)

2:30 Wrap up and plans for next forum (Peter Kelly / Peter Rose)

2:50 Close

On Tuesday 14th October 2025, a small group of ANGFA members (mainly those that have attended all the Wetland Warriors Floodplain Specialist Science Forums to date) headed up to Buronga (just across the river from Mildura) to attend two days of presentations and field trips.

The presenters on the first day covered the following topics:

- The Ghost Fish - *Galaxias rostratus*
- Effect of soft-release experience on anti-predator behaviour, parasites and microbiome in Southern pygmy perch (*Nannoperca australis*).
- Improving conservation outcomes for native fish in floodplain wetlands.
- An update from Snobs Creek Hatchery.
- Bringing back the Murray Crays to SA.
- A new reproductive indicator to support crayfish conservation and management.
- VFA wetlands stocking trial: what have we learnt?

After lunch we jumped in several busses and headed out to see a few different sits in the local area.



Top: Our own Frazer Asquith presenting at the Tri State Alliance, Wetland Warriors Forum in Buronga NSW. Middle and Above: Attendees on the field trip being shown the new weir at Catfish Billabong. Photos: Greg Martin



Top: Our field trip group arrives at Brickworks Billabong, with the Murray River in the background. Above: Attendees listening to Ian Ellis (photo at right) give us a history of the area. Below: Brickworks Billabong. Photos: Greg Martin





Top: Ian Ellis giving us the history of Lake Hawthorn (at this moment Ian was saying “It’s a shit hole!”) Top right: Our group at Lake Howthorn. Right: Tim Fernando admiring a Southern Purple-spotted Gudgeon from the Inland Botanic Gardens’ Ornamental Lakes in Buronga (Below). Photos: Greg Martin





On the night between the two days of the forum, a few of us slipped out to look for critters in the Hattah Lakes mallee area. We found a Prong-nosed Blind Snake (spotted by Frazer at speed on the road at night!). The Brown Snake and Shingleback Lizard were spotted during the field trip to Catfish Billabong. Photos: Greg Martin



On day two we had presentations that covered the following topics:

- Restoring wetland hydrology and vegetation to benefit multiple threatened species at Wirra Lo on the lower Loddon River.
- Six years of focused floodplain fish recovery through the Murray NRM Tri-State Alliance – what has been achieved through partnerships and where are we heading?
- Henry Creek case study: Creating a landscape scale pest-free paradise.
- Managing wild sites through extreme events.
- Working with partners in the Goulburn-Broken catchment to engage youth in Native Fish Recovery.
- River Murray Youth Council model.
- Yawiir Withwinny “Fish Will Return”.



Empire Gudgeon *Hypseleotris compressa* found in Mitchell River at Bairnsdale, Victoria



Empire Gudgeon *Hypseleotris compressa*. Photo: Dave Wilson

In late 2025, during a larval survey, 4 males and 1 female of a fish the surveyor didn't recognise, were found in the Mitchell River in Bairnsdale. Photos were sent to an ANGFA member for ID and Tarmo Raadik has confirmed that they are Empire Gudgeon.

Empire Gudgeon are rarely found in Victoria, with the Wallagaraugh River in the upper parts of Mallalcoota Inlet is listed as the primary

Victorian location. Due to its limited distribution in Victoria, it is considered rare and potentially Critically Endangered under criteria regarding small population size. The Towamba River in NSW is generally considered the Empire Gudgeon's southern limit.

It's great to know that Empire Gudgeon are alive and well in East Gippsland!



Photos of the fish found during a larval survey in East Gippsland. Male Empire Gudgeon on the left, female on the right.

Club meeting details and key contacts of ANGFA Vic

Office Bearers 2026

President: Greg Martin 0407 094 313
Vice President: Matt McGee
Treasurer: Sunny Syme
Secretary: Peter Gauci
Grant Applications and Permit Writer: Tim Curmi 0417 419 765
Field Trip Coordinator: Greg Martin 0407 094 313
Field Trip Safety Officer: Rodney Wubben 0409 890 866
Membership Officer: Rodney Wubben 0409 890 866
Committee members: Chris Lamin, Matt Schreuder and Sarah Butler
VICNews: Greg Martin

Other fish groups in Victoria

Aquarium Society of Victoria Visit: www.asov.com.au
Native Fish Australia Vic. Contact: Tim Curmi 0417 419 765

Victorian ANGFA National LIFE MEMBERS

Past

Ron Bowman, Barry Crockford and Tony Tucceri

Present

Neil Armstrong, Glenn Briggs and Ken Smales

ANGFA VIC CLUB MEETINGS

are held at the

Field Naturalists Club of Victoria

1 Gardenia Street Blackburn, Victoria

Doors open at 7.30pm

Club meeting dates for 2026:

Friday 6th February 2026

Friday 10th April 2026 (1 week later due to easter Friday)

Friday 5th June 2026

Friday 7th August 2026

Friday 2nd october 2026

Friday 4th December 2026



Peter, Jimmy, Ian, Darren and Greg wrap up the 2025 Wetland Warriors Forum in Buronga NSW. Photo: Greg Martin