

# VICTORIA Inc. Regional Group VICNEWS

Number 123 December 2016

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## “Fishes of Kakadu National Park”. Dr Michael Hammer is our December presenter.



Kakadu National Park is full of spectacular vistas like this one looking west towards Darwin. *Photo: Michael Hammer*

Dr Michael Hammer, Curator of fishes at the Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory is our December club meeting guest speaker.

Kakadu is well known as a tourism mecca. It's diverse and amazing habitats are home to a wide array of plants and animals; it's plunge pools offer refuge



Dr Michael Hammer. *Photo: Mark McGrouther*



A bag of freshly caught Rainbowfish. *Photo: Michael Hammer*



NT Museum and Art Gallery Toyota “troopy”; essential kit for long field trips into remote areas of the Northern Territory.  
*Photo: Greg Martin*



Michael Hammer in the field processing vouchers – fish tissue samples preserved in liquid nitrogen – for later study and genetic analysis.  
*Photo: Greg Martin*

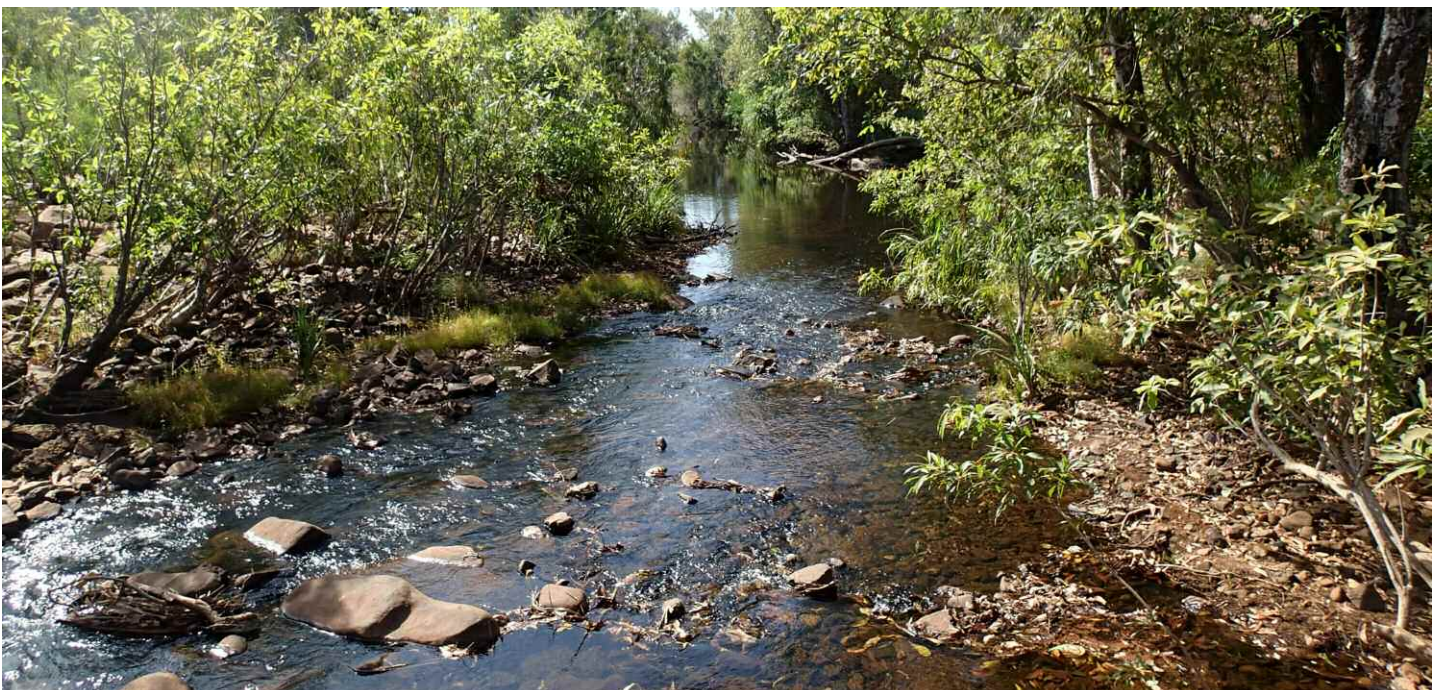


Kitting up to do Electrofishing. Seen here with James Shelley from Melbourne Uni in 2013 on the Victoria River, NT.  
*Photo: Greg Martin*

from the tropical heat, and the rich indigenous culture of the area is ever apparent. This talk takes a different type of guided tour across the area, focusing on fish diversity at both tourist locations and more remote areas. Starting in the estuaries with an encounter with the rare Threadfin Goby *Egglestonichthys ulbubunitj*, then heading to wetlands, thermal springs and the escarpment as a hotspot of rainbowfish diversity (with plenty of other species in between).



A large Mogurnda from Kakadu National Park.  
*Photo: Michael Hammer*



Kambolgie Creek in Kakadu, NT, home to a well known Rainbowfish *Melanotaenia solata*, the Northern Rainbowfish. *Photo: Greg Martin*

# Turtles Australia.

## Dylan Hill is our December 2016 mini presenter



Dylan Hill gives a presentation to interested attendees of the Avenel Fish Circus in September 2015. *Photo: Graham Stockfeld*

Dylan Hill, Vice-President of Turtles Australian Inc. has had a passion for turtles since he was a kid. For the last six years President Graham Stockfeld and Dylan have been working on the conservation of many species in Victoria and throughout Australia.

turtle including husbandry, identification and threats to our native species. He will also have on display several species from different locations around Australia.

During his talk Dylan will be discussing all things



Presenting once again at the VHS Expo in 2014. *Photo: Graham Stockfeld*



Dylan at the Kergunya Wetlands Turtle walk. *Photo: Graham Stockfeld*

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## Editor's Note



What a busy year 2016 has been. We have had interesting presenters for our meetings this year and many fabulous field trip experiences; it is great to see some exciting things happening within the club for those that want to be involved.

Our most recent club field trip (to Cape Conran) was a wonderful experience and I have written an article about it in this edition of VICNews for those that couldn't make it.

After my pictorial "tour" of the 2015 Tarkine Bioblitz, presented at our October meeting, I had some interest from people wanting to be involved in the next (2016) Takine Bioblitz! This event took place on 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November and I am delighted to report that myself, Greg Wallis, Emmaline Bowman and her partner Stein had a tremendous time down there.

The Tarkine wilderness area is a wonderful part of Tasmania and this year, as in last year, some really interesting people attended the event: for example, we were joined for a day by Todd Walsh, world expert on *Astacopsis gouldi*, the Tasmanian Giant Freshwater Crayfish and we have some great stories and photos to share with you down the track.

If any ANGFA members have any thoughts about interesting speakers that they might have heard about or even heard a talk from that they think might be enriching for the club, we are always on the lookout for good future presenters.

The next field trip will be to the Bunyip River, north of the Princes Freeway in Longwarry North with a date and further details to be posted on Facebook.

Greg Martin

## President's Report December 2016



Welcome everyone to our December 2016 VICNews, number 123!

Our October meeting began with with John Cousins, John Coats and Ross Weber handballing the various Blue eye species's breeding descriptions back and forth... a great presentation with a lot of accumulated knowledge shared in the process. Thanks guys for that.

Then Greg Martin presented a slideshow on his experience of the Bob Brown Foundation's Tarkine Bioblitz from November 2015. Greg Martin and Phil Littlejohn attended the event with Finn Wrigley representing ANGFA VIC, as survey leaders for fishes surveying in that unique part of northwest Tasmania.

I would like to make a special mention of the recent passing of Gary Moores' wife Kath who died on 15<sup>th</sup> September, after battling ill health for many years. Kath was a passionate lover of nature and actually got Gary into keeping fish and then reptiles many years ago. Kath loved "her boys" Gary, Jake and her father, and always had an upbeat nature and smiling face. She will be missed by all that ever met her.

For those that have been watching Peter Unmack's Running River Rainbowfish conservation project roll-out with interest, there will be a limited number of F1 juveniles available for purchase at our next meeting, with the proceeds of the sales going to support this important project.

As it is the end of the year I would once again like to thank all of our sponsors for their generous donations during the year.

Lastly, I would like to thank our hard working committee of volunteers for all the work they put in for the club over the year. Without these people there would be no club.

See you on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at the meeting!



Running River Rainbowfish. Photo: Michael Hammer

# Field Trip Files: Cape Conran, East Gippsland, Victoria. 29th October to 1st November 2016



Coastal banksia woodland at Cape Conran featuring *Banksia integrifolia* and *Eucalyptus botoides* with a diverse shrub-layer of *Epacris imessa*, *Leptospermum continentale*, *Gahnia clarkei*, *Melaleuca ericifolia* and *M. squarrosa*. Photo: Greg Martin

Our October ANGFA VIC field trip, run over the Melbourne Cup long weekend, was a family-friendly event centred around a base camp in the lovely Jungle Beach Caravan Park at Cape Conran in East Gippsland. Some of us drove up on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October but, due to work commitments, Kwai's family and I left on Saturday leaving Melbourne at 5am. It is wonderful driving through the rich dairy pastures of Gippsland into the rising sun, past the four coal-fired power stations of the Latrobe Valley, and across the massive flood plains of Central Gippsland between Traralgon and Bairnsdale.

As I drove I noted the rivers that we crossed – the Latrobe River at Rosedale, the Thomson River at Sale, the Avon River at Stratford and the Mitchell River in Bairnsdale – all draining the vast central highlands of Victoria to Bass Strait – and I thought of the vastly different habitats that are found within the length of each river. Beginning in alpine bogs that drain into small streams that feed creeks that become small tributaries, the rivers here are clear, cold and oxygen-rich and home to Galaxias, River Blackfish, Smelt, Southern Grayling and freshwater crayfish. When the rivers leave the high country, they begin to meander and as their flow slows, the sediment they have carved from the mountains falls out of suspension, creating

rich soil across the floodplain. This would be prime habitat for Australian Bass and Estuary Perch with Pygmy Perch in the anabranches and oxbow lakes. I imagined that Flathead Gudgeon and Dwarf Flathead Gudgeon would be found too. I also wondered if we might find Empire Gudgeon in Far East Gippsland as their range extends that far south.

Bairnsdale is the gateway to Far East Gippsland as the countryside changes markedly from that point on. After crossing the Nicholson River east of Bairnsdale and then the Tambo River at Bruthen, the road climbs up into undulating dry sclerophyll forested hills that go all the way to the edge of the Snowy River floodplain at Newmerella, just before Orbost. From Orbost, we headed south to Marlo at the mouth of the Snowy River then east to Cape Conran.

We finally arrived at Jungle Beach Caravan Park just after 11am meeting Brad Blake, a work colleague of Kwai's, in time to set up camp and enjoy a leisurely lunch. John Deckavalis and his girlfriend Emma had arrived the day before as had Rodney Wubbin. No daytime surveying was undertaken on Saturday but we planned to go out that night to spotlight for frogs and Yellow-bellied Gliders. The caravan park owner informed us that there had been terrible weather for

months with lots of rain. We had noted many dead Red-bellied Black snakes along the Coast Road and as evening commenced we realised why. There were thousands of frogs calling from swamps, dams and water-filled ditches and this was what was attracting the unusually large number of snakes.

Kwai had been to this area before and found Leaf Green Tree Frogs *Litoria nudidigita*, Blue Mountains Tree Frogs *Litoria citropa* and Green and Golden Bell Frogs *Litoria aurea*, so we were keen to get out spotlighting to see what we could find.

After dinner on Saturday night we drove out to Cabbage Tree Creek Conservation Reserve with head torches and recording gear to see if we could find any frogs. On the way, we passed a dam that was ringing with the calls of the Emerald Tree Frog *Litoria peronii* interspersed with occasional calling from Green and Golden Bell frogs. I made a short recording of this chorus before we proceeded to Cabbage Tree Creek. On the way we stopped to photograph a Victorian Smooth Froglet *Geocrinia victoriana*, hopping across the road.

When we arrived at the road bridge that crosses Cabbage Tree Creek before the walking trail car park, we stopped and listened. Kwai has a keen ear for identifying frog calls (he identified all the species we found long before we saw them) and he identified the frog chorus here as Leaf Green Tree Frogs. Their chorus was beautiful and in two parts: a long high pitched introductory note or notes followed by a harsh lower pitched



*Limnodynastes peronii* the Striped Marsh Frog.  
Photo: Greg Martin

note or series of notes – “eeeeeeek cruk cruk ..... eeeeeeeek eeeeeek cruk”. The sound was truly wonderful. Then we spotted the first one – a dazzling, bright emerald-green frog sitting on the mud bank... then another and another! As our eyes adjusted to what we were looking for, we could see Leaf Green Tree frogs everywhere – calling from leaves and from the ground. We took some close-up photographs of one spectacular individual then, as the mosquitoes were plentiful and extraordinarily persistent, we headed back towards camp.

On the road out from Cabbage Tree Creek, Brad and I stopped at the dam again to investigate it further.



*Litoria nudidigita* the Leaf Green Tree Frog, sitting on a Bracken Fern leaf. Photo: Greg Martin



*Litoria aurea*, the Green and Golden Bell Frog seen crossing the road. Photo: Greg Martin

With head torches on we walked carefully (it was a warm night and there were lots of snakes out and about) to the water's edge. Scanning around the dam's perimeter we saw dozens of pairs of eyes reflecting back

at us. The greater part of the frog chorus here was made up of the maniacal cackling of *Litoria peronii* calling, but we also found *Litoria aurea* almost straight away. These large green frogs are hard to miss at any



*Litoria peronii* in amplexus by the water's edge. Photo: Greg Martin



The suspended bridge that crosses Mackenzie Creek on the rainforest walk off the Princes Highway between Orbost and Cann River. We heard *Litoria nudidigita* and *L. citropa* calling here. Photo: Greg Martin

time due to their size but here, sitting on the bank, on logs and on reeds along the edge they stood out like the proverbial! As it was night, they were very easy to approach so we could take close-up photos. It was very exciting for me to finally see Green and Golden Bell Frogs in the wild as I have very strong childhood memories of Growling Grass Frogs (we used to call *them* Green and Golden Bell Frogs) living in the dam on our property and the two species look similar at a glance. On the way home, we photographed more *Litoria aurea* and Striped Marsh Frogs *Limnodynastes peronii* crossing the road looking for a mate.

On Sunday, we decided to visit the rainforest boardwalk located at the confluence of Mackenzie Creek and the Bemm River. We wanted to check the area for the calls of Blue Mountains Tree Frogs (a species that Kwai had found there in the past) before heading to a place further downstream on the Bemm River where we would have lunch and look for fishes. On the road not far from our camp, Brad spotted a large Red-Bellied Black Snake so we stopped to move it off the road to safety. Being already warm from the mild night it was fast and Brad had a job wrangling it. I took some photos before he let it go and I was reminded of how pretty these snakes are: glossy black on top with black eyes, with the ventral scales cream coloured going to vivid red at the edges. A beautiful snake indeed!

The rainforest walk was wonderful. We heard many *Litoria nudidigita* calling and, buried amongst these beautiful calls we heard another frog – the introductory



Red-bellied black snake *Pseudechis porphyriacus*. Photo: Greg Martin





A male Gippsland Water Dragon surveys the scene. *Photos: Greg Martin*

notes of the Blue Mountains Tree Frog *Litoria citropa* warming up. Mackenzie Creek – shallow, sandy and crystal clear – had large beds of *Vallisneria* sp. which looked worthy of further investigation. As there were freshwater crayfish chimneys along the banks as well, so we decided to return that night to do some spotlighting and to see what we could find in the creek.

Our lunch stop was an area of rocky rapids, just upstream from the Coast Road bridge, where the Bemm River falls a couple of meters from freshwater to brackish. After eating we headed down to the water with dip nets and box traps. The first animal we spotted was a large mature male Gippsland Water Dragon sitting on a rock in the middle of the river surveying the surrounding area for rivals or females.



Splendid male Gippsland Water Dragon *Physignathus lesueurii howittii*. *Photo: Greg Martin*



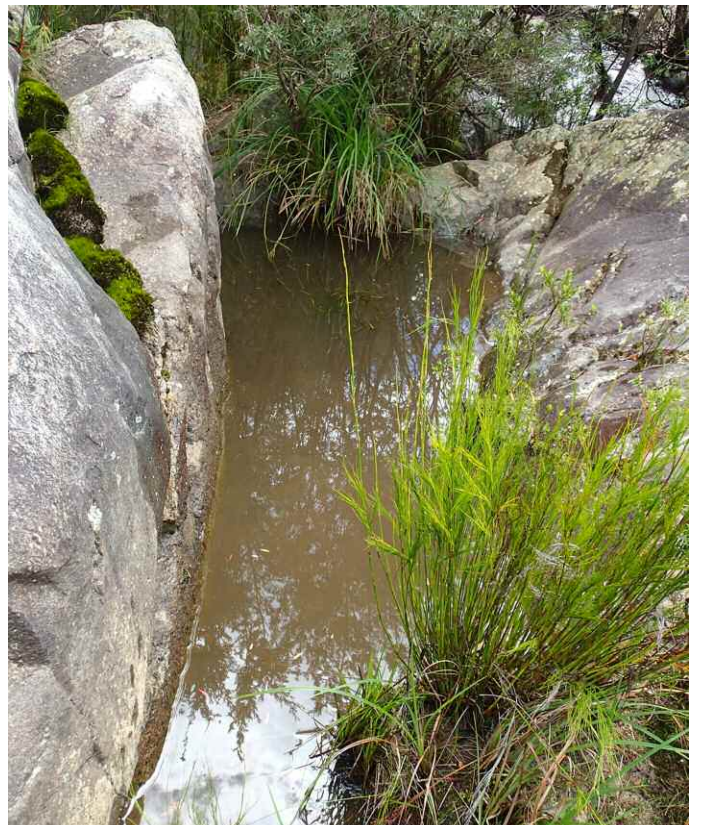
*Litoria leseueri* Leseuer's Frog. Photo: Greg Martin

While I photographed the magnificent dragon, Kwai began to explore the river rapids. In a shallow pool adjacent to where we had seen the lizard, he found numerous juvenile Galaxias and a very dark brown frog sitting by a large egg mass. After careful examination (and some speculation), we identified it as a very dark Lesueur's Tree Frog *Litoria leseuerii*. The Galaxias were too small to identify but had very well developed pectoral fins so could have been juvenile *Galaxias brevipinnis*. We also caught lots of Glass shrimp *Parataya* sp. In the box traps that were set a little lower in the brackish part of the river, we caught Flathead Gudgeon *Philypnodon grandiceps*.

On and around the rocks that we were sitting on by the river, there were large Southern Water Skinks (these ones with a distinctive yellow belly) which we photographed for later identification. Whilst chasing a



View showing the thigh markings of this Lesueur's Frog. Photo: Greg Martin



This rockpool in the river was home to the breeding Lesueur's Frog and juvenile Galaxias. Photo: Greg Martin



A large water spider, probably *Megadolomedes australianus*, that Kwai flushed out of hiding. *Photo: Greg Martin*

frog that disappeared into a small hole just below the waterline, into which he plunged his hand, Kwai felt something furry. Suddenly he leaped back shuddering and shaking his hand wildly, then he rushed over to the water and washed his hands yelling “I never want to do that again!” From the hole emerged a large water spider with a leg span of about 100mm. It was a spectacular animal which seemed quite unperturbed by the whole experience – unlike Kwai who looked visibly shaken!



The river bed of the Bemm here consists of large, lichen-covered boulders, Tea Tree saplings, sedges and mosses. Note the hole made by swirling pebbles in times of high water flow.

*Photo: Greg Martin*



Above and below: Southern Water Skink *Eulamprus tympanum*.  
*Photo: Greg Martin*



Underside of the Water Skink's head. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Flathead Gudgeon *Philypnodon grandiceps*, the only fish we caught in the box traps. Photo: Greg Martin

When we had photographed the Galaxias, Gudgeon and Glass Shrimp in our field tank we drove through the Bemm River township to a swamp on the western side of town as Kwai wanted to find *Litoria aurea* in the daytime and I was keen to make a recording where they featured as the main chorus. We stopped first at a shal-

low roadside swamp adjacent to an under-road culvert. I jumped in and dip-netted to see if there were any fish but found instead several very black coloured Richard's



A juvenile Galaxias. Photo: Greg Martin



Glass Shrimp *Parataya australiensis*. Photo: Greg Martin



Kwai demonstrates his Green and Golden Bell Frog call – with good results! After falling silent on our arrival it took very little time for them to start up again. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Once Kwai had them croaking, he was able to locate individual Green and Golden Bell frogs amongst the Tea Tree. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Rushes and triglochin were the dominant species in this roadside Tea Tree swamp, habitat of *Litoria aurea*. Photo: Greg Martin



Burrowing Crayfish *Engaeus laevis*. A little further down the road we stopped again, this time at a Tea Tree-lined swamp ringing with the chorus of Green and Golden Bell Frogs. When we got out of the vehicles the frog chorus stopped, so Kwai began mimicking their call which quite quickly got a response from several males just a meter or less from where we stood. Within a short time Kwai had found one for us all to see and to photograph. I noted that the daytime colouration was a much more subdued olive colour contrasting with the night time vivid and bright green colouration.



Middle and above: Male *Litoria aurea*, a close relative of the Growling Grass Frog, *Litoria raniformis*. Photos: Greg Martin



We found four Eastern Long-necked Turtles crossing the road within a very short distance. All were removed to safety. *Photo: Greg Martin*

By sitting very patiently in my waders amongst the sedges I waited until they started calling again so I could make a close-up recording and take some in-situ photos. That done, we all headed back to camp.

Just before dinner, as the warm sun cast long shadows, Kwai, Brad and I decided to have a look at an unnamed swamp a couple of kms back down the road towards Marlo. Whilst driving down the main (Marlo-Conran) road, we found several Eastern Long-necked turtles digging test holes for their eggs on the very soft sand edges beside the tarmac. These turtles were splendid animals with jet black, algae-free shells, perfect skin and long toenails. We photographed them before removing them to a safer location closer to the swamp. Standing at the water's edge I told Kwai to be careful of snakes and he replied "like this one?" pointing at a large Red-bellied Black Snake that had been sunning itself right next to where I was standing and which was now disappearing into a tussock of grass.

This swamp was tannin-stained, and deep, with large reed beds along the margins. Tea Trees lined the intermediate zone and gave way to Eucalypts further



This Eastern Long-necked Turtle was digging a test hole in the soft sand right next to the bitumen. *Photo: Greg Martin*

up the bank. There was a chorus of Striped Marsh Frogs and when we dip-netted the water looking for fishes we found large black tadpoles with a very tall tail. On our return to camp we found yet more turtles digging along the dangerous roadside margin. Once again we moved them away from the road.



We caught several of these 50mm long jet black tadpoles with very tall tails in the swamp shown to right. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Beautiful swamp behind the dunes on the Marlo-Conran Road. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Blue Mountains Tree Frog *Litoria citropa* found along Mackenzies Creek near the confluence with Bemm River. Photo: Greg Martin

On Sunday night after dinner Kwai, Brad and I once again headed out spotlighting. We drove back to the rainforest walk at the confluence of Mackenzie Creek and Bemm River looking for *Litoria citropa*, the Blue Mountains Tree Frog. There were lots of *Litoria nudidigita* calling as well as our target species. I placed my digital sound recorder on the suspension bridge on the path in so I could record this wonderful chorus and, while Kwai and Brad looked for frogs, I dip-netted the creek for anything I could find. Up until now we had had warm and humid weather but the wind had been picking up during the afternoon and rain was forecast for that night. The dramatic weather and the beautiful surroundings made the experience of working our way along this beautiful creek quite enchanting, and before long it began to gently drizzle. We were not perturbed as we were in our wet weather gear, and the frogs, loving this rain, just got louder.

Interestingly I found nothing in the creek at all but it didn't take long for the first Blue Mountains Tree Frog to be found. I have this beautiful species in captivity at home but to see it in the wild was thrilling indeed! These frogs are larger than the Leaf Green Tree Frogs and are predominantly fawn coloured with brown spots on the back. There is a lime green patch under the eye and at the top of the forearm, and a salmon pink blush along the sides. We photographed a few individuals in-situ, then as the wind was getting stronger and the rain heavier, we decided to call it a day. I retrieved my recorder on the walk out and we drove back to camp, seeing more *Litoria aurea* on the road on the way home.

Having seen a lot of frogs over the weekend and not many fishes we decided that on Monday morning we would have a more fish-focussed day so we drove to Orbost to explore an anabranch of the Snowy River on



Above and left: *Litoria citropa*. Photos: Greg Martin





An anabranch of the Snowy River, next to the Princes Highway in Orbost, East Gippsland. *Photo: Greg Martin*

the outskirts of town. Here we had the chance of finding Empire Gudgeon or, if not them at least lots of other species including the eastern form of *Nanoperca australis*, the Southern Pygmy Perch.

We found a nice spot along the water, dropped in two box traps, set up the field tank and then began to dipnet along the bank. We found Flathead Gudgeon *Philypnodon grandiceps* and Dwarf Flathead Gudgeon



*Nanoperca australis*, the Southern Pygmy Perch.  
*Photo: Greg Martin*



Dwarf Flathead Gudgeon *Philypnodon macrostomus*.  
*Photo: Greg Martin*



Flathead Gudgeon *Philypnodon grandiceps*. *Photo: Greg Martin*



A good sized Common Jollytail *Galaxias maculatus* from a drying pool beside the Snowy River in Orbost. *Photo: Greg Martin*

*Philypnodon macrostomus*, (with their distinctive yellow in the dorsal fin), large Diving Beetles (some with eggs on their back), Glass Shrimp, aquatic snails and some small freshwater clams.

While we were doing this Kwai was exploring an area further over towards the main Snowy River and



A juvenile eel. *Photo: Greg Martin*

came back with Southern Pygmy Perch to photograph. I returned with him to see what else we could find. He had been netting in a very muddy “large puddle” of water that had been inundated during recent rains and was now cut off again from the main river as its water level dropped. We dip-netted the pool again and this time found a couple of *Galaxias maculatus* (one large), more Southern Pygmy Perch, a few *Gambusia holbrooki* and a brown Goldfish.

After lunching in Orbost township, we drove inland to a waterfall on Young Creek. The road in took us past logging coupes which were a grim reminder of the reality of the plight of these great forests of East Gippsland – logging. Brad, who has an active interest in the large Gliders that inhabit this area explained to me the importance of an unbroken “green wedge”: Sugar, Yellow-bellied and Greater Gliders spend their whole life up in the eucalypts travelling from sleeping trees to



Giant Water Bug, Genus *Diplonychus*. *Photo: Greg Martin*

feeding trees and so on. If they must come down to the ground to get to the next area of bushland because there have been tracts of forest clear-felled, they become vulnerable to predation from cats. Disaster.



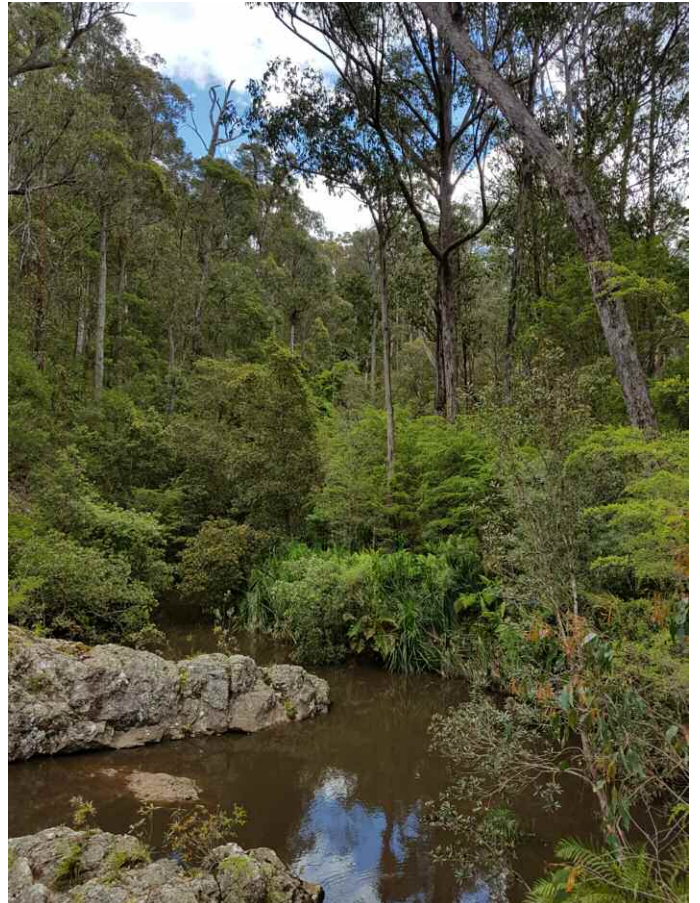
Male Giant Water Bug with eggs on his his back. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Youngs Creek Falls, viewed from above the falls.  
*Photo: Greg Martin*

Youngs Creek Falls is a beautiful spot. The creek runs through a rainforest gully under a canopy of Lilly Pilly trees and *Pittosporum undulatum* with ferns along the water's edge. We found Tangle-root Orchids *Plectorrhiza tridentata* growing plentifully on the bark of trees and on rocks as well. We met some people walking back from the falls who said that there were Butterfly Orchids as well growing near the car park but, despite looking carefully for some time, we couldn't locate them. We heard and recorded Leaf Green Tree Frogs calling here during the day but I couldn't resist exploring the creek so I donned my waders and had a look.

I found *Litoria nudidigita* tadpoles in the creek (and some adults under rocks on the bank) and several Broadfin Galaxias *Galaxias brevipinnis*. Interestingly, I also found several small freshwater crayfish with a



Looking upstream from the falls. We heard *Litoria nudidigita* calling above the waterfall. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Above: Tangle-root Orchid *Plectorrhiza tridentata*, growing on a lichen encrusted branch at the falls. We also saw them growing on rocks. Left: Kwai photographs Tangle-root Orchids.  
*Photos Greg Martin*



John Dekavalis samples Youngs Creek just below the road bridge.  
*Photo: Greg Martin*

light blue hue which Tarmo Raadik later confirmed as a different colour morph of Richard's Burrowing Crayfish *Engaeus laevis*.

On the way back to camp we visited Cabbage Tree Creek again, this time in the daylight, to have another



Our Monday group. From left to right: Kwai, Archer, Janelle, Coen, Rodney, John and Emma. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Kwai catches juvenile Galaxias in this shallow wheel rut.  
*Photo: Greg Martin*

look at some juvenile Galaxias that we had seen in some rain-filled wheel ruts a couple of nights earlier, but the mozzies were ferocious and we left in a hurry soon after our arrival. Just before getting home to Jungle Beach Caravan Park we turned off the road to see the beach at Salmon Rocks. It is unusual to spend a couple of days so close to the sea but to not to visit it until the last day. If I had known just how beautiful the beach is there I may never have done anything else for the four days!



Blue colour morph of Richard's Burrowing Crayfish *Engaeus laevis*, which we found in Youngs Creek. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Salmon Rocks, on the coast of Cape Conran not far from Jungle Beach Caravan Park. *Photo: Greg Martin*

So, over the weekend we saw or heard 11 species of frogs: *Litoria aurea*, *L. nudidigita*, *L. citropa*, *L. peronii*, *L. ewengii*, *L. lesueuri*, *Limnodynastes dumerilii*, *Limnodynastes peronii*, *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*, *Geocrinia victoriana* and *Crinia signifera*. We saw 2 species of larger lizard: Gippsland Water Dragon *Physignathus lesueurii howittii* and the Southern Water Skink *Eulamprus tympanum* and 1 species of snake: Red-Bellied Black Snake *Pseudechis porphyriacus* with many individuals of this species seen both dead and alive.

Our fish tally was: *Galaxias maculatus*, *G. brevipinnis*, *Nanoperca australis*, *Philypnodon grandiceps*, *P. macrostomus*, *Gambusia holbrooki*, some juvenile eels and *Carassius auratus*. We also found 2 colour forms of Richard's Burrowing Crayfish *Engaeus leavis*.

Whilst the fish species list was light-on, the frog species list was extensive, making the trip to Cape Conran over the Melbourne Cup Weekend doubly enjoyable for me. Thank you to all those that joined us for the October/November ANGFA VIC field trip to this special part of Victoria; you were all great company.

Greg Martin



Kwai beside the open fire that we had on the last night to celebrate the end of a great weekend. *Photo: Greg Martin*

# Running River Rainbowfish will be available at the December 2016 meeting



Male Running River Rainbowfish. *Photo: Steve Hume*

Readers of *Fishes of Sahul* will have been following with interest Peter Unmack's detailed articles on the plight of the Running River Rainbowfish in its natural habitat, and the efforts being made to save this beautiful native fish.

At the December ANGFA Vic meeting we will have available on the trading table bags of juvenile Running



Running River downstream of Running River Gorge.  
*Photo: Keith Martin*



Running River Rainbowfish. *Photo: Keith Martin*

River Rainbowfish (F1 from wild genetically tested fish.). At only \$20 a bag, this is a small price to pay for such an endangered and rarely offered species. The proceeds of the Running River fish sold at the meeting will go towards Peter's crowd funding efforts, for even if he fulfills the goals of the Running River project, he has a new project to contend with – saving the Malanda Rainbowfish! (More details to follow in future editions of *Fishes of Sahul*!)

## Club Meeting Details

### General Meetings:

ANGFA Victoria's meetings are held on the first Friday of every second month starting the year in Feb, at The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria which is situated at 1 Gardenia Street Blackburn. (Melways map 47 K11). Doors open at 7:30pm. Meetings start at 8.15pm sharp and aim to be finished by 10pm, followed by supper.

**Next Meeting Date: Friday 2nd December 2016**

### ANGFA Vic Committee Meetings:

Venues: to be announced. Contact Kwai Chang Kum if you would like to be further involved (0430 434 488).

### Trading Table

Any financial ANGFA member who has fish, plants or live food that they would like to sell is invited to bring their goods to the trade table. All items being presented for sale must be clearly marked: fish showing species name and location if applicable and plants identified by species. Goods will be accepted prior to 7.45pm and the Trading Table will operate between 7.45 and 8.15pm.

## ANGFA Vic key contacts



**President:** Kwai Chang Kum  
Phone: 0430 434 488



**Treasurer:** John Lenagan  
Phone: 0413 730 414



**Secretary:** Glenn Briggs  
Phone: 0408 771 544



**Vice President and Membership Officer:** Gary Moores  
email: kathmoores@yahoo.com.au



**VICNews:** Greg Martin  
Phone: 0407 094 313  
email: greg@aquariumsbydesign.com.au



**ANGFA Vic Website:** Lyndon Giles  
email: webmaster@angfavic.org

## Other Fish Groups in VIC

### EDAS

Meets last Friday of the month starting Jan.  
Contact: Daryl Maddock (03) 9874 1850

### EDAS Plant Study Group

Meets Second Friday of the month (at various members' homes).  
Contact: Eddie Tootell (03) 9337 6435 (a.h.)

### Aquarium Society of Victoria (AS of V)

Meets last Friday of the month, alternating with EDAS.  
Contact: Daryl Maddock (03) 9874 1850

### Marine Aquarium Society of Victoria

Contact: MASOV (03) 9830 6073.

### Victorian Cichlid Society

Meets first Wednesday of the month.  
Contact: Graham Rowe (03) 9560 7472.

### Contribute to ANGFA Vic on Facebook

**ANGFA Vic Website:** [www.angfavic.org](http://www.angfavic.org)  
**ANGFA National Website:** [www.angfa.org.au](http://www.angfa.org.au)  
**Postal mail:** ANGFA Victoria  
P.O. Box 298 Chirnside Park, Victoria. 3116.

**Join ANGFA now!!!  
New expanded membership package now applies**

To join ANGFA or to renew your membership online, follow these 4 easy steps:

1. Go to [www.angfavic.org](http://www.angfavic.org)
2. Click on membership
3. Select membership renewal tab for ANGFA then ...
4. Click the Paypal icon to pay with Paypal.

To pay with your Debit Card or your Credit Card talk to the Treasurer John Lenagan at a meeting.

If you want to use snail mail and pay by cheque, print out the form below, fill out your details and send it to: ANGFA Victoria, P.O.Box 298, Chirnside Park. Vic. 3116

**Businesses who support ANGFA Victoria**

The businesses listed below actively promote Australian Native Fishes by making native fishes available in the aquarium trade. ANGFA suggests that members show their appreciation by supporting these businesses.

**Amazing Amazon**

Paul and Ben  
365 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley  
Phone: (03) 9545 0000  
[www.amazingamazon.com.au](http://www.amazingamazon.com.au)

**Aquagreen**

Dave Wilson  
Phone: (08) 8983 1483  
[aqua.green@bigpond.com](mailto:aqua.green@bigpond.com)

**Aquariums By Design**

Greg Martin  
Phone: 0407 094 313  
[greg@aquariumsbydesign.com.au](mailto:greg@aquariumsbydesign.com.au)

**Coburg Aquarium**

Greg Kirby  
Phone: (03) 9354 5843  
232-236 Bell Street, Coburg  
[www.coburgaquarium.com.au](http://www.coburgaquarium.com.au)

**Paky Pets**

Keith  
Phone: (03) 5940 1091  
Shop 2/114 Princes Highway, Pakenham

**Subscape Aquarium**

Justin and Kim  
Phone: (03) 9427 0050  
310/312 Victoria Street, Richmond

**Upmarket Aquarium**

Greg Kirby  
Phone: (03) 9600 9051  
442 Queen Street, Melbourne

**Victorian Reptile Supplies**

Adam  
Phone: (03) 8742 1283  
6/75-85 Elm Park Drive, Hoppers Crossing

Join ANGFA now and enjoy benefits including regular meetings, digital versions of two regional club magazines and buyer discounts.

*To the Treasurer, ANGFA Victoria, Please accept my application for membership to ANGFA.*

(Please print)

NAME.....  
.....

ADDRESS .....

.....  
.....

Postcode.....

Phone Bus .....

A/H:.....

1. I enclose \$45 for my ANGFA Membership which includes digital copies of Fishes of Sahul (FOS), VICNews and the ANGFA NSW magazine.
2. I enclose \$65 (in total) to get a printed copy (at the end of the year) of the four editions of FOS for this subscription year, as well as the above items.

Forward application and cheque to: ANGFA Victoria, P.O.Box 298, Chirnside Park. Vic. 3116.