



“In search of the river’s most pervasive pollutant”.
**Anthony Despotellis is guest presenter
at our next club meeting on 4th November 2022**



Yarra riverkeeper Anthony Despotellis checking his traps for polystyrene pollution.
Photo: Jason South

Anthony is a passionate and dedicated Litter Officer, and is responsible for reducing the amount of litter in the Yarra catchment. This work is essential in maintaining the integrity of the water quality within the Yarra, and therefore the overall health of the catchment’s ecosystem including the humans and wildlife that inhabit it.

A self-described curious explorer, Anthony regularly patrols the Yarra alongside the Riverkeeper, monitoring litter hot spots and the iconic Bandalong Litter Traps, removing Microplastics from his own innovative removal design. Through his work, Anthony regularly collaborates with two partner organisations, Clean Water Group and Port Phillip EcoCentre. He is Co-Manager of a citizen science platform and environmental database, the Yarra Atlas, reporting on environmental disturbances such as litter clusters and pollution spills. He utilises his learnt knowledge and experiences to voice out towards local members of parliament to act in the best interest of the environment.



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President's Report June 2022



Welcome to VICNews 126! At our club meeting of 1st July Gerard Carmody gave a fantastic presentation on the history of keeping fishes in aquaria, using antiquarian books from his own collection to tell the story. I had no idea that it is such an old hobby and with so many twists and turns!

Our September club meeting was in the form of an evening 'dry feet' field trip to Sealife Melbourne Aquarium (see article starting on page 8). Curator Sam Fawke gave us an excellent tour of front-of-house displays and also behind the scenes (wow!), patiently answering all of our questions. For anyone who hasn't been to the aquarium recently, I recommend it! Their displays are wonderful, both marine and freshwater, and there are new things happening all the time. Sam was excited to show us their new freshwater small-bodied native fishes conservation 'nursery', where they will be working on Victorian Purple-spotted Gudgeon, Olive Perchlet and Murray River Rainbowfish, as well as other species in time.

Our National ANGFA Convention, held in Brisbane on the 15th

and 16th October, was a fantastic success! The speakers were excellent and it was a wonderful opportunity for fellow 'fishos' to catch up. We got to see a Lungfish in the wild and to 'puddle pirate' in the rivers around Brisbane and a little further north. The next confection will be held in Townsville or Cairns in 2024.

In most recent news Chris Lamin (ANGFA/Middle Creek Farm), myself (ANGFA) and Tim Curmi (NFA/ANGFA) attended the annual Tri-State Alliance Forum held this year in Goolwa, South Australia.

To refresh your memory, the Tri-State Alliance was formed around 2017-2018 to facilitate:

- a structured approach to applying for and utilising grant money put up by the Murray Darling Basin Authority.
- easier navigation of the red tape that surrounds the transport/relocation of fishes between the states of SA, VIC and NSW in regards to fishes conservation efforts.
- a culture between the member states of communication/cooperation and inspiration.
- identification of key species at risk and the subsequent conservation efforts of key small-bodied native fishes, for example: **the Magnificent 6** which comprises Vic Purple-spotted Gudgeon, Murray Hardyhead, Olive Perchlet, Flathead Galaxias, Southern Pygmy Perch and Yarra Pygmy Perch.
- sharing of conservation wins and key knowledge gained.

Many important people attended representing a variety of key bodies including Aquasave Glenelg Nature Trust, Delwp, LandscapeSA, Environment NSW, ZoosSA, Middle Creek Farm, ANGFA, OZfish, NFA, ARI, NCCMA, MGCMA and others.

Long story short, there have been some excellent conservation wins in with Southern Purple-spotted Gudgeon and Murray Basin Southern Pygmy Perch (Vic, NSW and SA) and Murray Hardyhead (NSW and SA). More funding is needed and as we tackle the next species on "**the Magnificent 6**" there will be broodstock collection efforts as well as a number of other volunteer tasks required - that's where ANGFA members can help, like we did with Southern Pygmy Perch and Vic Purple-spotted Gudgeon.

Enjoy this edition and see you at the next meeting on 4th November!



Peter Rose, from North Central Catchment Management Authority presenting at the recent Tri-State Alliance Forum, held in Goolwa, SA. There were a number of very inspiring presentations showcasing recent conservation efforts, from SA, NSW and Vic, for our small-bodied native Fishes. Photo: Greg Martin

Field Trip Files: Cannibal Creek, Bunyip North, 16th July 2022



Jackson Lamin and Tim Curmi heading down Cannibal Creek to dipnet amongst the *Phragmites*. The water was very cold but there were Southern Pygmy Perch, and they were in full breeding colour! Photo: Greg Martin



Above left and above: SPP from Dingo Creek. Photos: Greg Martin.



Chris Lamin dip netting Dingo Creek, a trip of Cannibal Creek. Photos: Greg Martin.



Top left: Henry Albert, who was using a finer mesh net, collects pea clams for ID'ing from Dingo Creek. Top right: Rod Wubben tresting the water parameters. Bottom left: Jackson Lamin dipnetting for shrimp and SPP. Bottom right: Dylan Hill in shorts despite it being the middle of winter! Photos: Greg Martin



Top left: Chris sorting SPP from Glass Shrimp. Top right: Swamp Lily *Ottelia ovalifolia*. Middle left: John Lenagan photographing the SPP. Middle right: The Land Cruiser tailgate makes a great field table. Above: A 74mm male SPP showing great breeding colouration. Photo: Greg Martin

Field Trip Files: Langwarrin Creek (Winter survey) 6th August 2022



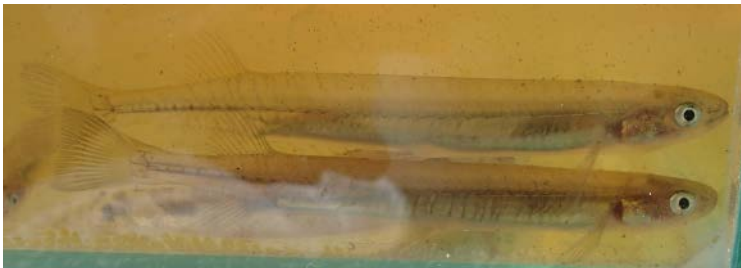
Left to right: Graeme Phipps (Moonlit Sanctuary), Henry Albert, Glenn Briggs, Tony McCarthy, Greg Martin, Damian DiLorio, Greg Wallis and Glenn Egan. Photo: Rod Wubben



Damian dip netting Langwarrin Creek with a foldable Heiko net. Photo: Greg Martin



Gybe Forster netting the creek between the main road and where the creek enters the Moonlit Sanctuary. Photo: Greg Martin



Top left: Congolli. Middle left: Firetail Gudgeon. lower middle left: Common Galaxias. Above: Glass Shrimp with nice red spots. Photos: Greg Martin

Top: Henry Albert and Greg Wallis photographing a Short-fin Eel. Middle: Henry and Greg photographing Galaxias, Congolli and Firetail Gudgeon in a less than ideal field tank (too large). Above: Langwarring Creek flowing through the Moonlit Sanctuary and Conservation Park. Photos: Greg Martin

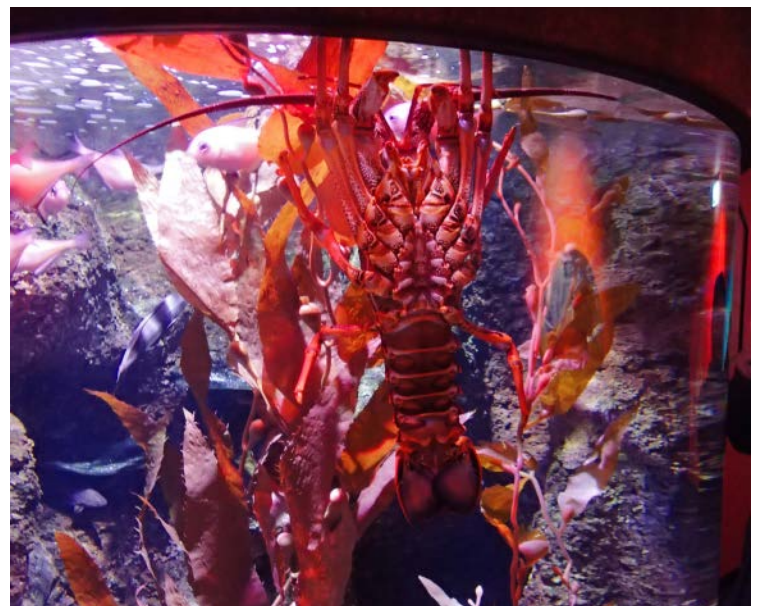
Field Trip Files: Sealife Melbourne Aquarium. 2nd September 2022



Left to right: Jan Kleyn, Paul Byham, Charlie Lear, Wendy Banger, Matt McGee, Sam Fawke (Sealife Melbourne Aquarium), Peter Gaucci (kneeling) Tim Curmi, Henry Albert, Damian DiLorio, Bill Buhagiar, Tony McCarthy (behind Ron Lewis), Daryl Maddock, Nevil Amos and Peter Richmond. Photo: Greg Martin



Sam Fawke discussing the fact that this Southern Rock Lobster likes to “show off” by hanging on the front like this (lower right). Photos: Greg Martin





Impressive 55,000lt Port Phillip Bay fishes display, featuring Southern Fiddler Rays, Skates, Gummy Sharks, schools of Zebra Fish, Sweep, Mullet and Australian Mado amongst others. Photo: Greg Martin



Bill Buhagiar taking it all in. Photo: Greg Martin



Daryl Maddock wondering how he can fit a Port Phillip Bay display into his living room. Photo: Greg Martin



The brown macro algae and sea grass all look incredibly authentic. Photo: Greg Martin.



A very large and impressive large-bodied tropical Australian fishes display, at the moment featuring an enormous Saratoga (below right) and a couple of Lungfish.
 Photo: Greg Martin



Henry Albert looking at one of the Australian Lungfish. Photo: Greg Martin



Sam Fawke explains that Seaside Melbourne Aquarium is going to move the Saratoga and get a bunch of less predatory fish to compliment the Lungfish display.
 Photo: Greg Martin



Peter Richmond, Wendy Banger and Charlie Lear checking out the Lungfish.
 Photo: Greg Martin



Sam Fawke explaining that the Tasmanian Giant Crab is a two-person wrangle (no one is allowed into the display on their own). Photo: Greg Martin



The Tasmanian Giant Crab is a real character and sometimes climbs out the aquarium to go on a wander! Photo: Greg Martin

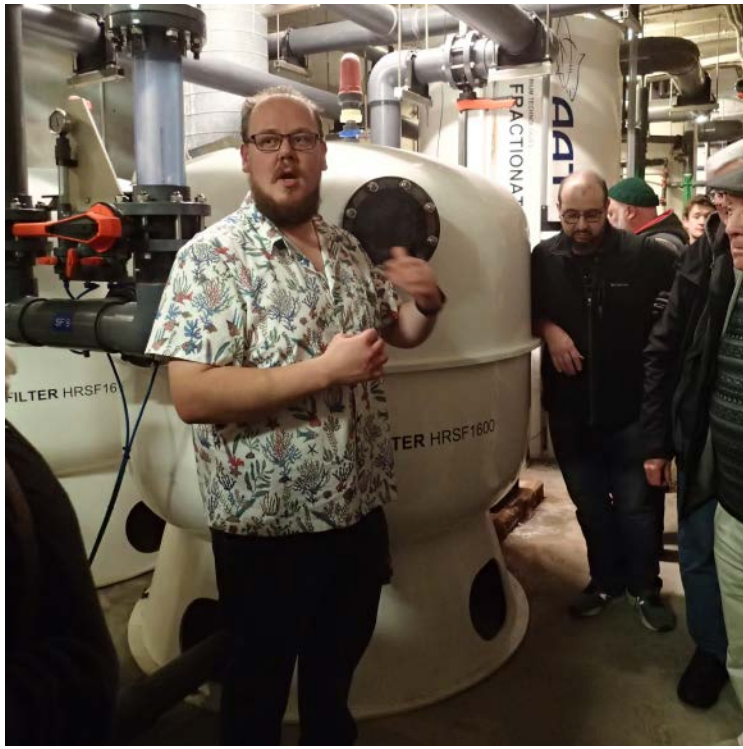


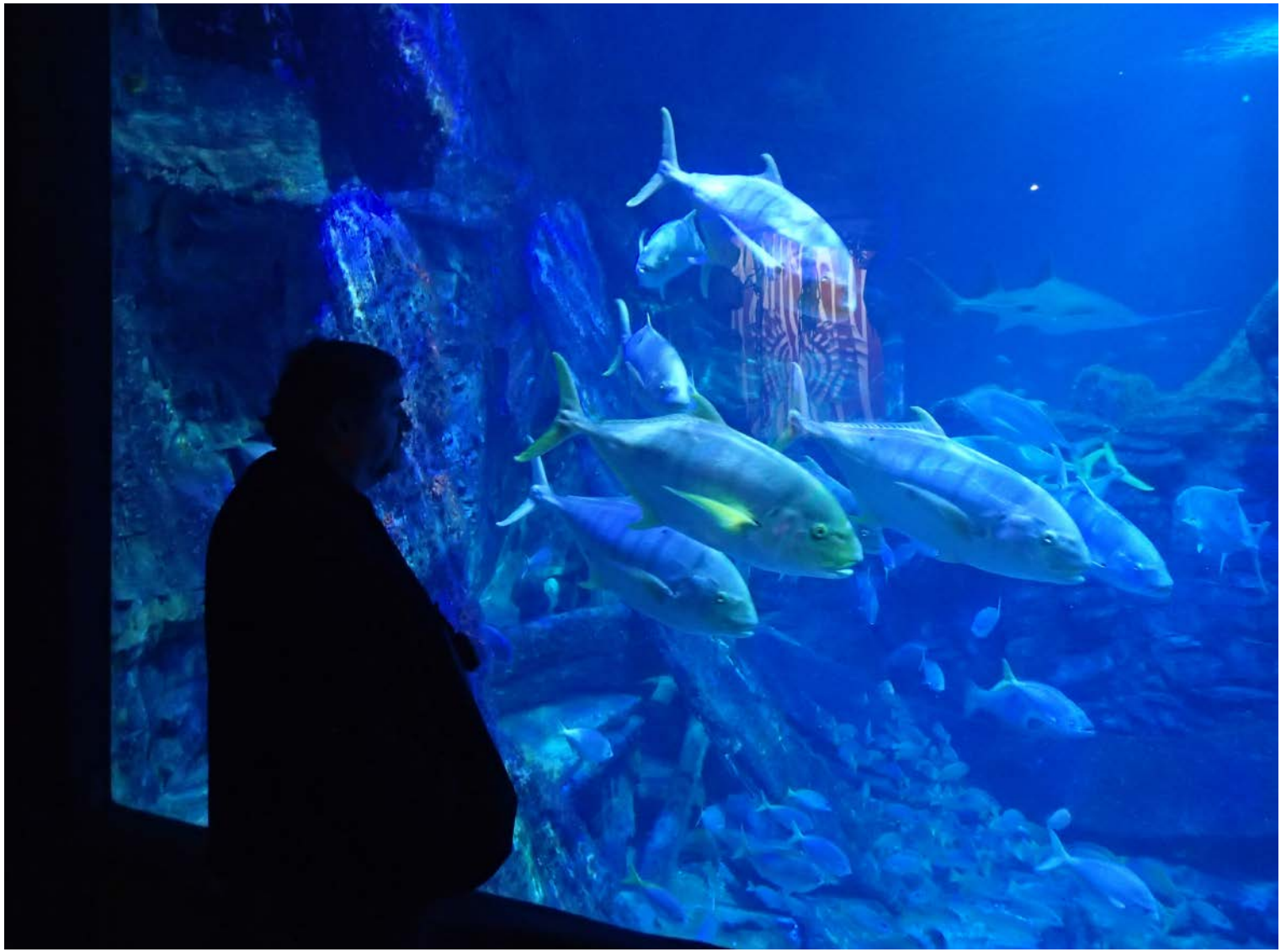


A school of juvenile Mullet in the Mangrove Nursery aquarium. Photo: Greg Martin.









Field Trip Files: Tri-State Alliance Forum, 24th-26th October 2022



Attendees of the Tri-State Alliance Forum being told the back story to the incredible Beyond Today Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) at Hayborough SA. Photo: Greg Martin



Project Manager Bruce Wright, of the Wright family developers, took a personal interest in seeing that this development became a unique and game-changing example in what a sustainable development can be. Photo: Greg Martin.



Sylvia Zukowski, of Aquasave, describing their part in helping design and populate the vast 64 hectares of wetlands (70% of the site) within Beyond Today. Photo: Greg Martin.



One of the top ponds, highest up in the chain of ponds, with crystal clear water and good growth of a Bocopa and very thick leaved Valisneria (see photo below). Note the water bird's nest in the middle of the Bocopa. Photo: Greg Martin



Healthy Southern Pygmy Perch from the upper ponds. Photo: Greg Martin.



Very thick and leathery leaved Valisneria from the upper ponds. Photo: Greg Martin.



One of the bottom ponds, closest to the ocean and quite salty, with a good population of the endangered Murray Hardyhead. Photo: Greg Martin



Scott Huntly from Aquasave and Cory Young, netting Murray Hardyhead to show us. Photo: Greg Martin.



Murray Hardyhead in full breeding colour. Photo: Greg Martin.



The Murray mouth from the Murray Mouth Lookout, Hindmarsh Island. Sugars Beach in the foreground. Photo: Greg Martin



Field trip to Mindmarsh Island to see Lawari Conservation Park and the fishway on Hunters Creek. (Above) looking upstream from the fishway. Photo: Greg Martin



The fishway on Hunters Creek. Photo: Greg Martin.



Connor Gervais describes work he is doing on this very special part of Hindmarsh Island. Photo: Greg Martin.



Looking down towards Lawari Conservation Park and the swamp of Hunters Creek. The Murray mouth is in the background. Photo: Greg Martin

Club meeting details and key contacts of ANGFA Vic

Office Bearers 2022

President: Greg Martin	0407 094 313
Treasurer: John Lenagan	0413 730 414
Secretary: Glenn Briggs	0408 771 544
Grant Applications and Permit Writer: Tim Curmi	0417 419 765
Field Trip Coordinators: Gybe Forster and Greg Martin	0430 118 169 0407 094 313
Field Trip Safety Officer: Rodney Wubben	0409 890 866
Membership Officer: Rodney Wubben	0409 890 866
General helper: Paul Byham	

ANGFA VIC CLUB MEETINGS
are held at the
Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
1 Gardenia Street Blackburn, Victoria

Doors open at 7.30pm

Remaining meeting dates for 2022:

Friday 4th November 2022

then in 2023:

Friday 3rd February 2023
Friday 7th April 2023
Friday 2nd June 2023
Friday 4th August 2023
Friday 6th October 2023
Friday 1st December 2023

Victorian ANGFA National LIFE MEMBERS

Past

Ron Bowman and Barry Crockford

Present

Neil Armstrong, Glenn Briggs, Ken Smales and Tony Tucceri

Other fish groups in Victoria

EDAS Plant Study Group Contact: Eddie Tootell (03) 9337 6435
Aquarium Society of Victoria Contact: Daryl Maddock (03) 9874 1850
Native Fish Australia Vic. Contact: Tim Curmi 0417 419 765