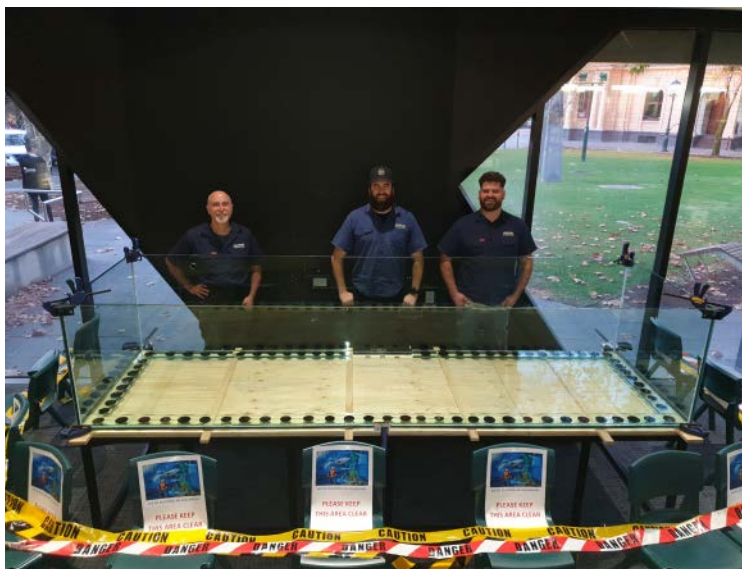


“Building the Bendigo Library Aquarium”
Greg Martin will give the mini presentation
at our next club meeting on 14th April 2023



The Bendigo Library Aquarium a couple of months after commissioning. Photo: Greg Martin



The Aquariums By Design team on the day we completed the aquarium shell construction. Photo: Greg Martin



Jason Sulda, of Australian Biotopes, works on the aquarium internal theming. Photo: Greg Martin

Contents

Our next club meeting presentations	1-2
President's report	3
Field Trip Files: Werribee River 4 th March 2023	4-10
Club meeting details and key contacts	11

President's Report April 2023



Welcome to VICNews 128! At our club meeting of 3rd February, Dr Dion Iervasi gave a fantastic presentation on the recent black-water fish rescues undertaken in northern Victoria. Dr Dion also touched on the thought-provoking idea of using irrigation channels as native fish population havens.

On Saturday 4th of March, ANGFA members visited Riverbend Historical Park in Werribee to look for fishes at the Southern Diversion weir. See pictorial article on page 4.

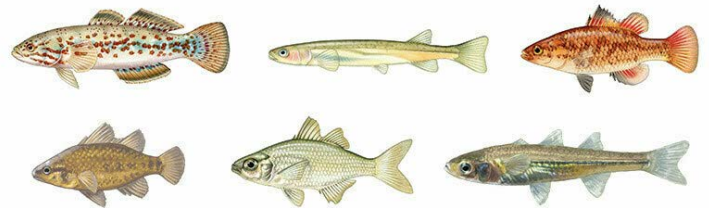
Our next field trip. **Over the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd April, there is an opportunity for ANGFA Vic members to be involved in some citizen science: undertaking eDNA sampling for Flathead Galaxias in the upper Goulburn River catchment.** The work is part of the Tri-State Alliance Mid Murray Floodplains Recovery Reach project. It follows on from this work - Searching for the Ghost Fish - [Finterest](#)

We are hoping to cover 25 sites over the weekend, and at every site 3 water samples will be taken. Possible format will be groups of 2-3 people and 6-8 sites per group per day. We are looking for 5 or 6 interested ANGFA Vic members. **Tri-State Alliance can cover meals and accommodation.** If you haven't been involved in any of the work we've been doing with Peter Rose and the NCCMA, then take this opportunity to get involved.

The Flathead Galaxias is number 3 on "The Magnificent six" (a list of threatened floodplain specialist fish species in the Murray Corridor) to be targeted for conservation efforts by Middle Creek Farm with oversight by Peter Rose of North Central Catchment Management Authority and the help of Native Fish Australia and ANGFA Vic. As you all know there has been great success with the Murray Darling Southern Pygmy Perch and Vic population Southern Purple-spotted Gudgeon. Who knows what is possible next!

Some ANGFA Vic membership renewals are still outstanding and I know that this is in part due to a glitch we have been experiencing with the ANGFA online payment page. If you have not been able to renew your membership online, see Rod Wubben at the next meeting and he will help sort it out.

Enjoy this edition and we'll see you at the next meeting on Friday 14th April for a relaxed evening of information, chat time and catching up with fellow fishos!



The elusive Flathead Galaxias *Galaxias rostratus*. The Flathead Galaxias is a freshwater fish found in lowland rivers, streams and associated billabongs, backwaters, and wetlands of the southern Murray-Darling river system in southeastern Australia. Photo: Neil Armstrong.

Field Trip Files: Werribee River

4th March 2023



The Werribee River below the Southern Water Diversion Weir. *Phragmites australis* along the sides of the river and *Triglochin* sp. in the main channel. Photo: Greg Martin



The Werribee River above the Southern Water Diversion Weir. Photo: Greg Martin



The Southern Water Diversion Weir wall. Photo: Greg Martin.

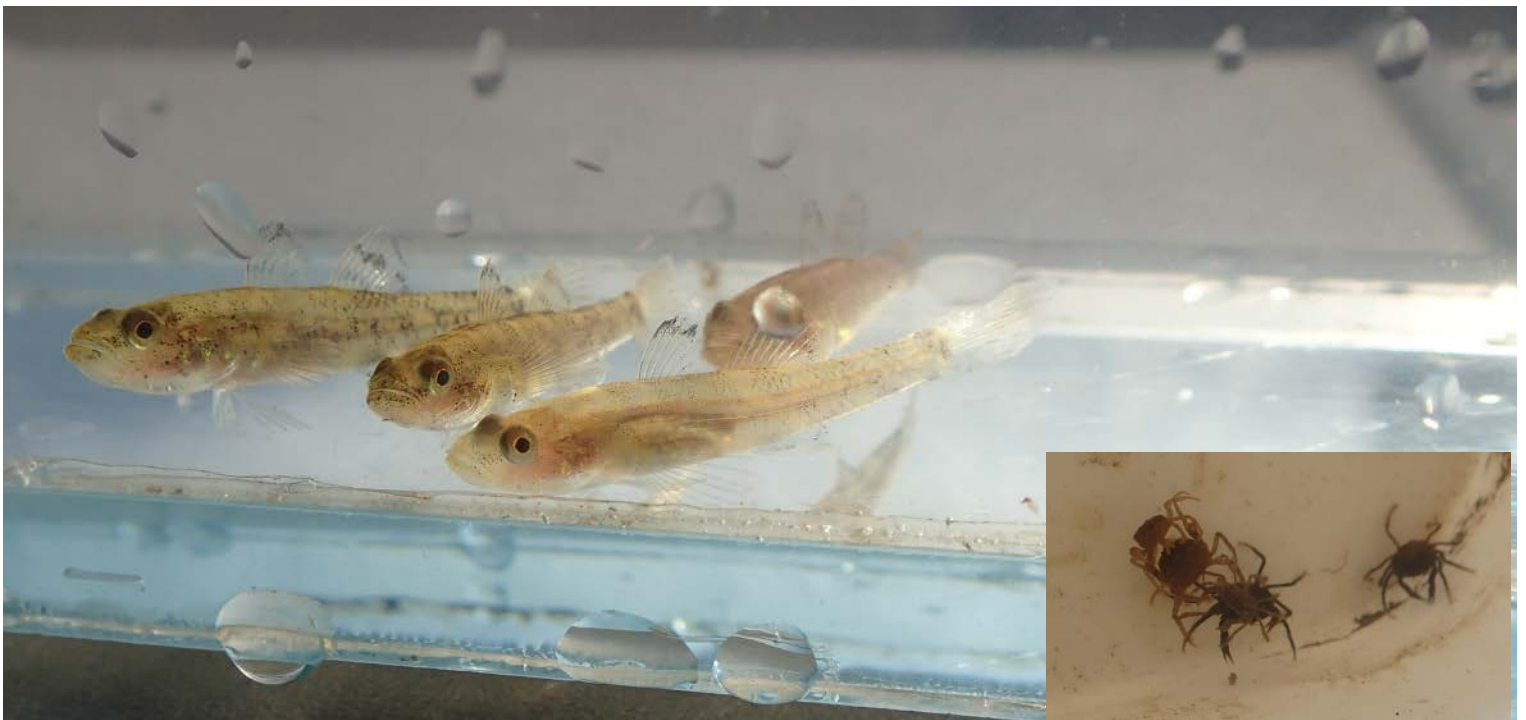


Phil and Ryan Littlejohn, Charlie Lear and Henry Albert sampling the Werribee River below the Southern Water Diversion Weir. We found lots of juvenile Flathead Gudgeon, schools of Common Galaxias, a few glass shrimp and plenty of Flatback freshwater crabs *Amarinus lacustris* under the rocks. Found also were pea clams and native snails.
Photos: Greg Martin





Freshwater crab *Amarinus lacustris*. Carapace width 8 mm. Photo: Greg Martin



Juvenile Flathead Gudgeon in the field tank. Inset: tiny freshwater crabs. Photos: Greg Martin

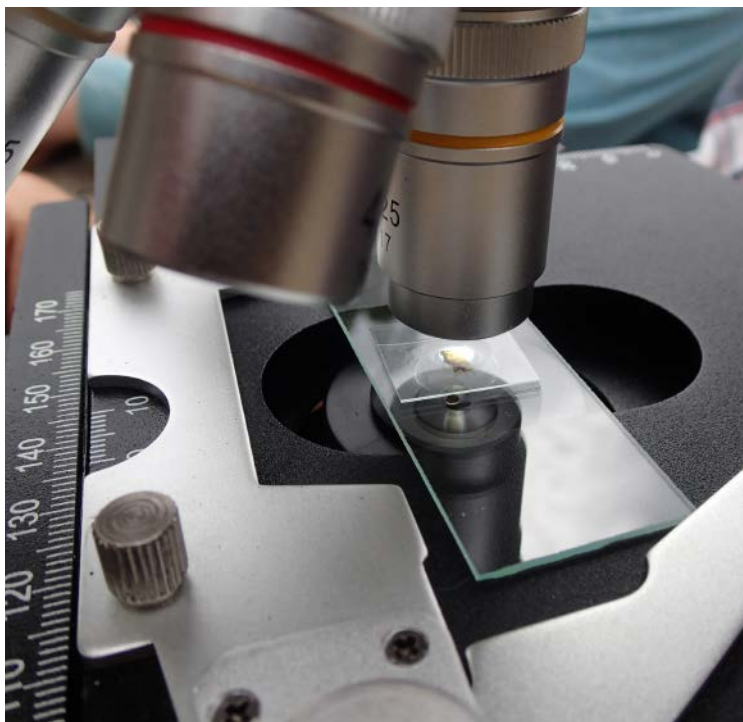


A Freshwater sponge on the underside of a rock from the river. Many of the rocks at this location had freshwater sponges as well as plenty of freshwater crabs.
Photos: Greg Martin





Phil Littlejohn looking at a sample of freshwater sponge under the microscope. Photo: Greg Martin



The hard 'crystalline' particles in the sponge made it difficult to get a slide cover to squash down. Photo: Greg Martin



Photo from the microscope eyepiece showing Spicules (skeletal structure with mineral deposits) in the body of the sponge. Photos: Greg Martin



Rod Wubbin with a water sample showing how alkaline the water is here. Photo: Greg Martin



Triglochin sp. growing below the weir. Note the slight oily film on the surface - we didn't know if it was from nearby agriculture? Photo: Greg Martin



Our second location was the Werribee River, just downstream from the Werribee Tennis Club in town. Photo: Greg Martin



In the sand along the edge of the river there were lots of freshwater mussel shells. Photo: Greg Martin



In the river the water was clear and there were beds of *Valsinaria* sp. Photo: Greg Martin

Club meeting details and key contacts of ANGFA Vic

Office Bearers 2023

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 Coordinator: Greg Martin	0407 094 313
Field Trip Safety Officer: Rodney Wubben	0409 890 866
Membership Officer: Rodney Wubben	0409 890 866
General helper: Paul Byham	

Victorian ANGFA National LIFE MEMBERS

Past

Ron Bowman and Barry Crockford

Present

Neil Armstrong, Glenn Briggs, Ken Smales and Tony Tucceri

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 2023:

Friday 3rd February 2023

Friday 14th April 2023 (a week later than normal)

Friday 2nd June 2023

Friday 4th August 2023

Friday 6th October 2023

Friday 1st December 2023

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