



Chris Lamin of Middle Creek Farm is our first June mini presenter with “Breeding Dwarf Galaxias”



Male Dwarf Galaxias *Galaxiella pusilla*. Photo: Gunther Schmida



Female Dwarf Galaxias *Galaxiella pusilla*. Photo: Gunther Schmida

Our club meeting of 2nd June will have two mini presentations: the first by Chris Lamin on Breeding Dwarf Galaxias and feeding fry with live foods. There will be some captive bred Dwarf Galaxias available on the

night, so take this fantastic opportunity to acquire your own breeding colony.

**Tim Curmi of NFA is our second
June mini presenter with
“The endangered fishes in the Goulburn River”**



The Goulburn River. Photo: visitvictoria.com

Tim Curmi will give an overview of the threatened fish species of the Goulburn River catchment, and will touch on some of the conservation efforts that are underway for their preservation.



Flat-headed Galaxias *Galaxias rostratus*. Photo: Alexandra Newspapers



Macquarie Perch. Photo: Neil Armstrong

Contents

Our next club meeting presentations	1-2
President's report	3
Field Trip Files: Grantville 20 th May 2023	5-12
Next field trip: Devilbend Reservoir and Creek, 23/07/23	13
Club meeting details and key contacts	14

President's Report June 2023



Welcome to VICNews 129! At our club meeting of 14th April, the mini presentation was on the building of the Bendigo Library Native Fishes Aquarium that Aquariums By Design built last year. This then morphed into the main part of the meeting which was a 'round table' sharing of member's 'money-saving aquarium hacks'. This was a robust and enjoyable discussion with lots of people joining in and giving their "two bobs worth". See the

bullet-point summary of the discussion on page 4.

On Sunday 20th of May, ANGFA members had a field trip to Grantville on Western Port Bay. It was a beautiful sunny day and a very enjoyable day-out for everyone, and we found 6 species of fish. See the pictorial article on pages 5-12.

There is still a glitch with the ANGFA online membership renewals payment system so, if your membership is still outstanding, you can pay by cash at the club meeting.

Enjoy this edition and we'll see you at the next meeting on Friday 2nd June for a relaxed evening of information, chat time and catching up with fellow fishos!



Above: The participants of our May field trip hamming it up in Grantville. Middle: Rod Wubben and Tim Curmi on a deserted beach in Western Port Bay. Top: Beautiful coastal bush behind the beach at Grantville with dense Tea Tree and Lomandra scrub, and Phragmites lining the creek behind the high tide line. Photos: Greg Martin.

Key points and topics that were most discussed from our April money-saving aquarium hacks discussion

Topics that were most discussed

Plant selection – some plant species grow well in lower light conditions:

- Eddie Tootle (ET): most Anubias.
- Java Moss will grow in most environments from high-light to very low-light.
- Java Fern grows very well in lower light – likes very stable conditions.
- Java Fern can be sold to retailers/other hobbyists for a profit.
- John Lenagan (JL): some of the Crypts grow very well in very stable conditions (ie no water changes) and low light – refer JL for species.
- Glenn Briggs (GB): Java Fern, Bolbitis, Vesicularia, Crypts and Anubias.

Fish Food - Live food is best if possible but there are good alternatives.

- GB: Plenty of options for cultivating live foods for both fry and adults. Care sheets available from the club.
- Greg Martin (GM): Dave Wilson's recipe
- GB: Gerard Carmody's recipe: Microwave a large carrot, plus approx.. similar volumes of pumpkin, frozen peas and a zucchini. Blend in food processor. Blend about 200-300gm of peeled green prawn, then blend all together in food processor. Freeze in thin slabs in clingwrap.
- Rod Wubben (RW):
- Keith Stevenson (KS): Vitalis – soft extruded pellets
- Tim Curmi (TC): catch Daphne in season and freeze in ice cube containers.
- KS: Mal's freeze-dried Blackworms are still available, but the price has doubled.
- RW: variety of veg ingredients for Rainbow food helps to reduce ulcers.
- TC: high protein for raising young.

Air Supply

- GB: For a fishroom, HiBlow 20 or 40 are recommendable due to quiet operation and low watts/cubic foot of air supplied.
- ET: recommends individual pumps for a few domestic tanks – but buy a brand that will have spares in the future.
- KS said modern (non-oil) fridge compressors can be modified to supply air for multiple tanks.
- TC: blowers are good for a fishroom but are very noisy/loud.

Water Conditioners

- John Cousins (JC): Epsom Salts for GH, cheap to buy from the stockfeed shop in a 25kg bag.
- GM: Sodium Chloride – very important for reducing stress in fish and lowering parasitic load.
- JC: Powered Dolomite, from a hardware shop, can be used for raising pH.

Water Quality

- ET: Buy a TDS (**Total Dissolved Solids**) meter – the cheap ones only last about a year, after which you throw them away and buy a new one.
- GM: Note that a cheap TDS meter may not be able to distinguish between TDS and salinity, but a conversion formula can be applied to get a salinity value.
- Rod Stuart (RS): water changes are essential, not just to remove Nitrate and other fish waste byproducts, but to remove growth-stunting hormones as well.
- ET: Using water tank water for aquarium use – very soft and needs addition of minerals etc
- GM: De-chlorinator for tap water – a must for some suburbs,

but not all. If you can smell chlorine, be safe and use it!

Filtration

- Matt McGee (MM): Maaten Filters are fabulous for biological filtration – must be a gentle water turnover rate – can survive periods of power outage – best when used in conjunction with a particle filter (ie air-driven box filter with Dacron wool).
- Air driven filters are cheap to run but a fishroom full of them can be noisy...
- KS: Canister filters (any filters actually) must have a gentle water turnover rate (dwell time) to best enable the biological processes to take place.
- KS: Canister filters can have extended periods of time between cleaning (if they don't clog up with excessive soft solids), as the biological process converts much of the soft solids, 'mulm', into Nitrogen which is then degasses from the aquarium.
- KS: Small power filters can have too strong a flow (not enough dwell time), for the biological process to work correctly.
- Dylan Hill: return your filter at the waterline and you will get excellent aeration and agitation of the surface tension.

Lighting

- GB: for a fishroom use skylights so that electric light is only needed when viewing fish at night.
- ET: recommends the Ledvance 120cm 13w 1300lm daylight LED batten from Bunnings for \$30 – he uses 3 for his 120 x 45 x 45cm planted aquarium with good results. 2 would be sufficient for a 35cm (front to back) tank.
- Keith Stevenson: LED T8 tube lights, that can be installed in T8 battens after removing the starter, can be moisture sensitive. Best brand GL Eleodoro Tubelight (1200mm is 18w) – Cool white 5000K-650K is EL120-18-240-CW, and is available from ACTeChart Electronics Pty Ltd in Hallam, Vic. PH: 03 8759 0018.
- There are very expensive LED lights available, but the point of the discussion was cheap hacks.
- JL: "there has never been a convincing replacement for Metal Halide lighting, in regard to plant growth and showing Rainbowfish at their best!"
- MM: use a light at the front top of the aquarium, inclined at a 45deg angle to show off Rainbowfish colours best (their colour is mostly from reflective scales).

Fish Stock

- JC: buy direct from breeders, ANGFA Trade table, ANGFA members.
- JC: sell to shops, wholesalers (if sufficient quantity), Trade table, Ebay/Gumtree/Marketplace.

Heating

- GM: fishroom – cheaper to heat the room than individual tanks.
- KS: choose fish species that don't need as much/or no heating.
- KS: many plant species require cooler temperatures to thrive (19-24degC).

General husbandry

- RS: Regular water changes.
- KS: don't over-feed and over-heat fish (with some obvious exceptions).
- KS: fish generally live longer and are healthier if not over-fed and over-heated.

Field Trip Files: Deep Creek, Grantville

20th May 2023



Deep Creek, where it joins Western Port Bay. Photo: Greg Martin



Deep Creek, looking upstream. It is deep! Photo: Greg Martin



Rod Wubben dip netting Deep Creek. Above and middle right: Tupong (pictured above with Glass Goby in the foreground). Photos: Greg Martin



Henry, Chris Tim and Gybe discuss strategy. Photo: Greg Martin



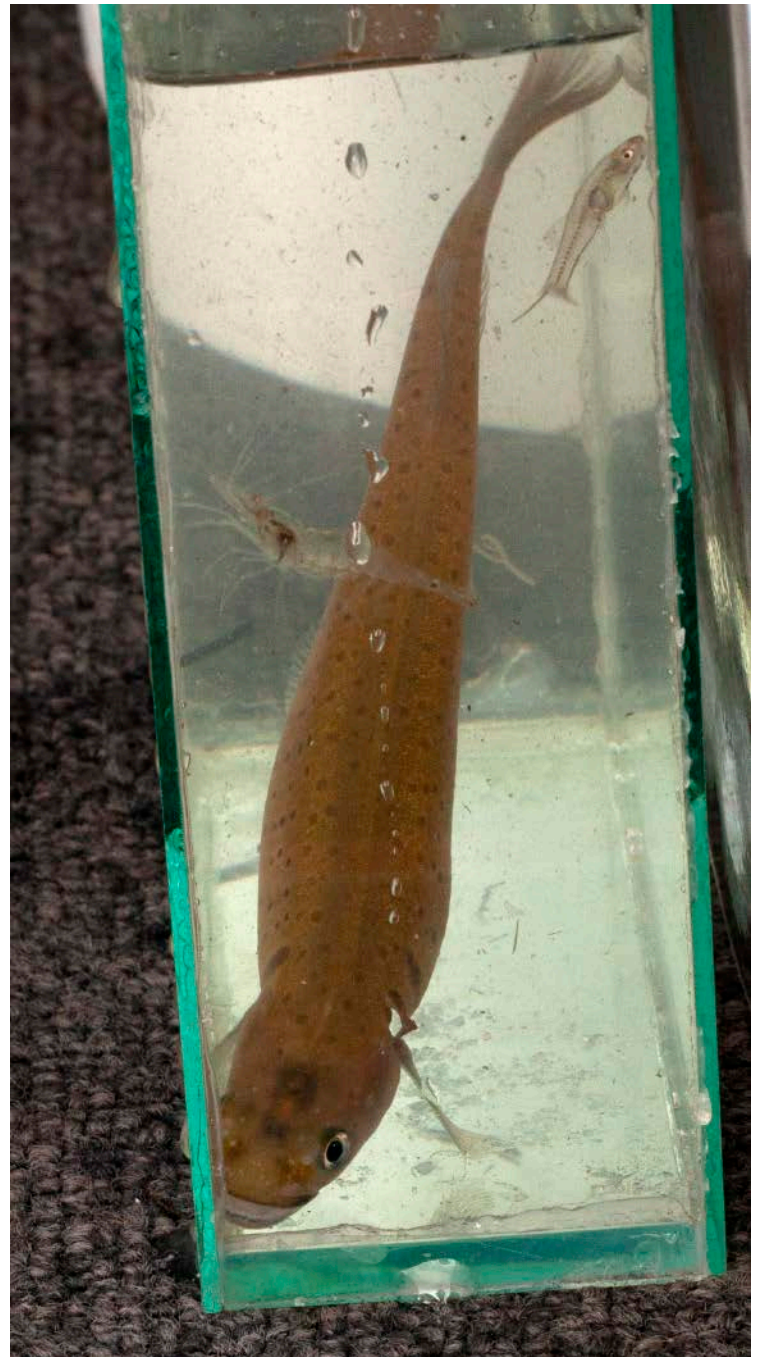
Above top and middle: Henry Albert catching gobies. Photos: Greg Martin



Above: Glass Goby. Photo: Greg Martin



Glass Shrimp and Blue-spot Gobies. Photo: Greg Martin



Top left: Chris Lamin (Middle Creek Farm). Middle photos and bottom: Spotted Galaxias. Photos: Greg Martin



Top left: Common Galaxias. Middle left: Tupong. Top right: Tim Curmi dip netting. Middle right: Henry photographing fish in the field tank. Bottom: Mullet. Photos: Greg Martin



Our second location was a small creek that drained this Tea Tree swamp just south of Grantville. Photo: Greg Martin



Chris, Tim, Henry Rod and Gybe. Photo: Greg Martin



Top: the mouth of this small creek is open at high tide. Mangroves can be seen in the background down the beach. Middle left: Western Port Bay's famous White Mangroves (photo: Rod Wubben). Middle right: Henry and Tim look at the map for other locations in the area. Bottom: Mangroves along the shoreline with Tea Tree in the background. Photos: Greg Martin



Top four photos: Gybe sampling in the mangroves. Above: this Small-mouthed Hardyhead was found in the creek. Photos: Greg Martin

Next Field Trip: Devilbend Reservoir and Creek, Mornington Peninsula. Sunday 23rd July 2023



Devilbend Reservoir aerial shot. Photo: Wiki

Where: Devilbend Nature Reserve carpark.
GPS coordinates: -38.278496, 145.103591

Meeting at: 10 am.

Bring: waders, buckets, nets, hat, wet weather gear, cameras, field tank, water bottle and a picnic lunch.

Fishes: Common Galaxias, Spotted Galaxias, Dwarf Galaxias, Redfin, Marron (?), Pea clams, *Engaeus* crayfish...

For more Information: contact Greg Martin on 0407 094 313.



Gybe Forster and Tim Curmi dip net in Tourong Creek, a very similar location and habitat to Devilbend Creek. 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	

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

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