



Andy Wattam is our August guest presenter with
*“The arduous task of applying for an amendment to the
allowable species import list”*



Rainbowfish we would love to see in Australia. Main image: *Melanotaenia* sp. 'Kali Tawa', photo: Christophe Mailliet. Top right: *Melanotaenia* sp. 'Kali Merah', photo: Wim Heemskirk. Top left: *Melanotaenia mairasi*, photo: Johannes Graf. Lower left: *Melanotaenia* sp. 'Lengguru', photo: Gary Lange. Lower right: *Melanotaenia ajamaruensis*, photo: Hans-Georg Evers.

Andy Wattam, long-time ANGFA member and all-round top bloke, together with Dave Wilson (same), has been working on proposed amendments to the allowable species import list. If successful, this will mean that 17 species of rainbowfish, currently not available in Australia, will be able to be legally imported into our hobby. It is a slow process and each species has to be dealt with one at a time. In his presentation, Andy

will walk us through the arduous process, discussing no doubt all the implications around illegal imports, grey imports, diseases and so on.

It is always great to catch up with Andy when he's down from Canberra and this will be a good presentation about a topic that is important to all fish hobbyists. See you there!

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President's Report August 2023



Welcome to VICNews 130! At our club meeting of 2nd June, Chris Lamin gave a fantastic mini presentation on breeding Dwarf Galaxias, including lots of info about feeding live foods. After that Tim Curmi gave a terrific presentation on historical populations of native fishes in the Goulburn River, including the history of Macquarie Perch in Victoria. Before and after, there was lots of talk time and we finished the night with a simple cuppa and cake.

On Sunday 23rd of July, ANGFA members had a field trip to

Devilbend Creek and surrounds. Despite starting as a rainy day, we had a good turnout and it turned out to be an enjoyable day-out for everyone. See the pictorial article starting on page 3.

There is still a glitch with the ANGFA online membership renewals payment system but we are working on it. 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 4th August for a relaxed evening of information, chat time and catching up with fellow fishos!



Above: The participants of our July field trip photographing our catch in the field tank at Tuerong Creek, Tuerong on the Mornington Peninsula. Photo: Rod Wubben. Top right: Galaxias and Southern Perch from Devilbend Creek, Tuerong. Photo: Greg Martin

Field Trip Files: Devilbend Creek and surrounds, Tuerong, 23rd July 2023



Devilbend Reservoir close to Devilbend Natural Features Reserve. There was evidence of Giant Vallisneria and Myriophyllum washed up along the shoreline. Photo: Greg Martin

On Sunday 23rd July, a sunny morning in Eltham, we headed to Devilbend Reservoir on the Mornington Peninsula to have a look at Devilbend Creek, a tributary of Balcombe Creek which flows into Port Phillip Bay at Mount Martha. Tuerong Creek, itself a tributary of Devilbend Creek, is one we are familiar with and have surveyed on several occasions but we were curious to have a look at Devilbend Creek as well.

Devilbend Reservoir was built in the 1960's as a backup supply of water for the Mornington Peninsula, but was decommissioned in 2001 when Cardinia Reservoir was connected to Pearcedale, making Devilbend Reservoir redundant. Devilbend Reservoir sits on the traditional lands of the Bunurong people, part of the indigenous Kulin nation.

Interestingly, Devilbend Creek was isolated from Devilbend Reservoir by a levy bank to “stop farm runoff from entering the water supply”, and flows around the reservoir to the south and the west. The overflow from Devilbend Reservoir joins Devilbend Creek below the dam wall.

As we drove south the weather ahead looked foreboding and a quick check of the BOM radar showed a circle of rain sitting directly over Devilbend Reservoir (I kid you not!). Meeting in the car park of the Devilbend Natural Features Reserve, we waited until everyone had arrived before heading down to have a look at the reservoir. The water's edge was a short walk (through the rain) from the car park and the water looked very clear. Along the water's edge were leaves of Giant Vallisneria and some species of Myriophyllum, perhaps uprooted by water birds? We didn't stay long at this location as we were keen to see Devilbend Creek.



Where we visited Devilbend Reservoir it has a shallow sandy shoreline but signs warned us of a deep dropoff. Photo: Greg Martin



Devilbend Creek below Derril Road. Between the reservoir and Balcombe Creek, Devilbend Creek has few covered and protected areas. At Derril Road the creek flows from thick *Phragmites* stands through a Tea Tree swamp, later flowing out into exposed paddocks for several kms. Photo: Greg Martin



Rod Wubben at the Derril Road site. Photo: Greg Martin



Jackson and Chris Lamin (a dynamic duo!). Photo: Greg Martin



Henry Albert dip-netting at the Derril Road site. Photo: Greg Martin



Chris Lamin checking her dip net at the Derril Road site. Photo: Greg Martin

We started our day of sampling on Derril Road, just downstream from where Devilbend Creek flows under the Mornington Peninsula Freeway. Here the creek emerges from a *Phragmites* swamp, flows under the road, then enters a Tea Tree thicket before flowing out through a few kms of pasture before the next tree-covered area.



Tim Curmi dip-netting Devilbend Creek at the Derril Road site. Photo: Greg Martin



Southern Pygmy Perch from Devilbend Creek at Derril Road. Photo: Greg Martin



Thick *Phragmites* stand above the Derril Road crossing. Photo: Greg Martin

then headed upstream to where the creek flows under the freeway (see photo middle right). Whilst no fishes were found here, of note were what we assumed were elaborate swallow nests (see photo lower right) on many of the concrete posts. These had obviously been added to over multiple years - the light orange coloured mud, perhaps being collected from a recent construction site nearby?



Chris Lamin checking under rocks for all things 'critter'. Photo: Greg Martin





Top left: Jackson Lamin. Top right: Garry Cook. Bottom: Henry Albert. Photos: Greg Martin



Our second location was Devilbend Creek just below the reservoir overflow, on Tim and Amanda Johnson's property. Photo: Greg Martin



Middle left: fruiting Lichen. lower left and right: fungi. Photos: Greg Martin



Whilst we were looking at the Derril road location, a car pulled up and the driver asked us what we were doing? (not an unusual occurrence on a field trip as the locals are very often curious about what is in their waterways). After we explained what we were looking for Amanda, the owner of a property nearby as it turns out, kindly invited us to look at Devilbend Creek at her place just upstream.

We packed up and followed her back to her property. The Johnson's place is located directly below Devilbend Reservoir Depot Reserve, opposite The Garden Vineyard and whilst it does run horses, there is good vegetation along the creek. We all met Amanda's husband Tim and together we walked down to the creek. Amongst the Tea Tree along the banks of the creek we found many *Engaeus* burrowing crayfish burrows but we could only find Glass Shrimp in the creek.



Top: Tim and Amanda Johnson's property just downstream from the reservoir overflow, and opposite The Garden Vineyard, is an important haven for plants and animals along a creek that has so many areas that are denuded. Lower left: Tim and Amanda who generously invited us to have a look at their section of Devilbend Creek. Middle right: discussing our findings with the owners. Lower right: Tea Tree in the gully providing protected habitat for lots of *Engaeus* crayfish. Photos: Greg Martin



Top: Group shot at Teurong Creek. Above: *Engaeus* crayfish. Right: Henry photographing in the field tank with a powerful light overhead. Bottom: Male and female *Galaxiella pusilla* from Teurong Creek. Photos: Greg Martin

Our third location was a revisit of Tuerong Creek. This is a great spot and seems to be in really good condition supporting many *Engaeus* burrowing crayfish and *Galaxiella pusilla*.





Jackson Lamin dip-netting Hallam Main Drain. Quite a few juvenile European Weather Loaches (photo inset) were found at this site. Photo: Greg Martin



Top left: Tim Curmi working his way along the drain. Top right: Rod Wubben dutifully taking notes at each location. Lower left: Frogbit *Limnobium laevigatum* in the drain - not a good sign! Photos: Greg Martin



Left to right: Craig Omeara the frog man, Garry Cook, Jackson Lamin, Chris Lamin, Greg Martin, Tim Curmi and Henry Albert. Photo: Rod Wubben



Our fourth location was Hallam Main Drain in Narre Warren. Once again this was a revisit as we have surveyed this site a few times before. Chris Lamin collected some *Galaxiella pusilla* broodstock under DEECA permit number 10010750, for her ongoing *Galaxiella pusilla* breeding program. We found many *Engaeus* burrowing crayfish as we have previously at this site. Is there a correlation between the presence of *Galaxiella pusilla* and *Engaeus*? We (almost) always find them together...

Above: *Engaeus* burrowing crayfish, Left: Chris Lamin collecting *Galaxiella pusilla* and Above top: huge Spotted Marsh Frog *Limnodynastes peroni* tadpoles. Photos: Greg Martin



Male *Galaxiella pusilla* from Hallam Main Drain. Photo: Greg Martin

Next Field Trip: Patterson River, Eel Race Drain and Kananook Creek, Sunday 27th August 2023



Patterson River near the freeway. Photo: goingferalonedayatime.blogspot.com

Where: Wells Road Service Road carpark.
GPS coordinates: -38.058085, 145.145952

Meeting at: 10 am.

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

Fishes: Galaxias, Gobies, Tupong, Eels... who knows?

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



Kananook Creek. Photo: goingferalonedayatime.blogspot.com

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

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