

**NATIVE FISH AUSTRALIA (Vic) Inc.**  
PO Box 162 Doncaster 3108



3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Members & Supporters,

We wish you all a happy New Year! Native Fish Australia is looking forward to another big year of aquatic action and activities in 2026, and we hope you can join us for the fishy fun.

**Welcome to new members**

A warm welcome to our new members Holly and Maria. We hope your membership will be long and rewarding for both you and Native Fish Australia.

**2025 NFA Recap**

2025 was a fantastic year for Native Fish Australia (Vic), with lots of successes and exciting changes. We enjoyed another year jampacked with native fish advocacy, fish displays, fish surveys, fish releases, fish tanks in schools, aquatic habitat restoration, fishing, camping, awesome guest presentations and hard work in our native fish conservation hatchery.





*NFA's 2025 Photo Recap*

## **February General Meeting: Guest Speaker Tim Fernando – “Stranger Fins”**

Our first general meeting for 2026 is Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at La Trobe University’s Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary. Tim Fernando will be presenting “Stranger Fins: Saving the Ghost Fish (Flathead Galaxias -Galaxias rostratus)”, along with NFA (Vic) sharing updates about our hatchery, and both recent and forthcoming activities, work and our community involvements. We will also be discussing final details for the Graeme Creed Native Fish Challenge. As per usual, the hatchery will be open for viewing from 7pm and the meeting will commence at 7:30pm. Please join us for an interesting and informative evening, all NFA members and visitors are welcome.



*Tim Fernando was recently a scientist in the Aquatic Biodiversity & Conservation Program at the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, working on applied research and management of threatened fish, mussels and crayfish*

## **Graeme Creed Native Fish Challenge 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

The 2026 Graeme Creed Native Fish Challenge is fast approaching. It is a catch, measure and release event held in and around Yarrowonga each year. The aim of the event is to gather data on the fish populations using angling. The event is run in partnership with a number of fishing clubs including Wangaratta and District Sport Fishing Club, Knox Boat Fishing Club and Preston Northcote Angling Club and has been run annually for more than 30 years. The fish data collected during the weekend by participants is shared with NSW Fisheries and used to better understand the local fish populations. A few of us are staying at the Yarrowonga Holiday Park and there may be some members camping on the Murray River downstream of Yarrowonga. Please let us know if you are planning to attend. Documents for the challenge are attached



*2025 GCNFC Prize Winners*



*A mighty Murray Cod caught in 2024 at the GCNFC*



*NFA's Secretary, Vice President and President at the 2025 GCNFC*

*Breath taking scenery to be enjoyed at Yarrawonga on the Murray River and surrounds*

**Murray Fishing Weekend (with ANGFA) 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March**

NFA and ANGFA's joint Murray camping and fishing weekend will be held over the Labour Day long weekend, 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March. It's a great opportunity to catch up with fellow NFA members and friends, in a beautiful part of the world. As per usual, we will be camping at Burkes Beach #1 on the Murray River. Check out the ANGFA (Vic) or NFA (Vic) Facebook pages closer to the date for more details of the weekend. Please come and join us for what should be a relaxing yet informative weekend.



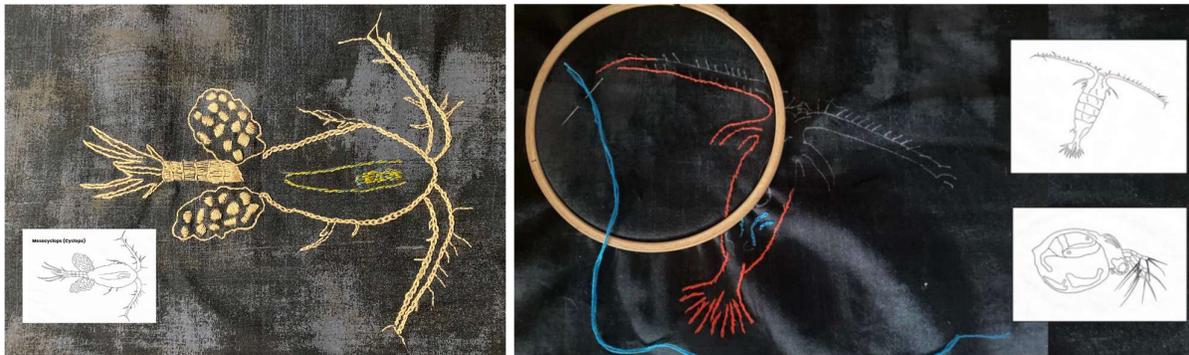
*Boating, fishing and sampling at the NFA & ANGFA 2025 Murray Camping Weekend. Photos by Greg Martin & Philip Littlejohn*

### **Fish Survey and Release: Urban Forest Reserve, March TBC**

In partnership with the City of Stonnington and Melbourne Water, NFA will be conducting a fish survey and releasing fish at Urban Forest Reserve in Malvern East. The dates are to be confirmed but will be during a weekend, likely in mid-March. We will be setting fish traps in the evening, then meeting again the next morning to check the traps and release Southern Pygmy Perch. All are welcome to join us for this community event and to participate in the fish survey and release. This is an excellent opportunity for any members interested in getting hands on experience with fish survey techniques, so please let us know if you are interested in volunteering with us.

### **March General Meeting: MRWA - Unseen Creatures**

Following on from NFA's February 2025 general meeting, the Maribyrnong River and Waterways Association (MRWA) returns to involve NFA in their "Unseen Creatures: Quilting for the Maribyrnong Catchment" project. MRWA will discuss the project, river health, and the role of aquatic microfauna, and will run an embroidery workshop offering our members and guests the opportunity to learn new skills and contribute a small embroidered patch to the collaborative quilt, with materials provided on the night. The meeting will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, with more details to follow closer to the event.



*Example images of aquatic microfauna and embroidered portraits for the MRWA quilting project*

### **Ovens River Challenge 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March**

NFA (Vic) and the Australian Trout Foundation have again partnered to conduct the Ovens River Challenge. It's a catch, measure and release event, similar to the Graeme Creed Native Fish Challenge, held across the Ovens River catchment and based in Myrtleford. It is intended as a free, family friendly event, where all ages can participate and have some fun fishing. The event is also a citizen science-based project, with data on all fish captures given to the Victorian Fisheries Authority and used for population monitoring.

A flyer for the ORC is attached



*Ovens River Challenge 2023*

### **Hatchery Update: Fish for Sale, Hatchery Viewing & Volunteering Opportunities**

2025 was an exciting year for NFA (Vic)'s Native Fish Community Volunteer Conservation Hatchery. Since moving to our new location, adjacent to La Trobe University's Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary in 2024, the hatchery has come a long way. Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers, we have had great success breeding Dwarf Galaxias, Southern Pygmy Perch, Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon and Murray River Rainbowfish, all of which (except for the Dwarf Galaxias) are currently available for purchase from our hatchery. If you are interested in purchasing any of these native fish for a home aquarium or garden pond, please contact us. Our hatchery is open to the public for viewing and fish sales, usually on Thursdays between 1 – 3pm and Sundays between 10am – 12 pm, or by appointment. There is also the opportunity for NFA members to volunteer in the hatchery and gain hands on experience in native fish husbandry. Please contact our Hatchery Manager, Jayne, via [hatchery@nativefish.asn.au](mailto:hatchery@nativefish.asn.au) if you are interested in viewing the hatchery (group tours are available), purchasing fish or volunteering in the hatchery.

With everything running so smoothly in NFA's hatchery, we are now holding our hatchery working bees every three or so months. The next working bee is on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February, starting at 9am and finishing with a BBQ lunch in the early afternoon. Please come along and bring your friends if you love native fish and are interested in getting a taste of what our hatchery volunteers do to keep our fish happy and healthy!



*South Purple Spotted Gudgeon dad, guarding his eggs.*



*Hatchery bred South Purple Spotted Gudgeon fry, with bellies full of baby brine shrimp!*



*Our Murray River Rainbowfish are ready for a new home...*



*South Pygmy Perch are the perfect addition to your garden pond!*

### **Membership renewals for 2025/26**

There are still quite a few members who have not renewed (paid) their membership for this year. Membership/renewal forms can be found at <https://www.nativefish.asn.au/home/page/Membership>

### **Facebook**

We have two Facebook pages – NFA & NFA (Vic). Please check them out and follow them to get up to date information on our activities and upcoming events.

<https://www.facebook.com/NativeFishAustralia/>

<https://www.facebook.com/NativeFishAustraliaVic/>



## Upcoming events for 2026

- **General Meeting** La Trobe University's Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary, Guest Speaker Tim Fernando presenting on Flatheaded Galaxias, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February
- **Hatchery Working Bee** NFA's hatchery at La Trobe University's Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February
- **Graeme Creed Native Fish Challenge** Yarrowonga, 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February
- **Committee Meeting** La Trobe University's Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February
- **Murray Fishing weekend** (with ANGFA Vic) Burkes Beach #1, 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March
- **Fish Survey & Release** Urban Forest Reserve, Malvern East, March, dates TBC
- **General Meeting** La Trobe University's Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary, Guest Speaker Maribyrnong River and Waterways Association "Unseen Creatures: Quilting for the Maribyrnong Catchment", Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March
- **Committee Meeting** La Trobe University's Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March
- **Ovens River Challenge** (With the ATF) 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March, Myrtleford
- **General Meeting** La Trobe University's Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April - Guest Speaker TBA

**We would like to thank our sponsors who have assisted NFA (Vic) over many years with support and prizes for the Graeme Creed Native Fish Challenge & the Ovens Challenge as well as various raffle prizes and assistance in the hatchery.**



Department of  
Primary Industries





**A special thanks to La Trobe University and the Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary for hosting our monthly meetings**

Any question please contact us on the details below:

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Or for hatchery related inquiries:

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Vice President & Hatchery Manager  
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<https://www.nativefish.asn.au/>