

March 2026

# Recreational Fisheries Management Update



**Golden Perch fishery thriving**  
**Bright future for Whiting**  
**ATF Leads the way for**  
**Trout and Macquarie Perch**  
**Kayakers Reef flourishing**



*Cover photo: Nikki Bryant with a  
quality Gippsland bream.*



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# Outdoor Recreation Victoria

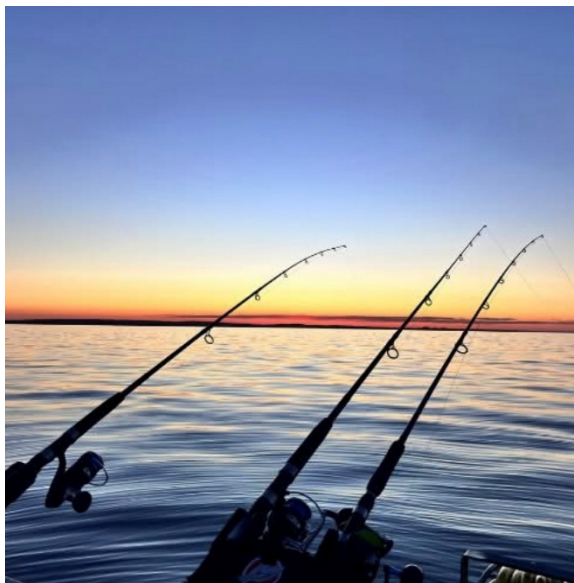
There's exciting times ahead for the fishing and hunting community with the formation of Outdoor Recreation Victoria. At the end of last year, the Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos announced that the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) and the Game Management Authority (GMA) will come together to form Outdoor Recreation Victoria (ORV).

The Allan Labor Government announced the formation of ORV will secure jobs and deliver a one-stop-shop for outdoor recreation activities across the state and will strengthen support to get more Victorians and visitors enjoying our state's great outdoors.

Every staff member from the VFA and GMA will join ORV when it is established – ensuring all jobs will be retained. ORV will initially focus on getting more Victorians out fishing, game hunting, boating, four-wheel driving and off grid camping, before expanding to support other activities.

The ORV will work across government to create a single point of information for bush users through a digital hub. Incorporating feedback from Victorians, ORV will also establish a Land Access Panel to help more people use public land and waterways, and enjoy Victoria's incredible offerings. This panel will comprise of both stakeholders and government. The Labor Government will consult with stakeholders and introduce legislation into Parliament to officially establish ORV from 1 July 2026.

More than one million Victorians take part in fishing, hunting and boating. ORV will take outdoor recreation much further, getting more Victorians to take up four-wheel driving and camping, which together support tens of thousands of jobs and generate hundreds of millions in economic spending across the state.



# Victoria's Golden Perch Fishery is Thriving

Freshwater anglers have plenty to celebrate with golden perch populations booming across the state! Fishing over the summer has been at an all-time high thanks to the VFA's record breaking fish stocking program which has seen over 28 million golden perch stocked in rivers and lakes across Victoria in the last 10 years.

The VFA conduct annual surveys across 10 key rivers in Victoria as part of the Native Fish Report Card program, a partnership between us and DEECA's Arthur Rylah Institute that's supported by your fishing licence fees.

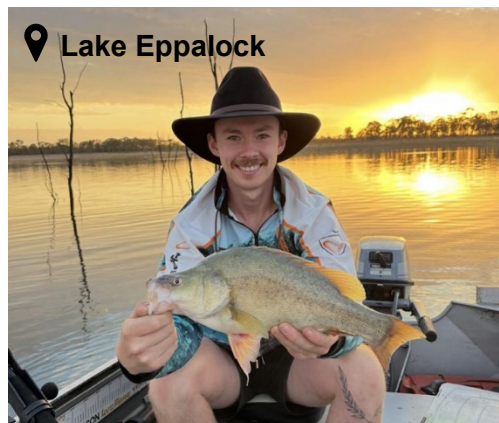
From the 2025 surveys conducted in the Goulburn River, a remarkable 90% of golden perch were legal size with the biggest measuring in at 53cm, tipping the weigh scales at 2.7kg!



Long-term monitoring has helped explain the Goulburn's success. Research from 2018 showed that around 20% of the golden perch population comes from local recruitment, another 20% from immigration from the Murray River, and the remaining 60% from stocked fish. This highlights the major role stocking has played in boosting yella numbers over the past two decades!

The Wimmera River is also producing strong results with surveys recording the highest abundance of yellas seen in the last nine years. From the sampled fish, 84% were of legal size and a standout fish measured more than 57cm and weighed an impressive 4.1kg! These annual surveys provide an important snapshot of native fish health and population trends over time.

The action does not stop there. Reports from anglers throughout the summer indicate exceptional catches from Victoria's impoundment fisheries. Lake Hume has been particularly productive and has established itself as a highly regarded golden perch fishery. Lake Eildon and Eppalock are following suit with quality yellow belly maturing and entering the fishery.



Explore the full results of the 2025 Native Fish Report Card survey at the following link.

<https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/research/environmental-management/field-techniques-and-monitoring/native-fish-report-card-program>

# Bright Future for Whiting



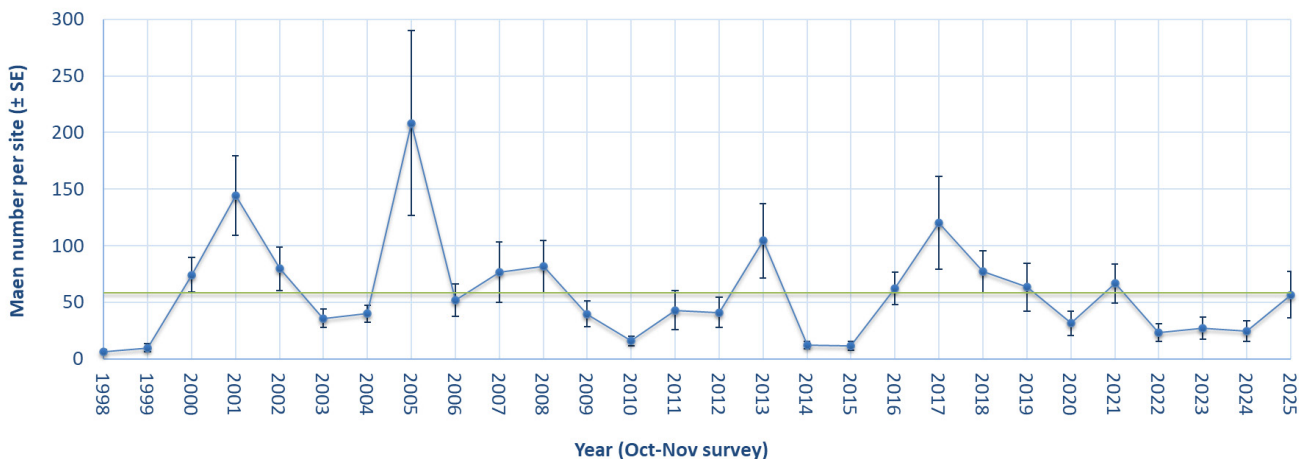
Fishing for King George whiting has a bright future with juvenile numbers the best they have been since 2021.

Our field surveys in late 2025 recorded better numbers of the popular species than in 2022, 203 and 2024. These survey results are great news given the popularity of King George whiting as a table fish, which can be caught from a boat or the shore, and with simple gear.

The quality of fishing overall in Port Phillip has been outstanding since the removal of commercial net fishing in the bay in 2022, leaving more fish like whiting for recreational anglers. Our annual surveys of baby whiting in shallow seagrass have been undertaken at several sites around the bay for over 25 years and have proved a reliable predictor of future catches. These most recent results in Port Phillip are also indicative of juvenile whiting numbers in other waters such as Western Port and Corner Inlet.

Once King George whiting begin maturing, they leave our bays for coastal waters where they spawn in winter, most likely off western Victoria and South Australia. Whiting larvae then drift eastward for three months before entering Port Phillip and other bays in spring, when we conduct the surveys in seagrass beds. Westerly winds help drive currents that bring the larvae into our bays, where they take about two years to reach 27cm.

King George whiting only stay in our bays for a few years of their life so these fisheries naturally fluctuate depending on the number of larvae that entered several years prior. At about four years of age, most whiting have left our bays to complete their life in coastal waters



# Australian Trout Foundation leads the way for Trout and Macquarie perch

With three years of funding provided via the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust, the Australian Trout Foundation (ATF) will be working closely with the VFA and the Arthur Rylah Institute on an exciting and innovative new project at the Loombah Weir: establishing a refuge population of the endangered Macquarie perch, whilst simultaneously creating access to a new supply of brown trout!

The Loombah Weir (and the Ryans Creek catchment that feeds it) is a “Closed Catchment”, where access for fishing is not permitted due to it being protected for Benalla’s town water supply. Recent surveys have shown that the lake supports a very healthy population of Brown Trout, that are behind a locked gate!

With access granted by the waterway manager (North East Water), the ATF has seized on an opportunity to capture as many trout as possible and translocate them to publicly accessible waterways such as Lake William Hovell, to enhance fishing opportunities. Loombah Weir will then be stocked annually by the VFA with Macquarie perch fingerlings, to establish a new population of Maccas! This project draws on the proven successes of a similar project managed by NSW Fisheries in the Winburndale Dam near Bathurst (NSW Fisheries: Bring Back the Mack!).



The Ryans Creek upstream of the lake, prime habitat for trout, and Macca’s!



Picturesque Loombah Weir in North Est Victoria will soon be a home to the endangered Macquarie perch thanks to the Australian Trout Foundation.

The ATF will use a combination of rod and line fishing, electro fishing and the deployment of a “trout trap”, to intercept fish on their annual spawning run from the lake into the creek above it. The objective of the project isn’t to eradicate trout, just to reduce their numbers sufficiently to give the Macca’s their best chance to grow rapidly and get established. The Closed Catchment status won’t change so over time this new, protected, Macca refuge will be available for housing fish rescued from natural disasters (such as bushfire), or for translocating to “top-up” existing wild populations.

If you would like to volunteer to be a part of this exciting project you must be a member of the ATF. To join the ATF, click here or use the QR code below. To register your expression of interest, click here or use the QR code below.

*Australian Trout  
Foundation/ Membership*



*Loombah Weir  
Expression of Interest*

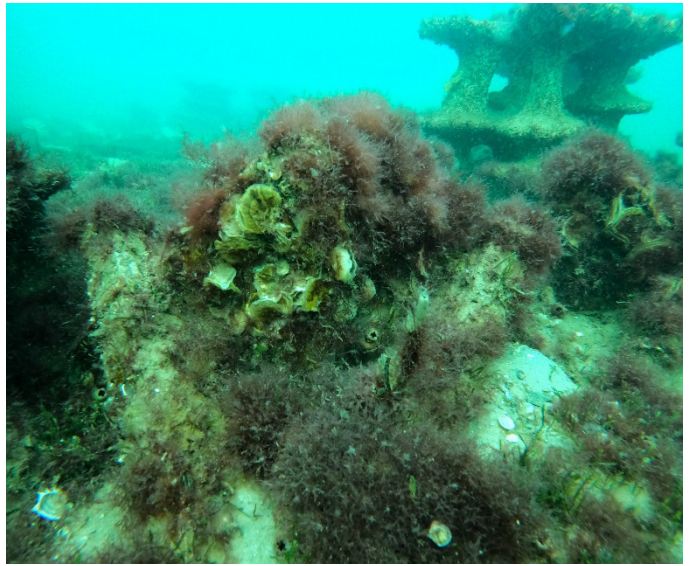


# Kayaker's Reef Flourishing

Kayaker's Reef is a small-scale artificial shellfish reef located in Hobsons Bay, Port Phillip, specifically designed to provide near-shore fishing opportunities for kayakers and small boat fishers.

Completed in December 2024, the reef was established approximately 800m south-southwest of Kerferd Road Pier in Albert Park. It was a collaborative project between the Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club (APYAC) and the VFA, funded 50/50 by the club and recreational fishing licence fees.

The first phase of the reef consists of 45 Fish Towers surrounded by clusters of Oyster Triangles. These 90 Oyster Triangles were seeded with native oysters (*Ostrea angasi*) at the Victorian Shellfish Hatchery.



The reef's aim is to attract key recreational species such as snapper, calamari and whiting for anglers fishing from kayaks and small vessels. Anglers from APYAC are already catching large snapper on the reef.

During a recent survey, the divers were delighted to see the rapid growth and coverage of seeded oysters on the Oyster Triangles. Even though the reef is in relatively shallow water at 5.2m, the structures were still in place, now resembling natural reef. These densely packed oysters will improve Port Phillip's water quality by their ability to filter water and improve marine biodiversity by creating structure and shelter.

Underwater transect surveys and photo quadrant images were taken during the dives, so that the oyster growth and biodiversity of the reef can be compared over time. The divers brought an Oyster Triangle up onto the research vessels deck for an accurate measurement and count of the oysters before returning it back to the reef. The oyster size ranged from 25mm to 77mm with an average size of 50mm, not bad for a year's growth!

APYAC's Bob Pearce and Cardium Marine's Ben Cleveland are continuing to expand on the reef's footprint through the Victorian government's Fish Habitat Fund, so we are excited to see how this reef will continue to evolve!



# FAD Season Begins: Torquay, Lorne and Aireys Inlet Deployments Now Complete

Victoria's Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) are officially back in the water, marking the start of another exciting season for recreational fishers along the Surf Coast. Over the past couple of months, our science team has been busy offshore to reinstall and deploy FADs off Torquay, Lorne and Aireys Inlet—bringing the full network online for summer.

## Torquay FADs Reinstalled on a Thriving Reef

The four Torquay FADs have been successfully re-attached to the Offshore Artificial Reef, located around two nautical miles east-southeast of Torquay in 28 metres of water. During the installation, divers were met with an impressive display of marine life thriving across the 25 concrete reef modules. Soft bryozoans, golden kelp, gorgonian fans, sea squirts and colourful sponges now blanket the structures, while barber perch, boarfish, magpie perch, leatherjackets and wrasse were seen weaving through the habitat.

Early reports of kingfish in the area suggest it's a great time for anglers to head out and take advantage of the productive conditions. The Torquay FADs are marked by large yellow buoys equipped with navigation lights and GPS trackers, and will remain in place until late May before retrieval ahead of the whale migration season and winter swells.

Torquay FAD Coordinates:

- 📍 FAD 1 — 38° 19.915' S, 144° 22.513' E
- 📍 FAD 2 — 38° 19.922' S, 144° 22.450' E
- 📍 FAD 3 — 38° 19.996' S, 144° 22.379' E
- 📍 FAD 4 — 38° 20.054' S, 144° 22.357' E

## FADs 6 & 7 Deployed Off Lorne and Aireys Inlet

Similarly, FAD 6 and FAD 7 have now been deployed off Lorne and Aireys Inlet! These floating buoys extend vertical structure deep into the water column, creating ideal conditions to attract pelagic species prized by recreational fishers such as yellowtail kingfish.

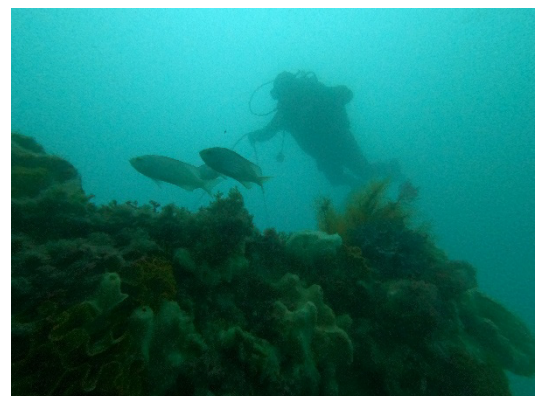
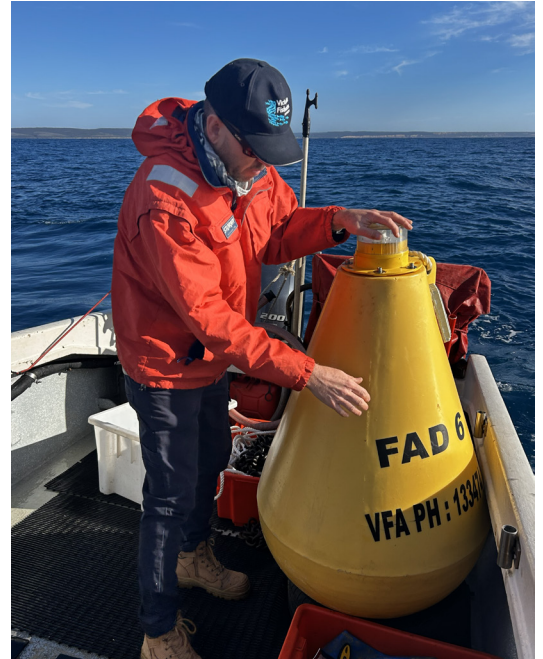
FAD 6 has been positioned approximately three nautical miles east of Lorne in 32 metres of water, while FAD 7 sits the same distance southeast of Aireys Inlet in 42 metres. Both locations were selected by the local angling club in consultation with the VFA.

Past seasons have produced kingfish and tuna around these devices, and we're looking forward to seeing what fishers encounter this summer.

Lorne & Aireys Inlet FAD Coordinates:

- 📍 FAD 6 — 38° 32.519' S, 144° 02.150' E
- 📍 FAD 7 — 38° 29.428' S, 144° 09.876' E

As with all Victorian FADs, these units are fitted with GPS trackers and will be retrieved in May 2026 ahead of whale migration and increased winter swell activity.



## 2026 Dusky Flathead Broodstock Collection



In the second week of 2026, the VFA was back hard at work for the 6th dusky flathead broodstock collection event. VFA staff Mark Adams and Rohan Nicol travelled to Mallacoota and met with Craig Ingram, who had arranged a fleet of volunteer anglers that the VFA had engaged to capture dusky flathead broodstock.

The anglers fished intensively over two days of scorching weather, starting at the crack of dawn to get the bulk of the fishing done before the heat of the day made it unsafe to handle fish. Under permit, the volunteer anglers captured mature flathead and transported them to the boat ramp in live wells, where the condition of the fish was carefully assessed by VFA staff. Flathead determined to be in spawning condition were safely transferred to the fish stocking truck.



Once the day's fishing had concluded, the collected broodstock were then transported to a marine hatchery. From there they are acclimated overnight to the correct water salinity and temperature for breeding and then induced to spawn. Over two days of fishing, 50 mature dusky flathead were transported to the hatchery to contribute to the breeding program. Once the fertilised eggs hatch, flathead larvae are grown in plankton ponds for 6-8 weeks before being harvested and released into Victorian waters.

Spent broodstock are then rehabilitated and returned to their home waters in Mallacoota Inlet, ensuring the broodstock collection has minimal impact on recreational fishing opportunities. These broodstock are collected as part of the VFA's fish production and stocking program, which aims to produce and release approximately 50,000 dusky flathead into 4 estuaries across Gippsland. These fish releases are informed by the fish stocking plan, created in consultation with recreational anglers, and aim to enhance recreational fishing in those estuaries and bolster existing dusky flathead populations.

The VFA sincerely thanks all the anglers who volunteered their time and skills during the holiday period to assist with this program.



# Fish Stocking Program Updates



Native stocking began in November with a mix of estuarine and freshwater species distributed across Victorian waters.

Estuarine stockings finished in December with a total of 375,300 Australian bass and 104,000 estuary perch stocked across Gippsland and select waters in the state's west - Konongwootong Reservoir and the Merri & Yarra Rivers received estuary perch for the first time ever (5,000, 5,000 & 10,000 respectively).

Popular Murray cod hotspots, Lake Eildon and Rocklands reservoir, will receive 900,000 of these iconic fish between them this season. Over 400,000 Murray cod have been delivered to Lake Eildon, with Rocklands set to receive 500,000 by the end of the season.

With the warmer weather comes golden perch stocking. 100 Victorian waters are scheduled to receive golden perch over the season. Several waters are scheduled to be stocked for the first time ever including Dunyak Moira in Merrigum, Fifteen Mile Creek near Glenrowan and Wallpolla Horseshoe Lagoon in far northwest Victoria at Cullulleraine.



Silver perch fingerlings will start to be harvested and released by the end of February, as will dusky flathead fingerlings which will travel all the way from Narooma, NSW to the Gippsland region.

Recent bushfires have resulted in a shift of focus for several waters from stocking to rescue & recovery of local populations.

The VFA's Fish stocking program has created some wonderful family fish memories – Charlie caught this ripper Murray cod with her dad Craig.



## VFA Fish Hatcheries – Capital Works Update



The Victorian Government committed \$96 million as part of its 2022 'More piers, jetties and opportunities for little anglers' election policy which included \$15 million to expand the Arcadia and Snobs Creek fish hatcheries, building greater production capacity to meet the growing demand for native fish stocking in Victoria.

The expansions at Arcadia and Snobs Creek have been completed and commissioned, on time and on budget, enhancing Victoria's native fish production capability.

At Arcadia, the expansion has tripled annual production capacity to over 6 million fish comprising predominantly Murray cod and golden perch. Works included increasing production ponds from 30 to over 125, extending and upgrading the fish processing and hatchery buildings, and constructing 50ML water storages to capture and re-use water throughout the farm. Custom-designed ponds have also been built to support threatened and endangered species, including freshwater catfish. The works have also included the construction of a new dedicated office and administration area for staff. Construction took just over 12 months with works complete in time for the 2025-26 native fish production season.



At Snobs Creek, the completed expansion has delivered a dedicated Macquarie Perch Recovery Centre, capable of producing up to 500,000 Macquarie perch and 500,000 trout cod annually for stocking into Victorian waterways. The facility incorporates cutting-edge recirculating aquaculture technology, enabling manipulation of water temperature, oxygen levels, and ambient light intensity to optimise breeding conditions. Construction commenced in June 2025 with practical completion and commissioning delivered in January 2026.



# Arcadia Hatchery Update

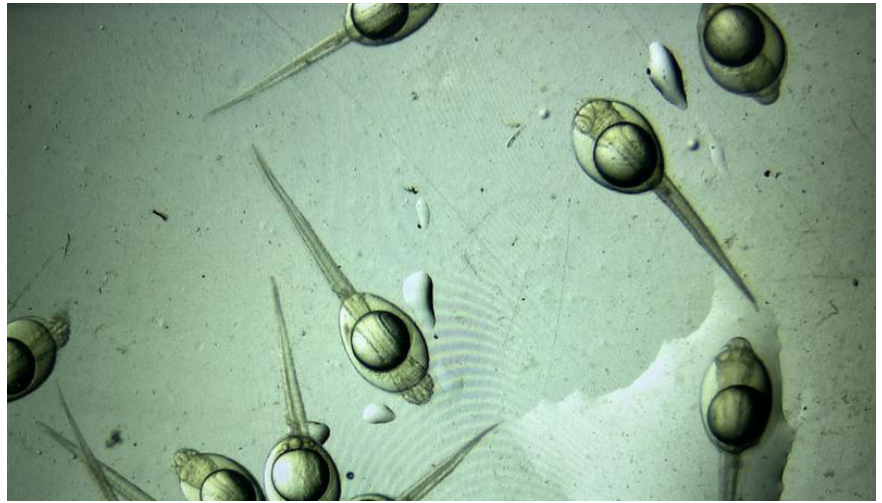
It's been a great year for Murray cod at Arcadia, with over 80 spawning events since the start of October. The majority took place in existing brood ponds, with four resulting from recently arrived broodfish held in temporary ponds.

Spawning in temporary ponds is generally unexpected as these fish are typically recent arrivals that have not had time to settle into the site fully. These surprise spawning's are a great testament to both the health of the fish themselves and our stringent hatchery procedures.

Cod larvae typically feed and grow on natural foods for about 6 weeks until they are harvested for delivery at about 40-50mm in size.

Around 44 ponds have been stocked this season with Murray cod larvae, with harvesting occurring between December and March. By mid-February, 800,000 Murray cod had been produced and stocked into Victorian waterways.

Production of golden perch is in progress with successful batches from both pond and indoor-held fish. Plankton ponds where larvae will grow in the ponds for 4-6 weeks are prepared in a similar fashion to that for Murray Cod.



# Snobs Creek Hatchery Update



It's been another big and productive season at Snobs Creek, with strong native fish production outcomes across the board.

By early February, the team recorded 19 Murray cod and 13 trout cod spawnings. In an unusually extended spawning window, the final batch of Murray cod larvae were stocked into production ponds on 9 February — much later than in a typical season.

Harvest is now complete for Macquarie perch with fabulous 138,700 fish produced. Trout cod production was also excellent with more than 140,000 hitting our waterways from Snobs creek. Fish condition has been excellent, producing healthy, robust fish for the stocking program.

A major highlight this season was the official commissioning of the new Macquarie Perch Recovery Centre. The first fish have now been successfully transferred from the old native fish building and are settling in well, marking an important step forward for the recovery of this endangered species.

Staff have also worked alongside the Arthur Rylah Institute to rescue Macquarie perch and trout cod from bushfire-affected waterways at Hughes Creek and Seven Creek. These fish are being cared for in a dedicated room within the new hatchery until conditions are safe for their return.

With strong production results, new infrastructure, and continued recovery efforts, it's been a rewarding season for the Snobs Creek team — with more still to come before the season is over.



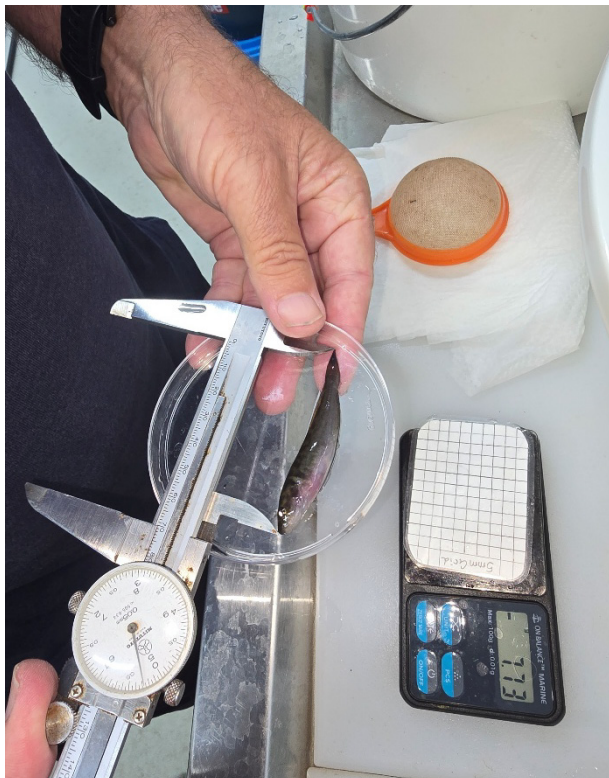
# Conservation Hatchery Update

It's been a highly successful summer for the conservation hatchery, with several important milestones achieved.

Yalmy and Tapered galaxias have been successfully bred for the first time ever in captivity. The fry are growing extremely well and have now reached a suitable size for stocking. Moroka and McDowell galaxias have also hatched and are developing quickly, alongside West Gippsland galaxias. In total, five Galaxias species will be stocked — an excellent outcome for these critically endangered fish.

Another significant achievement was the successful breeding and restocking of 20 critically endangered Glenelg mussels into the Crawford River — a world first. Glenelg mussels are notoriously difficult to breed in captivity due to their complex lifecycle. Over the past two years, the team has invested significant time refining husbandry techniques and closing key knowledge gaps, making this breakthrough possible.

Blackfish fry are also thriving and are ready for stocking back into the Wimmera region, pending survey results to guide release locations. This breeding success represents another important step forward in closing the knowledge gap on breeding blackfish.



The team has stocked 851 southern purple-spotted gudgeon and 310 olive perchlet have been stocked across eight locations in Victoria, working closely with Catchment Management Authorities and Traditional Owners.

Staff are also assisting the Arthur Rylah Institute to rescue Moroka galaxias from bushfire-affected waterways, with similar efforts planned for alpine crayfish, helping safeguard vulnerable populations from potential blackwater events.



# Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) Grants Update

The 2024-25 round of the RFL Large Grants program saw 15 projects receive a total of \$1,457,367. Some of the funded projects include:

- \$220,000 to the Australian Trout Foundation to undertake a 3-year project to establish a Macquarie perch breeding refuge at Loombah Weir.
- \$195,147 to the North East CMA for bushfire recovery habitat works on key recreational fishing streams in the Upper Murray region such as the Cudgewa and Nariel Creeks.
- \$110,000 to the City of Greater Geelong for widening, safety & accessibility improvements to Griffin Gully jetty,
- \$102,833 to the Millewa Advisory Group to install a fishing jetty at Lake Cullulleraine.
- \$86,000 to Fishcare Victoria for a Catch a Carp education campaign.
- \$71,500 to the Corangamite CMA to install two fishing platforms on the Barwon River near Gun Dog Lane in Geelong.

Applications for the 2025-26 round of the Large Grants program closed on the 28th February 2026. We received many applications from angling clubs, shires, CMA's, waterway managers and other organisations. Projects which receive funding through the large grants program make significant improvements to recreational fishing across the state.

Applications for Intermediate and Small RFL Grants are open year-round. Both programs are well subscribed in 2025-26 with 31 Small Grant applications and 5 Intermediate Grant applications approved for funding.

Here are some examples of recently completed projects showing how your recreational fishing licence fees are being used:

## SMALL GRANTS

### 2025 National Gone Fishing Day Events

A good number of clubs took advantage of the Small Grants program to run events around the National Gone Fishing Day back in October.



These included the Undera Angling Club, King River & District Fishing Club, Portland Sports Fishing Club, Casterton Angling Society, Howqua Association of Angling Clubs, Murtoa Angling Club and Sandringham Anglers Club.

Feedback from the various clubs indicated that these were successful and well-attended events, with lots of smiles and fish caught.

## Lake Purrumbete Angling Club Family Fishing Day

Lake Purrumbete Angling Club received a small grant to run their 2025 Family Fishing Day in November at Lake Bullen Merri near Camperdown. The delivery of the event was a joint effort between three clubs: Lake Purrumbete, Camperdown, and Cobden angling clubs. This 'Come and Try Fishing' event was run in a competition style format. A cool, rainy morning met club members at the toolbox meeting before the event, but the weather didn't stop approximately 50 participants from attending, and neither did it stop the fish. Some highlights of the event were a 2.5 kg tiger trout landed second cast of the morning on a lure, a ripper 1.5 kg rainbow trout on power bait and a good number of 'first fish' for the fortunate participants. Importantly, all three clubs gained new family memberships from the event.



## LARGE GRANTS

### New Fish Weighing Gantry at Warrnambool for offshore anglers

The Warrnambool City Council used a grant of \$74,287 to provide a new fish weighing gantry at Warrnambool boat ramp. This new weighing facility has recently been opened to the public and boasts a 500 kg working load limit and heavy structural fabrication which has been hot-dip galvanized for long-term corrosion resistance and withstand coastal conditions. Solar lighting will soon be installed to allow the facility to be used after dark. This safe weighing facility has been purpose-built for recreational anglers and will assist in improving recreational fishing by showcasing the quality of fishing catches available in the Warrnambool area.



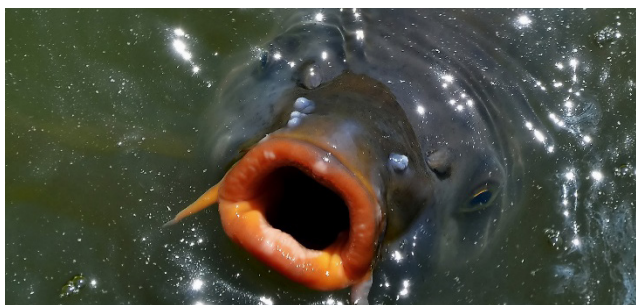
### Round 2 of the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grants In-progress!

Round 2 of the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grants program closed for applications on 30 November 2025. Many applications were received from clubs right across Victoria, which have now been assessed.

These grants can support a wide range of improvements and could apply for up to \$10,000 to upgrade facilities, such as improving kitchens, replacing roofing or wall cladding, and enhancing accessibility and comfort in all weather conditions.

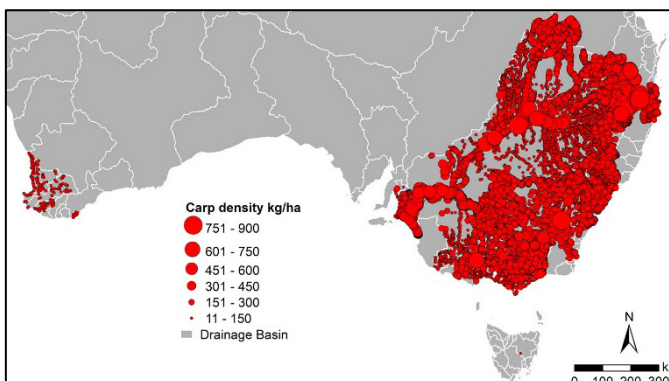
We look forward to being able to announce the outcomes of this recent round soon and seeing how this funding strengthens clubs, attracts new members, and supports vibrant fishing communities throughout Victoria.

# The Carp War Continues



Fishers cherish their time on water, surrounded by nature and hoping for that fishy encounter but, ever-expanding populations of carp threaten this experience as they undermine river health and displace native fish. Across the Murray-Darling Basin, carp account for up to 97% of fish biomass in some rivers. Not only do they damage the ecosystem by uprooting vegetation and degrading water quality, but they also threaten at least 22 listed fauna species.

Control efforts since the 1970's have included harvesting, barriers, electrofishing and research into biological solutions such as the Carp Edema virus, genetic "daughterless carp" technology and the proposed carp herpesvirus. Unlike the other control methods which only provide short term benefits the carp herpesvirus could potentially cut populations by 40-60%. The Federal Government has committed \$3 million dollars to expand and repeat this research. However, timelines for the completion of this research and the use of the herpesvirus remains uncertain.



Over the last 15 years, while we've been waiting for a decision on the carp virus, there has been no federal government on ground investment in carp control. By contrast, over the same period, the federal government has invested more than \$866 million dollars in control programs for a dozen land based invasive species. In 2025, the VFA's proposal to list carp as a key threatening process under the EPBP, a catalyst to prepare a national threat abatement plan, was rejected by the Federal Government. While some are not convinced about the effectiveness of using a carp virus, we can agree our carp problem is not going away and, we need a national plan to work together to implement the tools we have as a priority.



## What's Next?

### Murray Darling Carp Action Summit

The VFA along with the Australian River Restoration Centre, and twenty other government and non-government organisations have been invited to the **Murray Darling Carp Action Summit** at Lake Nagambie in April. The invitation only summit will bring together researchers, resource managers, fishers, irrigators, conservation groups and state and federal management agencies to address the lack of action on carp over the last twenty years.

### Carp management at Lake Colac

The VFA in collaboration with the Shire of Colac, Corangamite CMA and Barwon Water has submitted an RFL grant application to develop an integrated carp management plan for Lake Colac. If funded, the plan will capitalise on the next lake drying cycle, to remove carp and control their re-establishment through a range harvesting, screening and fish stocking initiatives. To raise awareness of the carp problem, we are hosting the second Carp Fishing Festival at Lake Colac on 12 April. We expect it attract thousands of visitors and we hope to see you there!

# Better Boating Victoria (BBV) Updates

One in 10 Victorians participate in boating in some shape or form, every year, more people are discovering what a great destination Victoria is for boating. The Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy outlines a clear plan to manage growth and rising demand for boat ramps and trailer parking.

In 2026, the BBV team are excited to implement a range of priority projects.

- On-ground works continue at the Lang Lang boat ramp with the new (and existing) ramp expected to be completed in March. Key features of the upgrade include the construction of a new, raised and longer concrete ramp and an adjacent jetty with space for up to five boats. The old ramp will be retained for on-water access by non-powered vessels.
- Construction is expected to commence mid-March on the Tooradin boat ramp. The upgrade will include replacement of the concrete ramp with three new lanes extending deeper into the water, longer pontoons to increase the ramp's capacity and improved access roads.
- Construction is expected to commence in April for Lake Eildon's newest boat ramp. A dual-lane concrete ramp near Howqua complete with a turn-around area and 18 car-trailer parks will allow greater access to the water from full capacity down to 78%.
- Construction is expected to commence mid-year on a new boat ramp at Tarago Reservoir, opening up this amazing natural brown trout fishery for on-water based recreational fishing.
- The Port Welshpool, Werribee South, Schnapper Point and Limeburners Point boat ramps will be upgraded in 2026, whilst rectification works have been completed at the Tankerton boat ramp in February following severe storm events that occurred in 2025.
- In December, car park asphaltting was completed at the Laanecoorie Reservoir boat ramp, rounding out the major facility redevelopment earlier in 2025.
- Through our Structural Maintenance Grants Program, recent repairs have been completed at Stony Point boat ramp, with the centre lane repaired and back in use. Deep Lake received enhancements through a BBV grant, with the installation of 20 new rubber fenders on the pontoon.
- Through our Dredging Grants Program, works have been completed at Point Richards, Bastion Point (Mallacoota) and Kananook Creek boat ramp in Frankston to improve access for boaters.



Construction at Lang Lang boat ramp in Western Port







