

Freshwater Fisheries Management Update

Statewide Recreational Fishing Roundtable

Fish Habitat and Flows Roundtable

25 November 2021

Record bonanza of fish stocking set to continue for Victorian fishers!

- The 2022-2023 draft fish stocking plan proposes ANOTHER 10 million fish to be stocked in your waters all over the state!
- The draft stocking plan is available for viewing on the VFA website and we want your comments and ideas so we can continue to work with you to make the most out of the fish stocking program and provide exciting fisheries.
- Highlights in the draft plan include:
 - One million native fish into Rocklands Reservoir
 - 150,000 brown trout into Lake Hume
 - Stonker rainbow trout to continue into urban lakes
 - 1.1 million fish into Lake Eildon
 - 20,000 rainbow trout into Wurdiboluc Reservoir
 - One million fish into Lake Eppalock
 - Waranga basin stocked with 100,000 golden perch
 - Lake Tyers stocked with 30,000 estuary perch
 - Campaspe River stocking boosted to 100,000 Murray cod
- Comments on the plan can be sent through to improving.fishing@vfa.vic.gov.au and will be considered by recreational fishing representatives and the VFA at the Vic Fish Stock meetings held in February 2022.



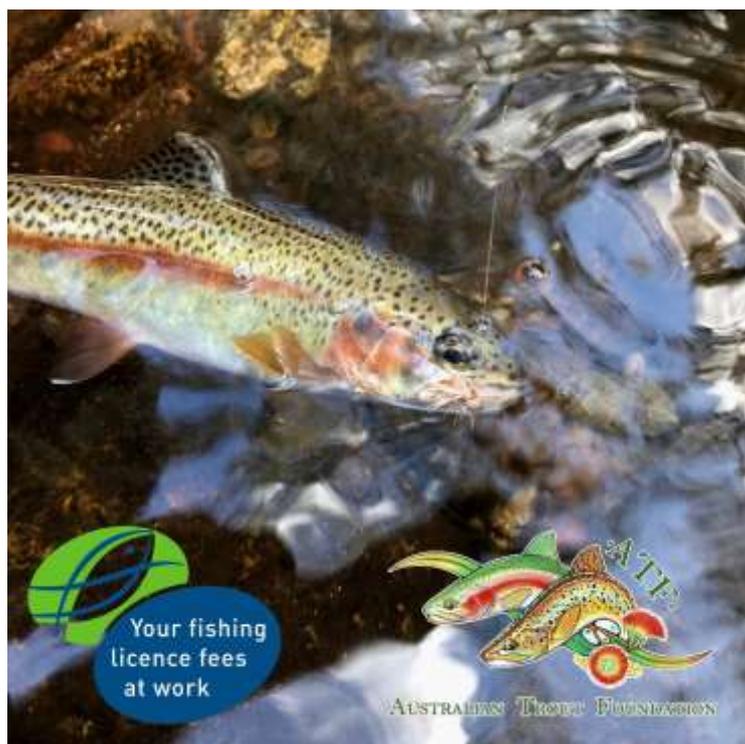
Macquarie Perch recovery works underway

- Work has well and truly commenced to help recover Macquarie perch thanks to the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grant worth \$181,523, supported by the Australian Government's Bushfire Recovery Program.
- Thanks to our fantastic partners including the Women in Recreational Fishing (WIRF) Network, Corryong Angling Club, Ovens and Upper Murray Landcare Networks, North East CMA and DELWP.
- The funding grant has already benefited Macquarie perch recovery through:
 - A 6-month position at Snobs Creek dedicated solely to Macquarie perch care and breeding success (welcome aboard Mark!),
 - Purchase and installation of computer software, temperature/oxygen probes and auto feeders for improved monitoring and conditioning in the hatchery
 - Helicopter transport of the broodstock from Lake Dartmouth to Snobs Creek Hatchery to reduce stress on fish and allow greater spawning success
 - Community riparian habitat planting event at Cudgewa Creek where more than 360 native trees and shrubs were planted to improve habitat for Macquarie perch
- There is heaps more to come over the next four months including the production and stocking of Macquarie perch fingerlings, more habitat restoration in bushfire affected areas and engagement with the community!



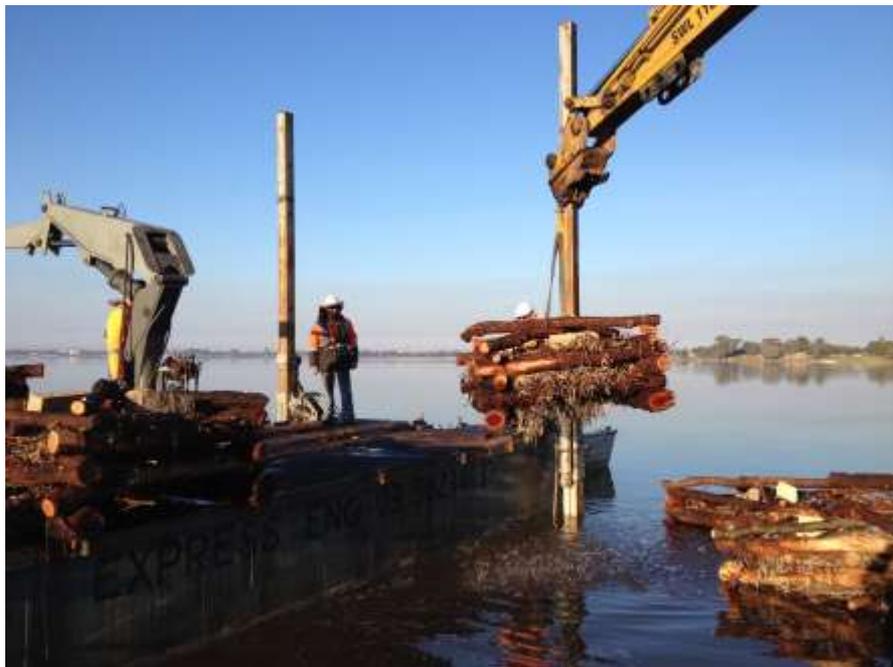
Australian Trout Foundation secure wild trout

- The Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program is set to continue thanks to the Australian Trout Foundation (ATF) and your recreational fishing licence fees!
- The ATF has been awarded a grant to lead stage 3 of the Program, which will deliver research, education, planning and on-ground works to safeguard the future of Victoria's wild trout stocks.
- On priority streams, locations will be identified where bankside planting of native vegetation will have most shade-benefit to keep water temperatures down during the peak of summer.
- The collection of water temperature information in priority streams will be expanded and made available to fishers so they can plan their trips with the best chance of success.
- Incubator and fry stocking trials will be evaluated and regional workshops with fishers and Catchment Management Authorities will accelerate river health restoration and angler access efforts.
- Best of all, learnings and delivery from all of this will be shared with freshwater fishers at the annual Talk Wild Trout Conference, which is another part of the Program.
- To learn more about other new projects, also funded by your fishing licence fees, visit www.vfa.vic.gov.au/feesatwork2021



Waranga Basin set to boom thanks to Goulburn Valley anglers

- Waranga Basin is set to get even better as a fishery thanks to the Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs (GVAAC) who applied to and were successful in securing a Recreational Fishing Large Grant for installation of suitable fish habitat.
- Waranga Basin is already well known for its productive redfin fishery and now with the installation of fish habitat, will support an enhanced golden perch fishery too.
- The habitat construction will be complemented by the VFA's stocking of 750,000 Golden perch fingerlings over the next three years, creating a mega mixed fishery!
- Habitat installation has had big benefits to recreational fishers in other lakes in Victoria such as Lake Boga and Kangaroo Lake.
- Well done and congratulations to Roland Huber and GVAAC for leading a great project which will benefit many recreational fishers into the future
- Access at Waranga will be much better thanks to the upcoming upgrade to the Harrimans Point boat ramp which will include duplication of the ramp lanes, new turnaround area and gravel car-trailer parking area. This is funded by Better Boating Victoria and will be managed by Goulburn Murray Water. Construction is expected to commence after the peak summer boating season ends.



Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery

- At long last and, despite one of our wettest Spring periods, we can say all 20 plankton ponds and 12 brood ponds at Arcadia have now been completed.
- Our brood ponds are full of water and we are monitoring water quality prior to stocking with Murray cod (and Golden perch) broodstock in the next month or so.
- To help our broodfish settle in, we are sourcing lots and lots of yabbies from up north and a supply of frozen carp fillets and chicken necks.
- We plan start filling and fertilizing our plankton ponds in December and, when they are ready stock, for the first time Murray cod larvae.
- We're in the last stages of converting an old dairy building into a quarantine building, which will hold tanks to prepare our fish.
- We have constructed gravel tracks to and between all ponds to provide safe vehicle access.
- We have finished our power upgrade and spent last week assembling and wiring up 20 paddle wheel aerators, ready for the plankton ponds.
- We're in the last stages of reviewing proposals to construct our hatchery building, with construction to commence early next year.
- We have completed the first round of our staff recruitment process and have found three experience and passionate senior staff for Arcadia including:
 - Ryan Burniston – Program Manager,
 - Jarryd McGowan – Production Supervisor and,
 - James Milne – Property Site Coordinator.
- We are close to finalising the design of the Visitors Centre and hope to put this design out the construction sector in the new year.
- We have filled the turkey 50 megalitre turkey nest dam at Arcadia and its being re-purposed as a fish out pond as part of the Visitors Centre experience. We recently put three truck loads of woody fish habitat to make the fish welcome.



Our big turkey nest dam is being repurposed as an exciting new recreational fishery.



The construction of gravel paths around ponds marks the completion of all earthworks at Arcadia.



Woody habitat being installed into the big turkey nest dam

Farewell to Dallas

- It's with heavy hearts that we say farewell (for now) to Dallas D'Silva as he takes up a position of a lifetime as Executive Director of Queensland Fisheries! Dallas was a big contributor to creating great freshwater fisheries in Victoria and will be a massive gain to Queensland recreational fishers. All the best and see you soon Channel Cod Champ!



If you have any questions or comments about these or other projects, feel free to get in contact with the Freshwater Fisheries Management Team:

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