

September 2026

Recreational Fisheries Management Update



Mulloway
Improvement Program

Black Bream
Winter Surveys

Estuary Perch
Successful Search

Freshwater Catfish
On the Comeback



Cover photo: Makaira Muscat with a Mulloway
caught in a Victorian estuary



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Mulloway Improvement Program



Mulloway are one of Victoria's premier recreational fish species and are a highly regarded sportfish amongst anglers. These fish typically average 3-10kg but can often grow to over 1 metre and weigh a whopping 30kg!

In recent years, recreational fishers have raised concerns regarding Mulloway, including:

- Declines in numbers in some estuaries since the 1990s and 2000s
- High angler recaptures of tagged mulloway
- High harvest observed in some urban Melbourne estuaries
- Current recreational fishing regulations for the species seen as outdated, particularly the 5 fish per person day bag limit, being seen as beyond a reasonable day's harvest.



The VFA received this feedback and in partnership with recreational fishers, reviewed the best available scientific information on mulloway and neighbouring jurisdictions management (which we share mulloway stocks with). This led to the proposal of the Mulloway Improvement Program, consisting of short-, medium- and long-term fisheries management actions to improve Mulloway fishing in Victoria.





Short Term - Revise recreational fishing regulations for mulloway

- Change the bag limit from 5 mulloway per person per day to 2 mulloway per person per day, that better reflects a 'fair days take', shares the resource and aligns with other large bodied marine species such as kingfish, tuna and gummy shark, as well as the South Australian bag limit for Mulloway.
- Increase the minimum size limit from 60cm to 70cm to give mulloway approximately 10 months extra protection from harvest, allow more fish to reach sexual maturity/spawning size, and align with the minimum size limit with New South Wales for consistency.

Medium Term – Invest in our understanding of mulloway

- Restart an angler tagging program for mulloway in Victoria to continue understanding growth, movement and connectivity of the species, complementing tagging programs in South Australia and New South Wales.
- Expand on a project to scientifically track mulloway around Melbourne Rivers (led by Arthur Rylah Institute/Melbourne Water) to better understand mulloway spawning, movement and habitat use with respect to flows.

Long Term – Captively breed and stock mulloway

- Trial the experimental release of mulloway in Victorian estuaries to improve populations, building on Victoria's long history of successful fish stocking.

Implementing the proposed Mulloway Improvement Program is expected to better reflect recreational fisher views of a reasonable day's harvest, reduce local depletion of mulloway in rivers and estuaries, and improve the mulloway fishery quality through growth, breeding and stocking.

Submissions received during the consultation period between July and August are now being considered and an announcement regarding the proposed Mulloway Improvement Program is expected soon.

For further information, feel free to contact Taylor Hunt, Manager of Recreational Fisheries on taylor.hunt@vfa.vic.gov.au or 0418 478 028.



The Estuary Perch Search

Every year in August, estuary perch (EP) congregate in estuaries along Victoria's coastline in preparation to spawn. This is the VFA's cue to undertake our annual estuary perch broodstock collection events. These broodstock collections are vital to continue our estuary perch stocking program which has been running since 2012 and has produced over 2.4 million estuary perch, stocked into 36 waters across the state.

EP's have two distinct genetic populations in Victoria which requires two separate broodstock collection events. The first broodstock collection occurred in mid August in the estuaries of East Gippsland. Hatchery staff from Snobs Creek joined with Fisheries Managers and an electrofishing team from the Arthur Rylah Institute to locate, capture and transport "running ripe" estuary perch broodstock to an estuarine hatchery.

With the help of some local angler knowledge, the EP's were quickly found and captured in both the Cann River and the Snowy River at Marlo. Broodstock condition was assessed at the boat ramp, with suitable fish transferred to a fish transport truck, and less suitable fish returned to the water.

The selected broodstock were then transported by truck to an estuarine aquaculture facility in Narooma NSW where spawning is induced and the collected eggs are incubated at the hatchery. Once spawned, the spent broodstock were returned to the estuary they were captured from.

The western "Perch Search" was undertaken at the end of August and involved Fisheries Managers and hatchery staff travelling to Nelson on the Glenelg River. They were joined by a team of highly skilled volunteer anglers. Over the course of 3 days, the volunteers caught estuary perch via angling and transported them in live wells on their boats to a boat shed. VFA staff waiting at the boat shed then assessed the fish for spawning condition and retained suitable fish in holding crates in the estuary.

Once the collection was complete, the fish were loaded into water and oxygen filled bags in foam boxes, transported to the Mount Gambier airport and then flown to the hatchery at Narooma.

These fish, combined with the estuary perch collected in Gippsland will produce approximately 280,000 estuary perch, and will be stocked into 21 waters across Victoria, from east Gippsland to the South-West coast.

The VFA would like to thank all the volunteers that contributed to the broodstock collection events. Your dedicated efforts over the years have directly resulted in the estuary perch stocking program become the success that it is.



Murray Cod Closed Season

As of the 1st of September, the annual Murray cod closed season has begun and will continue through to the 30th of November. The seasonal closure is designed to give cod a well-earned break throughout their spawning season.

As the weather warms, cod will begin to spawn as water temperatures reach approximately 16 – 21° degrees. Female fish use hollow logs, rocks and clay banks as nests to lay up to 40,000 eggs! By protecting cod during the closed season, we're not only giving the next generation a thriving start, we are also helping to support a sustainable fishery where anglers today and tomorrow can have the joy of reeling in a big one!



For those who want to continue their cod fishing, now's the time to check out some of our world class year-round Murray cod fisheries! Anglers can continue to fish for cod in the following waterways throughout the closed season:

- Lake Eildon
- Rocklands Reservoir
- Lake Nillahcootie
- Lake Eppalock
- Cairn Curran Reservoir
- Lake Lascelles
- Ouyen Lake

Take this opportunity to explore a different part of the state, get out on the water and score the catch of a lifetime!



If you're looking to brush up on your Murray cod fishing skills, be sure to visit our 9th annual Murray Codference! We've got a ripper lineup of fishing experts, passionate cod anglers and industry leaders sharing their tips, tricks and stories – all aimed at helping you find and land iconic Murray cod and other freshwater natives.

When: Saturday, 3 October 2026

Where: Wangaratta Performing Arts & Convention Centre, 33-37 Ford St, Wangaratta VIC 3677

Time: 8:55am - 4:30pm

Cost: FREE! With lunch, tea and coffee and refreshments provided

Bookings essential! Register www.vfa.vic.gov.au/codference

Juvenile Bream Surveys Track Recruitment in the Gippsland Lakes



Victorian Fisheries Authority scientists have completed this year's black bream pre-recruit survey in the Gippsland Lakes, continuing a long-term monitoring program for one of Victoria's most valued estuarine recreational fisheries.

Pre-recruit surveys focus on juvenile fish before they grow large enough to be caught by recreational fishers. These young black bream provide an early indication of recruitment strength and help scientists understand how successful recent spawning and early survival have been.

This year's winter survey sampled juvenile black bream at approximately 50 fixed sites across the Gippsland Lakes. Each fish was measured and recorded before being released, with the standardised design allowing results to be compared with previous surveys.

Recruitment of black bream can vary considerably between years because spawning success and juvenile survival are influenced by environmental conditions such as river flow and salinity. Monitoring juvenile abundance each year helps identify strong and weak year classes before they are observed in the adult fishery.



With no commercial fishing for bream in the Gippsland Lakes, more fish remain in the system and are available to contribute to spawning and recreational catch. However, successful recruitment still depends on suitable environmental conditions. As such, variation in juvenile numbers is normal for black bream, and there are enough adult fish in the system to greatly contribute to successful spawning when environmental conditions align. Although low numbers juvenile fish were caught this year, the result is consistent with the natural year-to-year variation commonly observed in black bream recruitment.

The survey results contribute to stock assessment advice and support evidence-based management of the Gippsland Lakes black bream fishery. By maintaining a consistent annual survey, scientists can track changes in recruitment over time and provide early advice on the likely strength of future fish stocks.



Catfish Translocations

In late June, the VFA in collaboration with North Central CMA, Ecology Australia and Wamba Wemba's Kurrek Yukal Ranger team helped translocate 245 freshwater catfish from Lake Lascelles to boost riverine populations in northern Victoria.

The catfish were collected using an electrofishing boat and fyke nets, ranging from fingerlings to mature-sized adults, with the largest fish coming in at a whopping 46cm!

The fish were successfully translocated with 87 fish being released into the Loddon River at the Kerang Weir Pool and 158 fish into the Little Murray River Weir Pool. The aim is to re-establish thriving populations where catfish numbers have depleted overtime due to environmental factors and the introduction of carp.

There's nothing better than watching these catfish swim into their new homes knowing they will help establish the next generation of freshwater catfish!

It was a mammoth effort from coordinating collection and release sites to collecting and transporting the fish! A massive thank you goes to everyone involved with the project for going above and beyond to get these catfish from A to B happy, healthy and safe!



Talking Trout 2026

On the 1st of August the VFA and the Australian Trout Foundation co-hosted the Talking Trout conference, celebrating Victoria's amazing and productive trout fisheries. It was an amazing day with around 300 trout enthusiasts in attendance.

No matter what your preferred way is to target trout, there was something in it for everyone. Expert speakers delivered practical talks and tips on everything from our extraordinarily productive stocked lakes out west, massive browns in south-west coastal rivers, trolling down deep on Dartmouth or casting flies to elusive trout in small mountain streams: it was all there!

This was the 8th conference in our ever popular "Talk Wild Trout" series of events that were initially spawned (pardon the pun!) out of a long-term commitment to sustaining Victoria's trout fisheries. The collaboration between the VFA and the ATF, as well as many fishing clubs, Catchment Management Authorities and many others, has also resulted in the Victorian Wild Trout Strategy, a considerable investment in habitat and the ATF's "Trees for Trout" initiative. To learn more about how to get involved with these initiatives, and others like them, check out the ATF's website: www.australiantroutfoundation.com.au



Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating



In August, 10 Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating (WIRFAB) leaders participated in their second Professional Development Program, held at the 2026 Australian Fishing Trade Association (AFTA) Show. There was an EOI process to select existing leaders to participate in this annual program. Holding the program at the AFTA Tackle Show provided an invaluable opportunity to strengthen industry relationships, meet suppliers face-to-face, gather fresh ideas, advocate for a more diverse and inclusive industry, and find connection where WIRFAB, the tackle industry, and key stakeholders can work together to increase participation.



This year's WIRFAB Professional Development Program theme was leadership, WIRFAB leaders were able to learn from industry experts and take away ideas, inspiration and new perspectives that will continue to shape what they do. Industry leaders shared their knowledge, experience, and skills, while also challenging our WIRFAB leaders to think bigger and push themselves further.

The main takeaways from this program included:

- We all have the same issue of catching fish & fishing tackle isn't gender based
- Having mentors through your leadership journey is a big help
- Surround yourself with capable people and give everyone at the table a voice
- Regardless of gender, most people just want to feel a sense of belonging, and that's what the fishing and boating community should be for everyone



Having our WIRFAB leaders a part of these conversations and giving them the opportunity to share their experiences reinforces just how important their voice and presence are. The spirit of embracing participation was evident throughout AFTA, and it was empowering to see so many people from industry committed to increasing participation in fishing, encouraging the next generation, and ensuring a strong and sustainable future for the fishing industry. A big thank you for the wonderful work our WIRFAB leaders continue to do to build such a positive and welcoming community.

What's next for WIRFAB?

We are excited to welcome 9 new leaders to the WIRFAB leadership team this September. Stay tuned as we introduce our 9 new leaders!



Stocking Program Update

It has been a strong salmonid season - more than 850,000 brown and rainbow trout have been stocked across the state along with 10,000 chinook salmon into the crater lakes. We're on track to meet our target of 1.3 million salmonids stocked by the end of October, just in time for estuarine stockings to commence in November (Australian bass and estuary perch).

The June/July school holiday stocking program had another successful run with 75 waterways receiving catchable sized rainbow trout over a three-week period. A handful of waterways that missed out on fish due to significantly low water levels/quality due to minimal rainfall in the lead-up to stocking are set to receive fish in time for the September school holidays thanks to heavy rainfall during July.

The 'Stonker trout' program kicked off a cracking start to the trout season opening on September 5th - this popular program saw 1,000 ex-broodstock rainbow trout averaging 4kg released into 17 waters across the metro region, as well as 2,000 into the Goulburn River between Eildon and Molesworth.



Arcadia Hatchery Update



Winter has been anything but quiet at the Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery, with the team preparing the facility and broodstock for another productive breeding season.

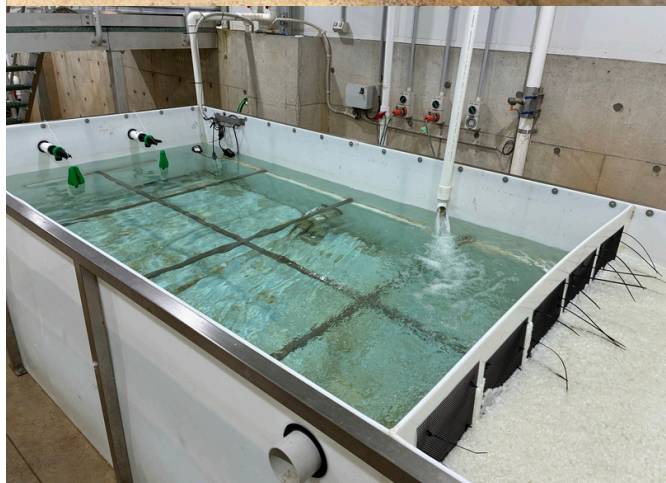
Across our broodstock ponds, preventative treatments have been completed over winter to help manage parasite loads and to ensure our Murray cod and Golden perch broodfish enter the breeding season in the best possible health and condition. Keeping our broodstock healthy is an important part of producing strong, healthy larvae and giving the season the best possible start.



Inside the hatchery, we've also significantly increased our production capacity. The number of Golden Perch breeding tanks has been doubled from four tanks to eight tanks. Our Murray cod facilities have also received a similar boost, with the number of incubators increasing from 36 to 64. Along with this work we have increased our sump capacity in the mechanical room. This upgrade is to accommodate for the increased production capacity across the hatchery.

Outside, preparations across the production ponds are well underway. The ponds have been cleaned and prepared, weed and grass growth has been kept to a minimum, and surrounding vegetation is being managed to ensure everything is ready once we get our first cod spawning.

It's shaping up to be another exciting season at Arcadia as we continue working to produce Murray cod and Golden Perch for stocking into Victorian waterways and creating more fishing opportunities for recreational anglers across the state.



Snobs Creek Hatchery Update

It's been a successful salmonid breeding season at Snobs Creek, with the final batches of brown and rainbow trout eggs now hatching.

The breeding season runs for around eight weeks, but producing fish for stocking involves much more than collecting and incubating eggs. After hatching, the young fish remain as alevins, relying on their yolk sac for nutrients before being introduced to a specialised 0.3 mm pellet. Once successfully weaned onto feed, juvenile trout have the potential to grow at a staggering 7% per day under ideal conditions. In the icy waters of Snobs Creek, growth is closer to 4% per day, which is still enough to keep the team busy.



At this early stage, the fish spend much of their time close to the bottom of the troughs and create very little water movement, allowing waste and debris to settle. Staff are constantly cleaning troughs and monitoring fish health and water quality. With fish growing quickly, batches also regularly outgrow their troughs, tanks and raceways and need to be shifted to maintain plenty of space.

Planning across the eight-week spawning window is critical to make sure we produce enough fish to meet Victoria's stocking commitments. This means allowing for losses along the way, including variable egg fertility, fish that don't successfully transition onto pelletised feed, parasites and predation.



Across our hatcheries, biosecurity is also a major focus. This is particularly important in our recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS), where water is continuously reused and the introduction of a parasite or pathogen could have serious consequences for vulnerable fish. Measures include dedicated footwear and footbaths, staff working within designated hatchery areas rather than moving freely between facilities, and rooms classified as red, amber or green depending on their biosecurity risk.

For our native fish, prophylactic treatments have now been completed to ensure broodstock are in the best possible condition heading towards spawning. Native fish remain relatively dormant through the cold Snobs Creek winter, but with the wattles now in full blossom, the first signs of spring are here, and another spawning season isn't far away.



Over the next 2 months, the team will begin deploying nesting boxes as pond temperatures approach 15°C. Most broodstock ponds at Snobs Creek are now dedicated to Trout cod, with only a couple of Murray cod ponds remaining. This brings us another step closer to phasing out Murray cod production at Snobs Creek and handing over the baton to Arcadia, where conditions are better suited to their production.

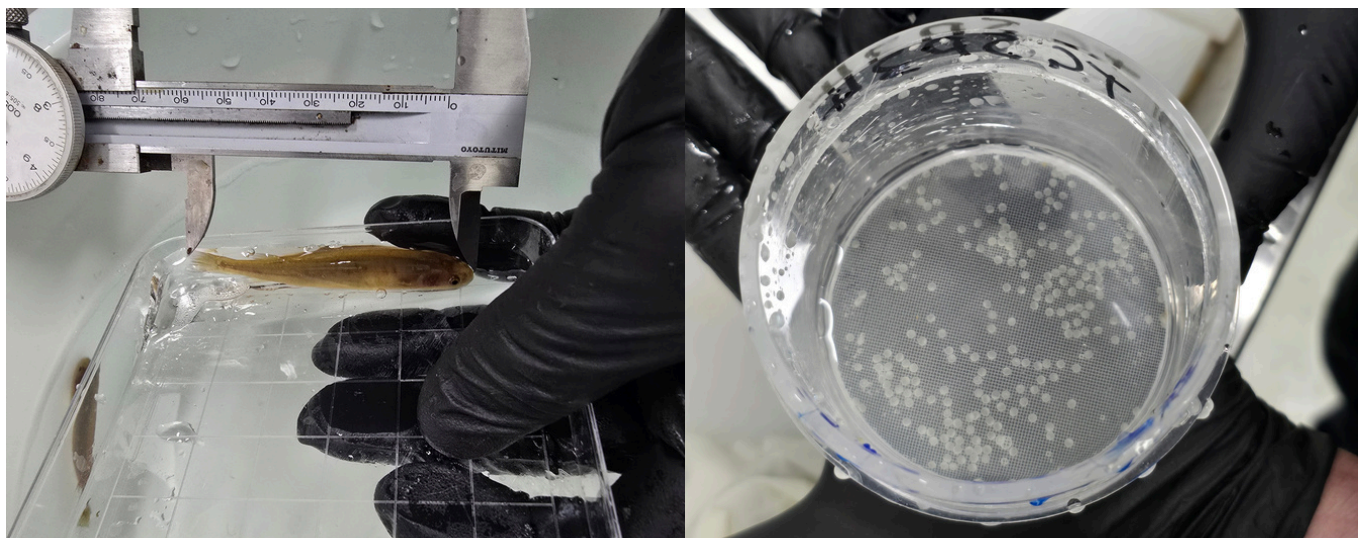
Macquarie perch broodstock in the new MPRC are also beginning their transition out of winter. Feeding activity remains slow with water temperatures currently around 8°C, but this is where RAS technology gives us an advantage. We can gradually manipulate both temperature and daylight to replicate seasonal changes from the species natural range. Over the coming months, daylight hours and water temperature will be progressively increased until reaching around 18°C, setting the scene for the next Macquarie perch breeding season.

It's a busy transition period at Snobs Creek - wrapping up one breeding season while preparations for the next are already well underway.



Conservation Hatchery Update

Over the past few months, the Conservation Hatchery has been progressing through its winter thermal and photoperiod cycles. These cycles vary between species; for example, Moroka and McDowall's galaxias are mid-altitude species that experience winter temperatures as low as 4.5°C. All species are exposed to temperature and light regimes that replicate natural seasonal conditions, providing important biological cues that support fish health, conditioning and preparation for spawning.



One controlled-environment room operates on a six-month seasonal cycle, providing two winter and two summer periods each year. Recent spawning attempts with West Gippsland and tapered galaxias, as well as river blackfish, were unsuccessful. Flat-headed galaxias are currently being conditioned for spawning in the coming weeks. In our natural-cycle rooms, West Gippsland galaxias are approaching their natural breeding season and will be targeted for spawning over the next four-weeks, followed by Yalmy, Moroka and McDowall's galaxias and river blackfish. Tapered galaxias have begun spawning and we hope to improve on last year's success with our captive breeding program.



We have also begun collecting our juvenile Narracan freshwater mussels as they detach from their fish hosts. Freshwater mussels have a unique reproductive cycle. Males shed spermatozoa into the water which are carried to the females by water currents.

Fertilised eggs develop internally to become microscopic larvae known as glochidia that are parasites of fish. These larvae are released into the water and attach to a suitable host fish. In the hatchery we are testing a range of different fish species to find the best host for the glochidia. We are using two-spine blackfish and rainbow trout in the current trials. The glochidia temporarily live on the gills, or fins of the host for approximately two to six weeks, depending on temperature. Once development is complete, glochidia undergo metamorphosis into juvenile mussels that detach from their hosts and settle to the bottom of our tanks.



The juveniles are then siphoned from the tanks and transferred into dedicated grow-out vessels, where they are fed various species of algae and their water quality is maintained until they are released back into the wild. It sounds easy but when you are transferring baby mussels out of a syphoned sample it is a very delicate and time-consuming job. The baby mussels are tiny, barely 0.23mm in size, which is much smaller than the tip of a fine ball-point pen. At that size it takes a lot of patience, skill and a well-trained eye to spot them out among the grains of sand, detached scales, fish waste, feed waste, and other microbes that they are mixed in with.

Initial numbers have been encouraging; however, successfully rearing juveniles represents one of the most challenging stages of the mussel life cycle in captivity.

Although our Narracan mussel-rearing program is still in its early stages, we are hopeful that we will be able to release some juveniles back into the wild very soon.

In October, we will also return the alpine spiny crayfish rescued following the Walwa bushfires to the streams from which they were collected earlier this year.



Recreational Fishing Licence Grants Update

Applications received under the 2025-26 round of the Large Grants program have been assessed by the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee and their recommendations are still under consideration. 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. The 2026-27 year is off to a strong start with 16 Small Grant applications already received. Ten applications have been approved for funding and the other 6 are being assessed. Two applications have been received through the Intermediate Grants program.

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

Small Grants

Kids Bream Fishing Day

The Leopold Angling and Aquatic Club recently ran a very successful Kids Bream Fishing Day. It attracted many juniors, some of whom caught their very first bream. Many families attended together, and there were also a good number of visitors from the general public, some of whom have since joined the club. On the night prior to the event, Bill Hartshorne from Vic Bream Classics attended the club as a guest speaker to talk all things bream and to give parents advice and tips to help the kids catch a bream the next day. All juniors who caught bream were recognised at presentations with giveaways donated by the club's valued sponsors, and a social BBQ topped off a wonderful day.



Intermediate Grants

RFL Funds Contribute to Mending Cast Reel Recovery Program

The Mending Casts organisation is a volunteer registered charity organisation that hold 3-day fly fishing retreats for those affected by cancer. The retreats are nature/nurture based in groups of no more than 12 participants. The retreats are free to participants and all costs including accommodation, meals and the chance to connect with others following a similar experience, are paid for by Mending Casts. The organisation runs various fundraising events but has also been assisted with funding through the RFL Small and Intermediate grant programs over the last few years.

The latest Reel Recovery retreat for men with all types of cancer was held in Marysville and was said to be one of the most successful so far, with the men bonding very well from the first day. The courageous conversations produced the expected tears, laughter and thought-provoking contributions, with all participants sharing their experiences willingly. Teams of volunteer buddies who provide support, conversation and fishing tuition are integral to the program, and contain past VFA staff such as John Douglas and current ones such as Corey Green.

The fishing was very successful and contributed significantly to the men's enjoyment, with all but one participant catching fish, and some catching quite a few. The feedback received from the participants was exceptionally positive and a few are keen to pursue fly fishing further. Three of the men have already reached out to their local fly-fishing club.

It's very rewarding to see such fantastic outcomes are achieved from the use of licence fee funds, and that our fish stocking program provides opportunities for people to take time out from the various stresses and difficulties of life and enjoy the simple pleasures of catching a fish.



Large Grants

Dunyak Moira Fishing Platforms

Dunyak Moira is an education and fishing facility developed by Goulburn Valley Water in partnership with the Burnanga Indigenous Fishing Club. It provides a wonderful experience for people through access and use of two constructed fishing ponds and pleasant surroundings. The larger 50ML pond is called Burnanga Moira (Murray cod pond) and funding was provided through the RFL Large Grants program to complete a series of safe and accessible fishing platforms. Five of eight planned platforms were initially constructed, and RFL funds enabled the remaining three platforms to be installed and fitted with safety equipment and signage. Paths and bridge enable access to these platforms, which provide great fishing for the large Murray cod that inhabit the lake.



Less Talk - More Action on Carp



At the Nagambie Carp Action Summit in April, convened by the VFA and Australian River Restoration Centre, we heard Australia's carp problem was most deeply felt by local communities as they struggle with degraded water quality, river health and biodiversity loss.

We started the summit with the scale of the carp problem, reflecting a growing sense of impotence as we wait backstage, hoping for a decision on the carp biocontrol, after nearly 20 years of research. But, as the summit unfolded, the mood lifted as we heard inspirational stories about communities working together to deal with carp.

We heard from Darren Willis from Landscapes South Australia who used drying and flooding wetlands cycles and carp screens to recover wetland health. We heard from Trevor Clark about farmers on the Yanco Creek setting up an irrigated water levy that funded carp harvesting, fish habitat improvement, native fish stocking and fish populations surveys. We heard from Tim Crane at Ocean 2 Earth about public private partnership opportunities to set up regional processing hubs to turn carp into organic fertiliser and compost. There's one thing all summit delegates agreed on, we need to work together and row in the same direction if we are to tackle the carp problem – we need less talk and more action. This was the genesis of a proposed Carp Action Alliance (the Alliance).



The Alliance will connect people and organisations who are already working to reduce carp impacts, restore habitat, support native fish recovery, and build healthier rivers. Becoming an Alliance Partner means being part of a national platform focused on action, collaboration and shared learning. We are reaching out for partners who are committed to doing something practical, sharing what they are learning, and helping others understand what is possible. This includes projects focused on carp harvesting, processing, habitat restoration, wetland management, native fish recovery, fish passage, community engagement, research, innovation, biological control approaches, or other practical actions that contribute to healthier rivers. Our role is to shine a light on the diversity of actions already underway or being planned across the country, and to support an integrated approach where every credible tool is assessed on its merits alongside the others.



As the Alliance grows, we are exploring opportunities to seek funding to support partners to document and share their actions. This could include support for case studies, short videos, site stories, demonstration site profiles, learning resources or other materials that help make practical work more visible. While this funding is not yet confirmed, we see it as an important part of helping partners tell their stories and build momentum across the country. As our reach grows we expect recreational fishing organisations, farmers, local Government, CMA's and Landcare groups will be inspired to get involved and find support to deal with carp one waterway at a time.

The carp challenge cannot be solved by one organisation, one project or one solution. It will require many people, in many places, taking practical action and learning from each other. More information about the Carp Action Alliance and to subscribe to our new Carp Action Newsletter, go to: <https://www.carpactionalliance.au/>



Tooliorook Trophy Trout

Lake Tooliorook near Lismore has been firing for trophy trout most of this year with brown and rainbow trout up to 4kg being landed by many anglers!

Gun trout fishers like Al Vanstan, Ash Rawlings and Karla Smith have been enjoying the spoils whether it be trolling from the boat, casting from shore or bait fishing.

Lake Tooliorook is stocked with around 5,000 brown trout and 5,000 rainbow trout each year and that number clearly produces the goods in terms of quality trout!

It's great to see one of our Western District Lakes absolutely booming again after the likes of Bolac, Purrumbete, Bullen Merri and Toolondo in recent years.



Better Boating Victoria (BBV) Updates



- The Tooradin boat ramp is on track for completion this September. Upgrades 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.
- Lake Eildon's newest boat ramp near Howqua includes a dual-lane concrete ramp complete with a turn-around area and 18 car-trailer parks will allow more boaters access to the water from full capacity down to 78%. The project is on track for completion in October 2026.
- The Schnapper Point boat ramp in Mornington is on track for completion this October. Upgrades include new jetties to provide more space to tie up, a new widened and improved boat ramp to increase launching capacity, a new concrete manoeuvring area and DDA compliant jetties and Hansa hoist to facilitate all abilities access.
- Construction has been completed on the installation of an all-abilities pontoon at the Port Welshpool boat ramp.
- Works are expected to be completed this November at the Tarago Reservoir, opening up this amazing natural brown trout fishery for on-water based recreational fishing.
- Construction has commenced on the Werribee South boat ramp. The upgrade involves the addition of a new ramp lane, extension and realignment of existing pontoons, and a new pontoon, provision of all-abilities access, reconfiguration of parking areas to create more parking, rigging and tie down spaces, to improve traffic flow and congestion challenges. The project is on track for completion in November 2026.
- Mildura Karadoc, Lake Colac, Boorhaman North and Limeburners Point boat ramps will be upgraded in 2026.
- Dredging of the Kirk Point boat ramp are expected to be completed this September.
- The Tender has closed for the restoration of Newhaven Pier, with works expected to commence in late 2026.
- On-ground works are expected to commence to upgrade the Tullaroop Reservoir boat ramp in January 2027.
- In 2022, BBV upgraded the Lake Bullen Merri boat ramp with a dual-lane ramp and floating pontoon. Due to current low water levels, the pontoon is sitting on the lakebed. BBV is supporting the Committee of Management to relocate the pontoon into deeper water to maintain safe and reliable access.
- The Moyne Shire Council with BBV funding installed solar lighting and stop blocks to the Port Fairy boat ramp, with new line marking and signage.
- BBV currently have 13 projects underway through our three major grant programs for boating facility asset managers, including 7 structural maintenance, 2 dredging and 4 waterway management projects.
- Submissions for the 2025/26 round of BBV's competitive boating grants have now closed and will provide up to \$110,000 per project. Each submission was assessed by a Funding Advisory Panel, with the recommended projects currently pending approval by the Minister.
- In partnership with WIRFAB, BBV continues to deliver highly successful boating clinic days. The program has now engaged over 180 participants!



