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President's Report June 2022



Welcome to VICNews 126! At our club meeting of 1st July Gerard Carmody gave a fantastic presentation on the history of keeping fishes in aquaria, using antiquarian books from his own collection to tell the story. I had no idea that it is such an old hobby and with so many twists and turns!

Our September club meeting was in the form of an evening 'dry feet' field trip to Sealife Melbourne Aquarium (see article starting on page 8). Curator Sam Fawke gave us an excellent tour of front-of-house displays and also behind the scenes (wow!), patiently answering all of our questions. For anyone who hasn't been to the aquarium recently, I recommend it! Their displays are wonderful, both marine and freshwater, and there are new things happening all the time. Sam was excited to show us their new freshwater small-bodied native fishes conservation 'nursery', where they will be working on Victorian Purple-spotted Gudgeon, Olive Perchlet and Murray River Rainbowfish, as well as other species in time.

Our National ANGFA Convention, held in Brisbane on the 15th

and 16th October, was a fantastic success! The speakers were excellent and it was a wonderful opportunity for fellow 'fishos' to catch up. We got to see a Lungfish in the wild and to 'puddle pirate' in the rivers around Brisbane and a little further north. The next concretion will be held in Townsville or Cairns in 2024.

In most recent news Chris Lamin (ANGFA/Middle Creek Farm), myself (ANGFA) and Tim Curmi (NFA/ANGFA) attended the annual Tri-State Alliance Forum held this year in Goolwa, South Australia.

To refresh your memory, the Tri-State Alliance was formed around 2017-2018 to facilitate:

- a structured approach to applying for and utilising grant money put up by the Murray Darling Basin Authority.
- easier navigation of the red tape that surrounds the transport/relocation of fishes between the states of SA, VIC and NSW in regards to fishes conservation efforts.
- a culture between the member states of communication/cooperation and inspiration.
- identification of key species at risk and the subsequent conservation efforts of key small-bodied native fishes, for example: **the Magnificent 6** which comprises Vic Purple-spotted Gudgeon, Murray Hardyhead, Olive Perchlet, Flathead Galaxias, Southern Pygmy Perch and Yarra Pygmy Perch.
- sharing of conservation wins and key knowledge gained.

Many important people attended representing a variety of key bodies including Aquasave Glenelg Nature Trust, Delwp, LandscapeSA, Environment NSW, ZoosSA, Middle Creek Farm, ANGFA, OZfish, NFA, ARI, NCCMA, MGCMA and others.

Long story short, there have been some excellent conservation wins in with Southern Purple-spotted Gudgeon and Murray Basin Southern Pygmy Perch (Vic, NSW and SA) and Murray Hardyhead (NSW and SA). More funding is needed and as we tackle the next species on "**the Magnificent 6**" there will be broodstock collection efforts as well as a number of other volunteer tasks required - that's where ANGFA members can help, like we did with Southern Pygmy Perch and Vic Purple-spotted Gudgeon.

Enjoy this edition and see you at the next meeting on 4th November!



Peter Rose, from North Central Catchment Management Authority presenting at the recent Tri-State Alliance Forum, held in Goolwa, SA. There were a number of very inspiring presentations showcasing recent conservation efforts, from SA, NSW and Vic, for our small-bodied native Fishes. Photo: Greg Martin