

Fish of the Loddon River



Photo: Gunther Schmida

Murray Hardyhead

(*Craterocephalus fluviatilis*)

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- I am a very tiny fish. I only grow 40 to 65 mm long - that's about the same size as your little finger!
- I am an annual species which means I usually only live for one year.
- I live in wetlands and I'm usually hanging out along the edges of still open water where there are sandy areas to explore.
- I feed on tiny crustaceans and algae.

Breeding: Spring through Summer. I lay my eggs in vegetation in the water.



Photo: Neil Armstrong

Golden Perch

(*Macquaria ambigua ambigua*)

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- I am a medium sized fish, also known as a 'Yellowbelly'.
- I live in slow moving water and I also enjoy spending time in deep river pools.
- I migrate upstream to breed, travelling up to 1,000 km - that's further than driving from Melbourne to Sydney! I can produce up to half a million eggs during breeding season.
- I am carnivorous and enjoy eating shrimps, yabbies, small fish and water bugs.

Breeding: Spring through Summer. I can lay up to 500,000 eggs which are semi-buoyant and drift downstream to hatch.



Photo: Neil Armstrong

Murray Cod

(*Maccullochella peelii peelii*)

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- I am the biggest freshwater fish in Australia! I can grow up to 1.8 m long and weigh 113 kg!
- I live for a long time; sometimes I am 50 years old.
- I live around large rocks and in hollow logs.
- I am carnivorous and eat small fish, crayfish and frogs- I am a very good hunter.

Breeding: Spring through Summer. I migrate upstream to lay my eggs around rocks or logs. Males protect the eggs.



Photo: Neil Armstrong

River Blackfish

(*Gadopsis marmoratus*)

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- I am a small fish only growing to 30 cm.
- I travel no further than 30 m from home.
- I am nocturnal and benthic, which means I am active at night and live around the bottom of the river.
- I am carnivorous and eat small insects, yabbies and larvae.
- I am regionally significant.

Breeding: Spring through Summer. I lay my eggs in hollow logs and in between rocks. Males protect the eggs.



Photo: Neil Armstrong

Silver Perch

(*Bidyanus bidyanus*)

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- I am a small silvery black fish with a small mouth, head and scales.
- I live in a school of fish - we like the flowing rapids at rocky outcrops and slow moving water.
- I migrate with my large school upstream to breed, where our eggs are laid at night time.
- I am omnivorous which means I eat plants and animals. I feed on insects, worms, mussels and also algae. I even have special teeth for scraping the algae off logs and rocks.

Breeding: Spring through Summer. I migrate upstream to lay my eggs, often triggered by a flood event.



Photo: Gunther Schmida

Freshwater Catfish

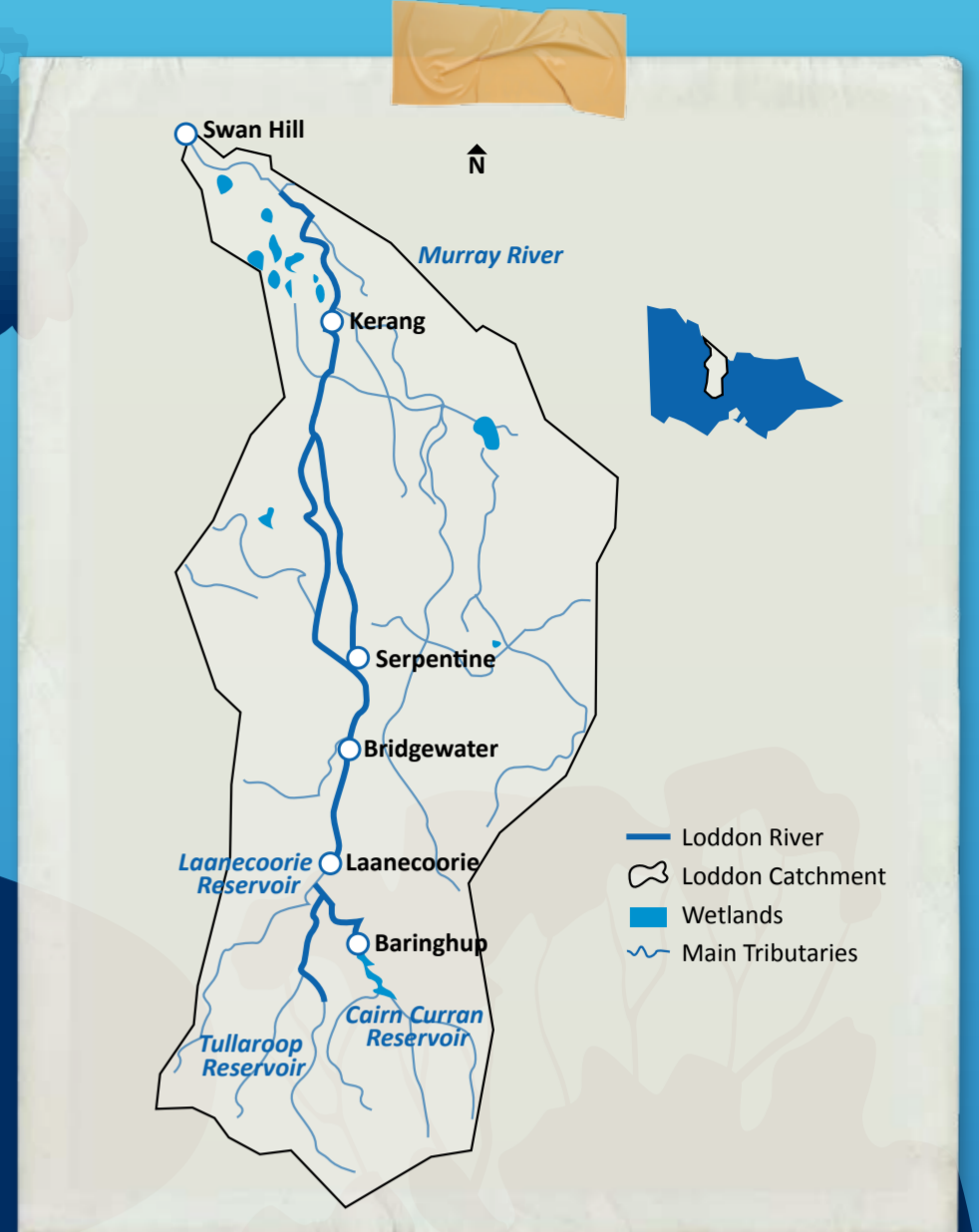
(*Tandanus tandanus*)

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- I am a unique fish because I have no scales; I have soft smooth skin.
- I'm a shy fish. I usually live on my own and I travel no further than 5 km from home.
- During breeding season I make a round nest with river pebbles. I lay eggs in the centre of the nest, which hatch after 7 days.
- I live in the bottom of slow moving river water.
- I have large whiskers around my mouth, called 'barbels'- they help me sense food in the sand and rocks.
- I enjoy feeding on shrimps, prawns, yabbies, snails, insects and small fish.

Breeding: Spring through Summer. I make a nest of pebbles. Males clean, guard and fan the eggs.

NT Not Threatened Th Threatened En Endangered



The North Central Catchment Management Authority acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners within the region, their rich culture and spiritual connection to Country. We also recognise and acknowledge the contribution and interest of Aboriginal people and organisations in land and natural resource management.

The North Central Catchment Management Authority advises that this is not a complete list of species within the Loddon River. Please visit www.nccma.vic.gov.au to discover more about these amazing creatures.

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This poster is part of a series funded by the Victorian Government's Large Scale River Restoration program.