

AUSRIVAS

TRAINING & ACCREDITATION

Introduction





AIMS



To provide course participants with the necessary skills & knowledge to successfully conduct assessments of river health, to an acceptable standard, using AUSRI VAS methods



To provide uniformity & consistency in the application of AUSRI VAS methods





AIMS cont.



The AUSRI VAS Training & Accreditation Course is designed to establish an acceptable standard of biological assessment data



Quality control is achieved through the training component, which will reduce the variation & error in results



Quality assurance is achieved through the accreditation component, which will provide potential users with the assurance that the accuracy of result is within controlled & acceptable limits



OBJECTIVES

1. Obtaining relevant site information, e.g. catchment area, distance from source, grid references & altitude
2. Identifying different types of habitat within streams & collection of macroinvertebrate samples
3. Collecting relevant physical, chemical & habitat field data that is within the acceptable standard of error



OBJECTIVES cont.

4. Processing macroinvertebrate samples, ID to appropriate levels, data entry & quality control/assurance procedures
5. Operating the AUSRI VAS predictive models & interpreting the results

AUSRIVAS TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION COURSE STRUCTURE

TRAINING

TRAINING MODULE 1
Pre-Field

TRAINING MODULE 2
Field Work

TRAINING MODULE 3
Laboratory

TRAINING MODULE 4
AUSRIVAS Models

TRAINED BUT NON-ACCREDITED AUSRIVAS OPERATOR

ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITATION MODULE 1
Pre-Field

ACCREDITATION MODULE 2
Field Work

ACCREDITATION MODULE 3
Laboratory

ACCREDITATION MODULE 4
AUSRIVAS Models

FULLY TRAINED & ACCREDITED AUSRIVAS OPERATOR

PRE-FIELD ACCREDITED AUSRIVAS OPERATOR

FIELD ACCREDITED AUSRIVAS OPERATOR

LABORATORY ACCREDITED AUSRIVAS OPERATOR

PREDICTIVE MODEL ACCREDITED AUSRIVAS OPERATOR





COURSE STRUCTURE



Modular & flexible



Each module tailored to incorporate State/Territory differences





MODULE 1

Introduction

- Introduction to course
- AUSRIVAS overview
- AUSRIVAS Training Video

Training Module 1 - *Pre-Field & Site Information*

(Presentation & Practical)

- Preparation for field work
- Collection of site information

Accreditation Module 1 - *Pre-Field & Site Information*

- Collection of site information



MODULE 2

Training Module 2 – *Field Work* (Presentation & Practical)

- Collection of field data
- Macroinvertebrate sampling
- Sample processing - live-sorting

Accreditation Module 2 – *Field Work*

- Collection of field data
- Macroinvertebrate sampling
- Sample processing - live-sorting



MODULE 3

Training Module 3 - *Laboratory* (Presentation & Practical)

- Sample processing - laboratory sub-sample
- Macroinvertebrate identification
- Data entry
- QA/QC

Accreditation Module 3 - *Laboratory*

- Sample processing - laboratory sub-sample
- Macroinvertebrate identification



MODULE 4

Training Module 4 - *AUSRIVAS Predictive Models* (Presentation & Practical)

- Using the predictive models
- Interpreting the results


Accreditation Module 4 - *AUSRIVAS Predictive Models*

- Using the predictive models
- Interpreting the results

Course Evaluation

- Course evaluation forms


AUSRI VAS OVERVIEW



Development of a computer program for assessing river health a major component of the NRHP



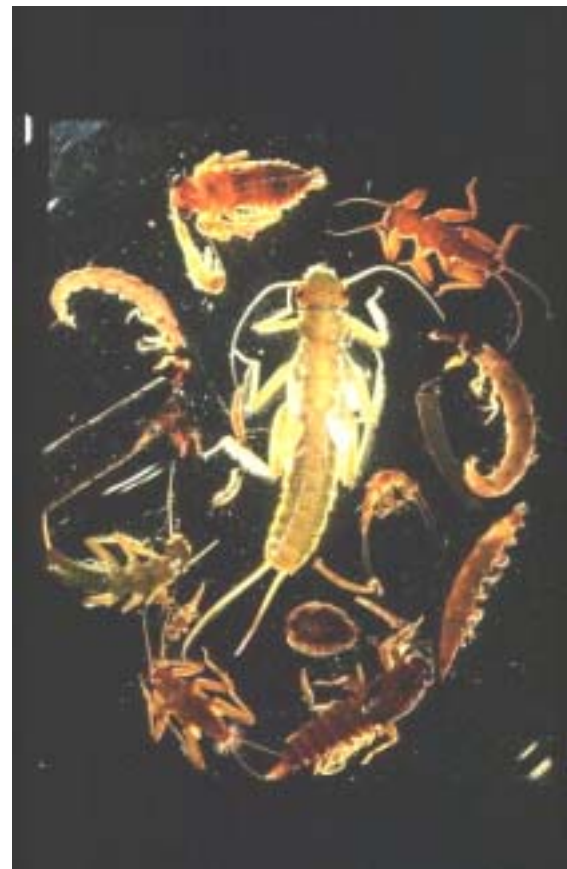
Australian Rivers Assessment System (AUSRI VAS) - standardized sampling, software & predictive models



Models tailored for use in different aquatic habitats & for different times of the year



Predict the aquatic macroinvertebrate fauna expected to occur at a site in the absence of environmental stress





AUSRIVAS OVERVIEW cont.

- AUSRIVAS methods offer advantages over traditional assessment techniques:
- Standardised, easy & minimal equipment
- Rapid turn around of results, a range of outputs & site specific assessments
- Models for each State & Territory, for the main habitat types
e.g. edge/backwater, main channel, sand-bed, riffle & pools
- Models for a single season or combined seasons



ACT Riffle



NT Sand-bed

Next....



AUSRI VAS Training video



Preparation for field work

