

ANGFA NEWS

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AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION

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Fish named after NT Identity

Helen K. Larson

The June 2001 survey of Kakadu National Park's estuarine fishes produced two additional female spear-tooth sharks, which are an undescribed species of *Glyphis*. The survey was done as part of joint monitoring of Kakadu's marine and estuarine fishes, carried out by the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and Parks Australia North. Spear-tooths belong to a very poorly known group of sharks, known only from fresh to brackish waters in northern Australia, New Guinea, Borneo and the Ganges River in India.

We don't know yet whether the latest sharks are *Glyphis* species A or species C, as they need to be X-rayed to make sure! Species A has 50 (yes, 50) more vertebrae than species C, and the first dorsal fin may be slightly differently shaped, but this is hard to see without the sharks side by side.

Additionally, Tim Berra, visiting scientist here at the Museum, got two small *Glyphis* from the Adelaide River during his hunt for the elusive Kurtus (nurseryfish). These last two specimens are important as the only other *Glyphis* specimen taken from the

Adelaide River exists just as a set of jaws (in Japan).

Our idea of the habitat preferred by these elusive sharks is becoming very slightly clearer – several sharks were taken from shallow side creeks entering the main river, and from salinities of 6 to 26 ppt. However the water they live in is definitely NOT clear, which makes observations difficult, as do the crocodiles which share their habitat. I was really happy to be able to see living *Glyphis* for myself; they are a pale soft grey when live.



Mugilogobius wilsoni – Darwin, Northern Territory
Photo by Neil Armstrong

And on the goby trail – Dave Wilson now has a goby named for him: a handsome mangrove-goby called *Mugilogobius wilsoni*. This is the northern Australian counterpart of *Mugilogobius chulae* from South-east Asia, which is sometimes

kept in captivity. Dave caught the holotype of *M. wilsoni*, and numerous other specimens of other new species of *Mugilogobius* such as the “drain-goby”, *Mugilogobius rivulus*, which is much prettier than it sounds.

Dave's new goby is grey to yellowish grey with many black bands and chevrons along

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AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION
Working together to promote the aquarium keeping,
conservation, study and propagation of the native fish
species of Australia and New Guinea.

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Editorial

Welcome to *ANGFA News* No 8. Hopefully there is something of interest for all members contained in this issue.

The month of October has come around again which means it's Convention time. The South Australian crew have now just about got everything into place for what looks like being another top notch event. Just as I write this we have learned that Gerry Allen will be in Irian Jaya for the month of October and will not be able to do a presentation at this year's convention. As yet a replacement presenter has not been named but I feel sure Gerry's absence will be adequately covered. For those member's still undecided on whether to attend this year's convention be advised that there are only a few places remaining so you will need to make an instant decision.

Convention time also means it's AGM time. To the best of my knowledge all current committee positions will be retained by the current incumbents except one. The position of Secretary has become vacant. Any member willing to volunteer their services for this position will need to step forward promptly and is asked to make contact with Glenn Briggs or Mark Chettle as quickly as possible.

The last 12 months of having a "national committee" has not been an easy one. Communication have still been a problem. Getting everyone "on line" from around Australia at the same time has proved difficult. Computer malfunctions; ISP problems;

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Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water ...

Two dead in piranha frenzy

From AAP- 05 July 2001

TWO Papua New Guinea fishermen have bled to death after having their penises bitten off by piranha-like river fish.

The fish, which zero in on urine streams in the water, have struck terror among villagers along the Sepik River, in northwestern PNG.

Authorities believe the killer fish is an introduced member of the South American pacu family and a relative of the piranha.

In both of last month's fatalities, the fish demonstrated a trait of the piranha by following a trail of urine in the water, swimming to its source and then biting it off with razor-sharp teeth.

Some believe the killer may be a food-source fish introduced from Brazil in 1994 by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the PNG National Fisheries Authority (NFO).

However marine biologist and aquaculturist Ian Middleton said he believed they were a different species, introduced from across the PNG-Indonesia border.

He denied the fish were the descendants of the pacu species introduced to the Sepik River in 1994 and the Ramu River at Madang in 1997 by the FAO and the NFA as a protein substitute.

"The killer fish have the most human-like teeth on the bottom jaw I have ever seen and quite possibly feed on insects," he said.

Middleton said the FAO/NFA-introduced pacu grew to 20 kilos and had no teeth. Pacu are mainly vegetarian but will adapt to eat almost anything.

Middleton said he believed the killer fish had started biting humans because of a lack of naturally occurring food.

"The reason for biting people on their genitals I believe is a result of the fish detecting a chemical change in the water, swimming up the urine trail and biting the genitals."

Middleton said this behaviour was well-documented in the Amazon, where other species of the piranha family attack in response to urine or blood.

He said people along the Ramu River were now harvesting the introduced pacu and there had been no reports of attacks on humans.

"I do not believe that in over five years of research and careful consideration that the FAO and the NFA would be stupid enough to introduce such a hazardous species, nor any relative of the piranha," Middleton said.

However the Director of the PNG Office of Environment and Conservation, Dr Wari Iamo, yesterday expressed "grave concern and dissatisfaction" at the way some government agencies and donor organisations had gone about importing exotic plant and animal species.

"A classic example is the *salvinia molesta* (a floating water weed) control program in the Sepik during the 1980s which cost millions of kina dollars) because someone accidentally introduced the weed into the river system," he said. "In the last two decades various agencies and individuals have introduced over 30 species of exotic fishes into the country."



Fish named after NT Identity

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the side, two black spots near the caudal fin base, and a yellow-edged black spot on the first dorsal. The Dave Wilson mangrove-goby does make a great aquarium fish. They are lively and cute (as are all gobies), and do well if kept in slightly brackish water with places to hide, and they love live food. These gobies are common in small shallow mangrove creeks, from the Kimberley coast to Lindeman Island. Dave got them to spawn in captivity, by feeding them up and no doubt by reciting magical words over them, as he has some sort of fishy green thumb.

Thanks Dave!



NSW REGIONAL ROUND UP

From August to September 2001

ANGFA NSW has been very busy, what with setting up displays at Penrith (PIJAC Expo). Prior to that, *Science In The City* at the Australian Museum (Sydney) and at the moment, two aquariums are at the Casula Powerhouse, south of Sydney for approximately 6 weeks.

Meetings have been well attended; guest speakers have been of a high standard. New members have appeared on the scene of late, which augers well for the future.

Fish are also being allocated to the Canowindra Fossil Museum for a permanent display after John Buckley, David Crass and myself spent a day at the museum and township. Big news from our secretary. Andrew Thornton spoke to the regional manager for the southwestern slopes of the Snowies for a trip in the warmer months. The purpose of this is to survey fish species for the Australian Museum. This will hopefully enable us to gain permission to enter restricted wilderness areas.

At the July meeting, the AGM was held with all committee members being re-elected. Venues have already been checked out for the proposed 2002 convention at Port Macquarie, NSW. Let's hope we get the go ahead. That's all for now, Derek.



Mugilogobius wilsoni

by Neil Armstrong

Whether you have travelled from Germany, Belgium, Holland, Denmark or for that matter, any part of Australia, to the Northern Territory to collect fish, study native aquatic plants or just to admire the beauty of the N.T., you will have met and probably stayed at the home of David and Robyn Wilson. If there is not enough room in the house for a bed, then you may unpack your swag and make your home on David and Robyn's spacious verandah. Hospitality is a natural way of life for Dave and Robyn.

Collecting fish is almost an obsession of David's, you just can't keep him out of the water, or more likely a muddy swamp. He believes that most of our aquatic gems live in a muddy swamp. His easy going, laid back attitude is typical of people of the N.T., and also his desire for an afternoon siesta is not uncommon with Territorians. The only time this does not apply, of course, is if you have a new swamp to study.

What I am trying to say is, that he is an all round top bloke, a pleasure to travel with and an honour to have as a mate. This I know is a view shared by many other travellers who have met and stayed with Dave. If ever a person truly earned the honour of having a fish named after him, for the many years of hard work in the field, it's David.

He joins a select group of ANGFA members who have fish named after them, including ANGFA itself. *Melanotaenia angfa* is of course, named in honour of the Australia & New Guinea Fishes Association.

Chilatherina alleni, named after our patron Dr. Gerald Allen. *Chilatherina bleheri* named after Heiko Bleher, a long time supporter of ANGFA. *Glossolepis leggetti* named after Ray Leggett for years of work in river surveys, etc.

Pseudomugil ivantsoffi named after Walter Ivanstoff for years of work on our native



Dave Wilson and "friends"

fish, particularly Hardyheads. *Pseudomugil connieae* after Gerry Allen's wife Connie who is a true fish widow.

There could have been two more: *Glossolepis maculosus* could have been named after its discoverer Barry Crockford, the first ever rainbow discovered with spots on its body. Barry's work in New Guinea is hardly known, but believe me it's immense.

Scaturiginichthys vermeilipinnis discovered by Peter Unmack, probably the most amazing discovery in Australia in many years. Peter declined the offer to have the fish named after him. Pity! It's easier to say unmacki than vermeilipinnis.

Well done, Dave from all your ANGFA mates, here, there and everywhere.

A full colour picture of *Mugilogobius wilsoni* will be in the next issue of *Fishes of Sabul*.



Editorial

(Continued from page 2)

inexperience with computers and the internet for some members; time differences between States being some of the reasons. Some committee members "simply forgot".

We now have a better understanding of what problems that we need to overcome and hopefully we can work toward running smoother and leaner over the next 12 months.

Publications are now back to normal after some initial difficulties. There is now only one issue of both this magazine and *Fishes of Sabul* to complete this financial year's obligations. Both should be delivered to members by mid to late November. Feedback from members on the quality of our publications has been positive. We still need your support by sending in any articles or items of interest that you would like to see published.

Most groups from around Australia and overseas report membership continues to grow (albeit not in large numbers) which is a positive sign for the future. The hobby of collecting, breeding, studying the native fish of Australia and New Guinea continues to be an ideal recreational pastime for many people spread across our wonderful world. Being a member of one of our groups has many positives ... let's hope it continues for many years to come.

... Happy reading,

Ken Smales

TEA TREE SOJOURN

by Derek Girkin.

In late May, 2001, I was contacted by Jamie Knight, asking if it was possible to help him with a survey of Main Camp Tea Tree Plantation near Casino, NSW.

I must admit, I was apprehensive. My old Commodore needed tyres and, more importantly, lower ball joints and this, of course, was my first priority. Being on a disability support pension, you can understand that trips like this cannot be undertaken at the drop of a hat. But, anyone who knows me will tell you that once I get a sniff of adventure, I will pull out all stops to go. Having established with the mechanic that the car could be fixed the day before I had to leave, when Jamie called me back, I told him I could meet him at Main Camp, all systems were go.

Set out below is a rough diary of what occurred:

30.5.01: Left home at 6.30am, arrived at Copmanhurst at 1.20pm for a quick visit to relatives and reached Main Camp at 4.15pm. Checked out lagoons and drainages with Ross, (Plantation Environment Officer) and was shown a frozen carp and what looked like a small gudgeon, in a jar. The accommodation was a large outbuilding, obviously for workers. I suppose it could be likened to shearers accommodation equipped with showers, fridges, microwaves, a stove, reverse-cycle air conditioner, TV and lots of room for eating. It houses 6 people with walled off areas for sleeping.

The farm grows and harvests tea trees with its own oil removal facilities. It is huge and lies in an area roughly between Evans Head and Ballina. A large water body, (man made), and some other smaller ones that have been enlarged by the farm owners, are on the agenda to check out tomorrow. At the time of writing this, I am awaiting the arrival of Jamie Knight, whom I have never met before. I'm quite content at the moment, after

cooking my tucker, having a shower, (Yes, we ex-poms do wash), and now brewing a cuppa. Tomorrow awaits.

31.5.01: Briefing on area by Ross Garsden. First stop was Black Butt Lagoon where we set 20 traps each in two separate locations. The lagoon contained nardoo and a type of bladder wort. Results at the first location were: empire, striped, flathead and firetail gudgeon, 100 plus gambusia. The second section yielded only 1 gambusia, 2 gudgeon in the 20 traps. Pocket seine of this area produced 1 olive perchlet, empire and firetail gudgeon and, of course, those pesky gambusia. One trap could not be found at the first location; something must have dragged it off, maybe a turtle.

Homestead Lagoon – 4 traps gave us a count of 5 gudgeon and gambusia. The large body of water, Sunset Lagoon, produced at least 450 olive perchlets and some more gudgeon. This is also full of gambusia and presumably catfish, as the manager of the property believes. All in all, a rewarding, if not tiring, day. No pygmy perch but tomorrow beckons.

1.6.01: Bill Blunden's property, adjacent to National Park land. The area known as Women's Lagoon (Aboriginal significance, women's area only), aka Lake Morell and "unknown lagoon" by NPWS. This lagoon is used for irrigation by Bill for his Tea Tree plantation. He told us that the water never seems to recede and could be fed by an underground source. No cattle on the property but plenty of signs of feral pigs. Cool weather today, it's time to set the traps. Are the oxleyan here? Let's hope so. No, they are not here, wrong area again although it looked promising. It is possibly too far from their habitat. Species identified were flathead, firetail, empire and striped gudgeon, gambusia and some interesting decapods. These will go to Mark Megrouther at the Australian Museum. We finished up there

after a fish count for Fisheries. A total of 40 traps were set with fish in at least 25.

It is later on in the afternoon and we have just had lunch after setting 20 traps in a perched pond surrounded by tall water sedge. Jamie, by the way, has one of the best lunch rooms I've seen, it's called simply "outdoors". This will be our last stop before heading back to camp.

The water is difficult to access due to the thick sedge and looks to be dark tannin stained. The mossies are starting to pester us and the cloud overhead looks ominous. There is no wind and it is going to be a wet time later on. This pond, by the way, would more than likely link up with Physics Creek during heavy rainfall. Time to see what's in the traps. Once again we have caught empire, flathead and striped gudgeons and I think we got some firetail here too. Not forgetting everyone's favourite, you guessed it, gambusia.

The empire were slightly larger than any we had seen previously and so showed more colour. After Jamie checked his waders for fish, (he sank into the waterbody, losing a trap in the process), it was time to pack up and head back to camp.

Back at camp it was a quick loading of vehicles for the journey home. After a handshake, I wished Jamie goodbye and thanked him for a most interesting and rewarding couple of days, even though we hadn't located any oxleyan pygmy perch.

FOOTNOTE: Jamie and I had come to the same conclusion concerning Physics Creek, in that it was not worth surveying as the water looked to be the same colour as some run-off we had seen on other parts of the property.



Going to the ANGFA Convention Auction?

As usual, people attending the ANGFA National Convention on the Saturday evening hope to pick up a bargain or three. People also hope to be able to pick up a few rare species of fish or plants that sometimes seem to find their way there.

Most of the time we do not know what is likely to be on offer until the night arrives. Following is a list of just some of the fish anticipated to be available but only in very small quantities:

- I. werneri* (Holroyd R)
- C. eremius* (Coward Springs)
- M. macullocchi* (PNG)
- M. macullocchi* (Hopevale)
- M. kamaka*
- M.s.inornata* (Flat Rock Ck)
- M.s. rubrostriata*
- M. trifasciata* (Goyder R)
- M. trifasciata* (Latram R)
- P. gertrudae* (Weipa)
- P. conntieae*
- P. furcatus*
- P. cyanodorsalis*
- C. fasciata* (Mamberamo R)

How's that for starters?

Situations Vacant: Secretary for ANGFA National

The position of Secretary for the financial year 2001-2002 needs to be filled. Willing volunteer needed.

Please contact:

Mark Chettle 0411 420 259

Glenn Briggs 03 9725 3665

if you are interested in taking on this much sought after position.

"ANGFA 2001 – a Fish Odyssey."
THE AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION is proud to announce

CONVENTION 2001

27-28 October 2001 – 9am to 5pm at HAVEN MARINA MOTEL (Flag), Compass Room.

6-10 Adelphi Terrace, Glenelg, South Australia. 5045. Telephone (08) 8294 1555 Facsimile 08 8294 5773 Email fbmgr@haveninn.com.au

The 2001 Convention of the Australia New Guinea Fishes Association (ANGFA) will be hosted by the South Australian Native Fish Association and ANGFA National in Adelaide South Australia on 27-28 October 2001. Limited seating available (Preference for places given to ANGFA Members).

Leading Speakers – Leading aquarists and ichthyologists have been invited to speak at the 2001 Convention. Our guests this year include • **Heiko Bleher** • **Mike Tyler** • **Bryan Pierce** • **Dr Bruce Hansen** • **Neil Armstrong** plus more leading presenters. There will be plenty of opportunities to mix socially with fish enthusiasts from around the country.

The popular **ANGFA Giant Auction** of fish, plants and aquarium accessories will take place after the Convention Dinner until 11-30pm on Saturday 27 October

Cost of the dinner is \$38-00 per head,

Entry to the auction is free for those attending both days of the convention.

Accommodation has been set aside for Delegates. Bookings should be made directly to the Motel. When making reservations be sure to mention you are an ANGFA Convention delegate to receive the Special Room & Breakfast rates.

CONVENTION

COSTS:

(Registration Costs):
\$140 – 2 day Convention fee, including lunch, morning & afternoon teas on both days, and Auction entry.

\$75 – 1 day Convention fee, including lunch, morning & afternoon teas for the day.
\$10 – Giant Fish Auction entry fee for those not attending both days of the Convention.

\$38 – Saturday Evening ANGFA Three Course Dinner (pre-book).
Sunday evening do it yourself. Various menu's.

Accommodation Costs:

\$110 – Per Room per night, Single Occupancy. Breakfast included

\$120 – Per Room per night, Twin share, Breakfast included

\$125 – Per Room per night, Triple share, Breakfast included.

Post Convention Day Excursion:

Pre-booking available for 30 people only.

Total Cost \$45 per person.

The Program: at 9-30am leave Marina Motel by coach for a tour of the South



Australian Research Institute, West Beach 10am-12 noon. Followed by lunch (at own expense) continue the coach tour of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Hills. Finally a guided "Nocturnal" tour of "Warrawong Sanctuary" the evening meal included in the Sanctuary Restaurant (to the value of \$20 included in total cost) Return to Marina Motel 9-10pm approx.

For More Information contact Graham Walker (08) 8337 7007 or email reklaw01@bigpond.com or write to SANFA, Graham Walker, 10 Denmead Ave, Campbelltown, South Australia 5074

BOUILLABAISSE

by Sylvia Gilbert

An economical and handy way to get a bit of variety into your fishes diet is by making your own frozen food. Once made and sitting in your freezer it is a convenient alternative to all that fast food (flake and pellets) and not as draining on the resources as that rich stuff (brine shrimp and tubifex).

Begin with:

500 gms fish fillets (no bones or skin)

500 gms fresh mussels

Put these through the mincer. In earlier recipes I removed rind etc. from the mussels but have since found that it is all edible.

Then lightly cook (or Microwave):

2 zucchini

1 cup pumpkin

1 carrot

Also put these ingredients through the mincer.

Add 1 tablespoon gelatine to just enough hot water to dissolve it. Add to the fish and vegetable mix.

Then add the following vitamins for every 100 gms of food:

125 mg ascorbic acid powder (Vitamin C)

10 i.u. oil capsule Vitamin E

2.5 ml cod liver oil

1.5 ml corn oil

Remember heat destroys most vitamins so make sure the mix is cool before adding them. Gelatine and the oils help seal in vitamins so they are not lost immediately food enters the water.

Allow the mix to set a little then spoon into freezer bags, flatten into a thin slab and freeze. The strong taste of the mussels and cod liver oil (which is rich in vitamin A and a disease preventative) that dominates this mix is extremely tasty to fish and I feel that is why my fish love it so.

This recipe is just a guideline, there are many other ingredients you can use. These ingredients make up 1.5 kg of food at a cost of about \$10.00 and only took an hour to make.

N.B., Vitamin additive is as recommended by Dr Jim Greenwood, Melbourne Veterinarian extraordinaire, in June 1989.

BOOK REVIEW

by Doug Priestly

TITLE: **BACK TO NATURE
AQUARIUMGUIDE.**

AUTHOR: KJELL FOHRMAN.

COPYRIGHT: 2000.

ISBN: 0-9668255-2-7.

PUBLISHER: Cichlid Press.

PAGES: 192.

PRICE: Not Known.

COMMENTS: I'm always amazed at how many people are unwilling to read or even buy books when starting off in the aquarium hobby. They spend considerable amounts of money on equipment and livestock and then blunder along trying to remember the verbal advice of their aquarium dealer – or even worse – completely ignore it! Almost inevitable mistakes are made, fish die and the tank quickly turns into an algae infested eyesore. Of course, this is not always the case. The lucky ones get through without major disaster and go on to become successful aquarists. So many people however, become tired of failure and give up. Aquarium keeping is dismissed as being “too hard” or “too expensive”. All so unnecessary and avoidable when you have a good aquarium reference book to guide you! The subject of this review, the Back to Nature Aquariumguide, is just such a book. Written by Kjell Fohrman, a European hobbyist and professional aquarist of many years experience, the Aquariumguide is a recent addition to the excellent Back to Nature series published by Cichlid Press.

Modestly described in the preface as “a basic general book on tropical aquarium fishes” the Aquariumguide has all the information a beginning hobbyist needs and more. Many aquarium books on the market are basically reprints of titles that have been around for years. Same old layout, same old photos and so on. The Aquariumguide is definitely not. The material within its covers is fresh, up to date and very well presented. Even the type is large and clear making it a pleasure to read – important if like me, your eyesight is not 100%.

So what does the Aquariumguide contain? The first part of the book deals with all the basics. There are chapters on: The Aquarium, Interior Decoration, Water, Plants, Equipment, Maintenance, Buying Fish, etc. Each chapter is full of good, practical information, tips; all the essentials for someone new to fishkeeping are covered.

The major part of the Aquariumguide is probably the most valuable. The “fish section” takes up 130 pages and covers over 400 different species. All of the most popular groups of tropical fish are represented including livebearers, tetras, catfish – rainbowfish and blue eyes are also included. Each fish has a colour photo followed by a short text listing its requirements. This section is a “goldmine” of information with enough information to satisfy a beginner as well as someone more advanced. Especially worthwhile is the “difficulty” scale where fish are rated from 1-5 in terms of hardness and suitability as an aquarium fish. People new to the hobby can avoid much

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News from the Northern Territory

By Dave Wilson

Peter Unmack and family have just visited the Northern Territory. Peter is continuing his bioregional geography studies using forage fishes as a tool. He found *Melanotaenia exquisita* in the Mary River on the Northern side of the Arnhem Highway which is a 30 to 50 kilometre range extension. They are a dull boring version, not like the nicer varieties from further inland.

Eng Chuah and I sampled some fishes from central Arnhem land. We had a dip in the Cadell River and other rivers that did not have Ballinder names (Ballinder is the word the locals use in Arnhem land to describe those with white skin). We visited places like Korlobidahdah (see photo next page), Mankorlod and Ankabadberri with the Djelk Rangers from Djinkarr.

John Mewunjul (see photo below) told us he was famous and had just returned from Paris and London where his art works were on display at various galleries. I went to the local art shop and asked to see one of his paintings, they sell for \$25,000 to \$40,000 and are owned by people like Yoko Ono and Jane Campian.



Left to right: John Mewunjul, Peter Mililidij, Ludger Dinkler and Eng Chuah. Photo taken at Mankorlod.



Eriocaulon wildenbovnian – emergent form

Ludger Dinkler, a German anthropologist, was studying the relationships among the local population. He was probably also studying how we all got along on our little trip. Made me feel like a specimen.

At each place we sampled, we first went to the locals where Peter would first introduce us to the traditional owner of the area and then ask permission to catch the little fishes from their water.

Eng and I are writing a more detailed account of the journey and the fishes for *'Fishes of Sabul'*.

There is another population of Threadfin Rainbowfish in the Cadell River System where we found them at Ankabadberri. We also collected a different Eriocaulon species which we brought back for aquarium trials. *Eriocaulon wilden-*

bovnian is another of the aquatic Eriocaulons that has long thin strap like leaves up to 60 cm long in its submerged form. I last saw the plant on a trip with Bruce Hansen and Cameron Bee about 25 kilometers north of Kulumburu WA a few years ago.

Territory Wildlife Park News

Australia's Largest Fresh Water Public Aquarium has now announced its new Supervisor– Dion Wedd was the successful candidate.

Nursery Fish

The large Nursery Fish on display were all lost to a gut parasite, but some interesting observations have come from Dr Tim Berra and Dion Wedd's expeditions. Tim and Dion are writing a joint paper on Nursery Fish for the NT Museum's journal *"The Beagle"* and it may be published in December.

They have run a plankton net in the Adelaide River and revealed Nursery Fish soup with 330 Nursery Fish to 50 mm in the first trawl along with heaps of other creatures.



Their latest theory on Nursery Fish feeding behaviour is that they swim along with their mouth open and the food accidentally gets in, because most of the prey items they have found in the stomachs of the fish have been very small. They have caught Nursery Fish in every part of the river.

Dion and Dr Tim cooked up Nursery Fish, Barra, Threadfin salmon and a Freshwater Jewfish (*Nibea squamosa*) all caught in the freshwater in the Adelaide River. The consensus was that the Nibea was the best eating followed closely by the nurseryfish – the Barra and salmon didn't come close.

Burton's Creek

The Park has established an exhibit set up with the plants and fishes from Burton's Creek. A couple of the unusual fishes from this creek are Obbes Catfish (recently discovered here) and the Northern Territory version of McCullochs Rainbowfish. Burton's Creek is a spring fed creek rising at the back of Ray Petricks house.

The spring bubbles out a gas which Ray says is radon gas and it runs through a peat swamp, the water is always 30°C and extremely soft and acidic. It eventually splits into two creeks, McCallum's Creek which runs into the Reynold River and Burton's Creek runs into the Finnis River.



BOOK REVIEW
(continued from page 9)

heartache and expense by choosing fish from categories 1 and 2 – the easy ones! It's also interesting that quite a number of rare and/or unusual species are scattered throughout the fish section. Even though we can only dream about many of the fish being available in Australia at present, to my mind it only enhances the book's value. Last but not least, there is a small but useful aquatic plant section. Each plant listed has a photo followed by data on growing requirements, degree of difficulty, etc. There are 42 different plants described including a number of "indoor" species that are still being sold as suitable for aquarium use. Don't waste your money on them; they usually only survive for a few months. True aquatic plants are just as attractive and they perform important biological functions that contribute to the health of an aquarium.

Now that you know the virtues of this book, does it have any faults? There are a few "typos" throughout the text and some of the fish photos could have been better, but these are only minor quibbles. The more that I looked at this book the more I appreciated it.

The more successful aquarists are the ones who read and are well informed about their subjects of interest. Include the cost of the Aquariumguide in the cost of setting up your first tropical aquarium and you stand a good chance of gaining a lifelong interest in a fascinating hobby. I only wish that I had a book like this when I started keeping fish so many years ago ...



Where Do They Meet

N.S.W. ANGFA meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30PM at the Sydney Aquarium at Darling Harbour.

For further details contact Derek Girkin at his "new" phone number: (02) 43 627 085

ANGFA Qld. meets on the second Friday of every second month from February at the Bar Jai Hall, 178 Alexandra Road, Clayfield. Meetings commence at 8.00pm.

Further information can be had by ringing Secretary Doug Collom on 3277 7171 or Treasurer Peter Surmon on 3385 5135.

South Australian Native Fish Association meets at the Payneham Community Centre, on the first Monday of every month commencing at 8.00. People requiring further information can contact Secretary Brian Degger on (08) 8382 6534.

ANGFA Victoria usually meets on the third Friday of every second month commencing in January. Meetings are held at the Education Resource Centre, Royal Melbourne Zoo and commence at 8.00. Further information can be had from President Ian Smith on (03) 9740 5592 or Ken Smales (03) 9391 5225.

ANGFA WA normally meets at 8pm on the fourth Monday of each month (excluding December) at the South Perth Community Centre, Rotary Hall, 36 Sandgate Street, South Perth. Contact President Tom Bunja 9342 6701 Secretary Ralph Kober 0412 291 635 for further details.

ANGFA ACT is currently only holding occasional meetings. Contact Andy Wattam on (02) 6254 3273 or Scott Hunt (02) 62623347 for any further information.

South Australia Snippet

2001 SA WIN Award for Research and Development Excellence

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Bryan Pierce has been SARDI's Senior Inland Waters' Scientist for many years. He is highly motivated in his work on fish sustainability and is respected by both the commercial and recreation sectors.

Bryan has published papers and delivered speeches around the world, and he promotes dedicated and creative research to support management of fisheries resources.

Among Bryan's professional goals is the enhancement of the lower River Murray fishery using natural and ecologically sustainable methods.

Bryan will be giving a presentation at this year's Adelaide Convention

Spring must be in the air ...



NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN KILLIFISH ASSOCIATION

CONVENTION 2001

Royal Melbourne Zoo Education Resource Centre

Elliot Avenue, Parkville Victoria

10 am Sunday, 18 November 2001

For Further Information call:

Emma Jenkin — Secretary

Phone: (03) 9442 3408

Email: nemmie@hyperlink.com.au

or

Vit e Tao

Phone: (03) 9532 7898

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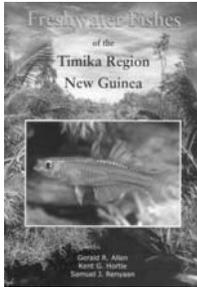
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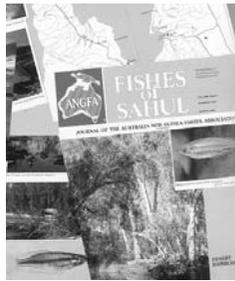
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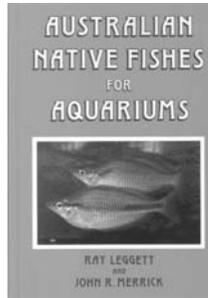
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