

this group from the allowable imports list was due to the threat they imposed upon our native species of rainbows.

ACOLF believes that non-endemic species of Rainbowfish have the potential to hybridise with our local fish, they also consider these fish have the ability to out-compete local rainbowfish in their native environment.

ANGFA Qld disagrees with these views and believes that the Rainbowfish of our near northern neighbours should be allowed into this country. We do not believe that imported rainbows would hybridise with our local species. Many river systems have 2 or 3 species of rainbowfish competing with no interaction. We also strongly believe that a healthy captive bred population of any one species is a safeguard against that species extinction in the wild, eg., the Lake Eacham Rainbowfish.

Many fish in this region to our north are under substantial threat, oil drilling has commenced above Lake Kutubu, home of *Melanotaenia lacustris*. The Oktedi Rainbowfish may soon be restricted to tributaries of the Oktedi due to the destruction of this river due chemical leaching from mining operations. *Melanotaenia boesmani* is under pressure due to its popularity in aquariums around the world with upto one million male fish being ripped from their only habitat in the Ajamura Lakes of Irian Jaya during the late eighties.

Apart from this we cannot see any responsible aquarist, who has invested significant amounts of time and money into acquiring a particular fish, ditching his outlay down the gutter, drain, stream or dam as the case may be. However, as a group we must obey the laws of this country if we are to have any credibility at all. Therefore we cannot approve of any illegal

importation of fish as this does us more harm than good.

Many of us hope that one day, aquarists from around Australia will have access to some of these precious fish, and that this time will arrive before these animals have succumbed to the environmental vandalism of modern man.

BOOK REVIEW

Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of New Guinea -review Bruce Hansen

Publish: Gerald Allen
Details: 268pp
Christensen Research Institute
1991

The explosion of interest in Rainbowfish from New Guinea, both in this country and abroad has been due in no small part to the procession of new species regularly described by Dr. Allen in various scientific and popular aquarium journals. Now at last we have a current compilation from his ten trips to New Guinea superimposed on the previously available information.

This volume packs a lot of information into its small size and the 329 species are covered in family order. A key to each genus is supplied and each species is covered under Diagnosis; Distribution and Habitat; and Remarks. A small black and white distribution map follows.

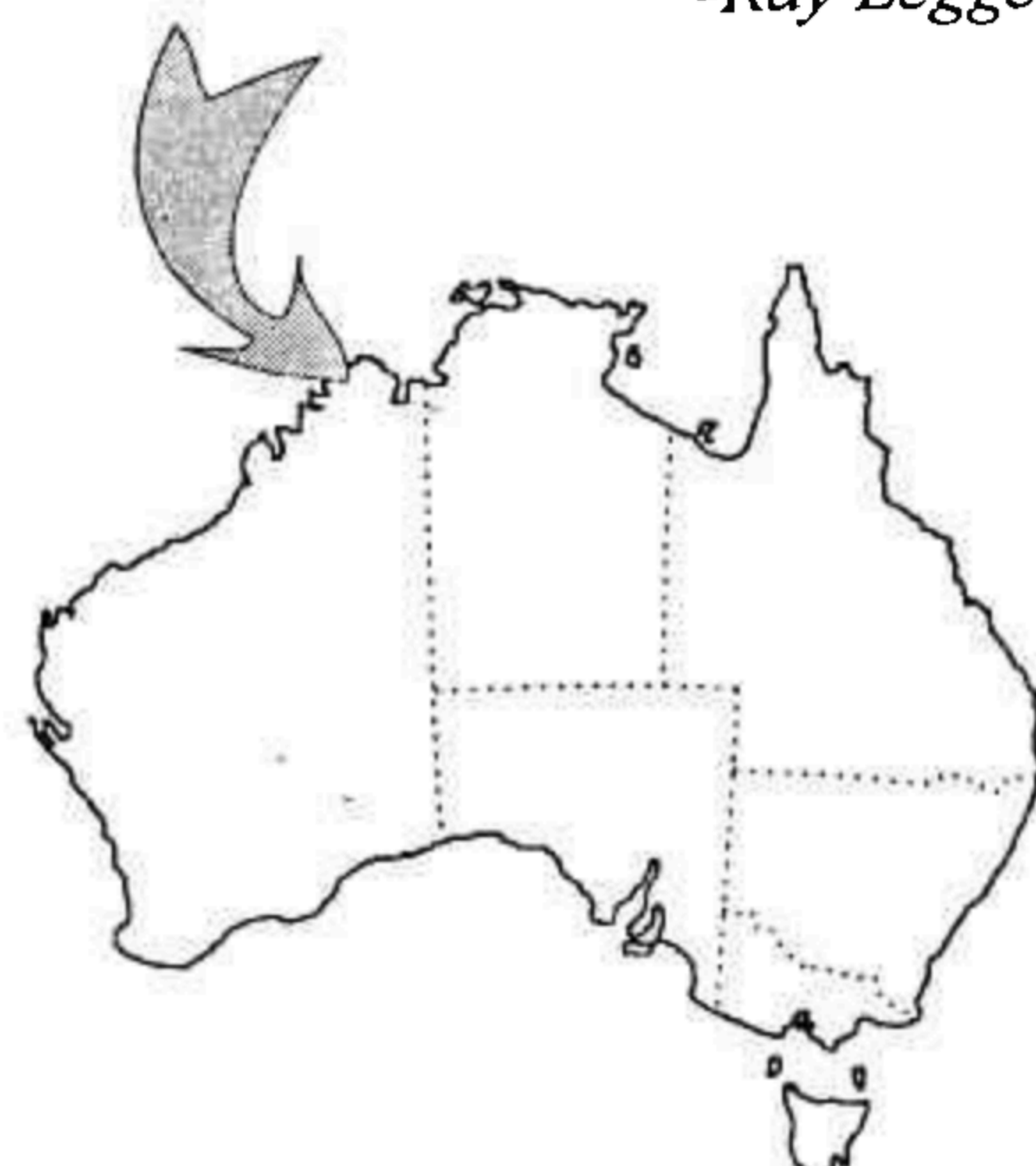
Occasional line drawings and colour photos punctuate the text and at the rear are a series of 18 excellent colour plates depicting the majority of species covered. We have already seen the 4 pages of Rainbowfishes combined as a poster quite successfully.

This is a "gold mine" of information on New Guinea freshwater fishes and no serious native fish enthusiast should be without one.

COLLECTORS CORNER

The Drysdale River

-Ray Leggett



Flowing north into Napier Broom Bay and then into the Timor Sea the Drysdale River is one of Australia's most isolated and beautiful rivers. Access is difficult as only one road crosses the upper reaches of the Gibb River, a southern tributary of the Drysdale.

Rivers in the Kimberley area are of two types, seasonal, where they flow during and for a period after the wet season, (November to February), and spring fed when flow drops off during the dry, (usually March to October), but rarely stops completely.

The seasonal rivers form chains of water holes and in some cases these holes can become anaerobic and less than ideal for many fish species. The spring fed rivers on the other hand provide excellent water conditions year round.

The Drysdale is spring fed and was the first area in the Kimberleys to be declared a National Park, the central two thirds of its catchment is protected. To the west of the river lies the Ashton Range and much of the upper reaches are fast flowing, rocky creeks with weeping Melaleucas and Pandanus along their banks.

The surrounding country is typical Kimberley, dry stony flats and