

Branch and invited me along to the next meeting -which I duly attended!

At that time I had one old 4 foot aquarium empty in the garage, and no fish. But all that soon changed. I swapped some pheasants with Gordon Hides for a rubbish bin (literally) full of various PNG and Australian species and together with some 'locals' such as Honey Blue-eyes and Pigmy Perch, from the Field Trip to Tin Can Bay, I was off and running.

I can honestly say I have mostly enjoyed my association with the hobby ever since.

- Bruce Hansen

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Ever since Neil Armstrong showed his slide of the Upper Burdekin rainbow fish, I had been planning to collect this unusual species.

My wish came true during the September school holidays. I arranged one week's holiday and went 'up north' with my son. I also teamed up with Steve Hume who also was on his way north.

On the first night we camped near a wet and cold Lake Paluma, thinking we were near our destination. The next day we found out how wrong we were. We started to get pretty frustrated and in desperation we rang Neil Armstrong. After all our change had gone into the telephone, Neil explained to us where the correct location was. So off we went.

Soon the road deteriorated to a bad gravel road. Some considerable time later we all started to wonder how much longer. Then

suddenly, like an oasis, we hit the Running River. I mean we hit the river because the crossing was made of railway track. It almost rattled our cars to pieces.

Soon we forgot about the dreadful trip and started to collect the little beauties we saw swimming in the crystal clear water. And what a different fish they are. The finnage is either red or dark yellow. A dark lateral band runs from the eyes to the tail, with several narrow black stripes near the belly region (as in *Mel. Australis*). General body colour is a husky green/yellow. Just below the lateral band a narrow yellow strip runs from the tail to the head (as in *Mel. Fluvialis*).

It's indeed a beautiful and an interesting addition to any native fish collection.

- Theo Kleiberg

BOOK REVIEW

Australian Native Fish for Aquariums.

Ray Leggett and John R. Merrick. 1987, 241 pp. \$25 from the authors.

This is the book that native-fish enthusiasts have been waiting for - and it certainly was worth the wait. The authors have combined the best features of other available texts and produced a very effective and attractive volume.

The first half is devoted to general topics including collecting, keeping, feeding, breeding, photographing, exhibiting and judging and some aspects such as live foods are covered very comprehensively indeed.

The remainder of the book deals with selected fish of established or potential aquarium suitability. The layout is excellent - each species has a page (or two) with a coloured photograph of the fish, information in note form, a concise distribution map and often a coloured habitat photograph as well. The photographs are almost universally excellent and information and nomenclature is current and accepted.

It will always be problematic selecting which species have aquarium potential - but for my money the authors have chosen very few controversial species. This book will do a lot to popularise the keeping of native fish and, what is more important, will help to ensure that they are kept well. Buy one!

- Bruce Hansen

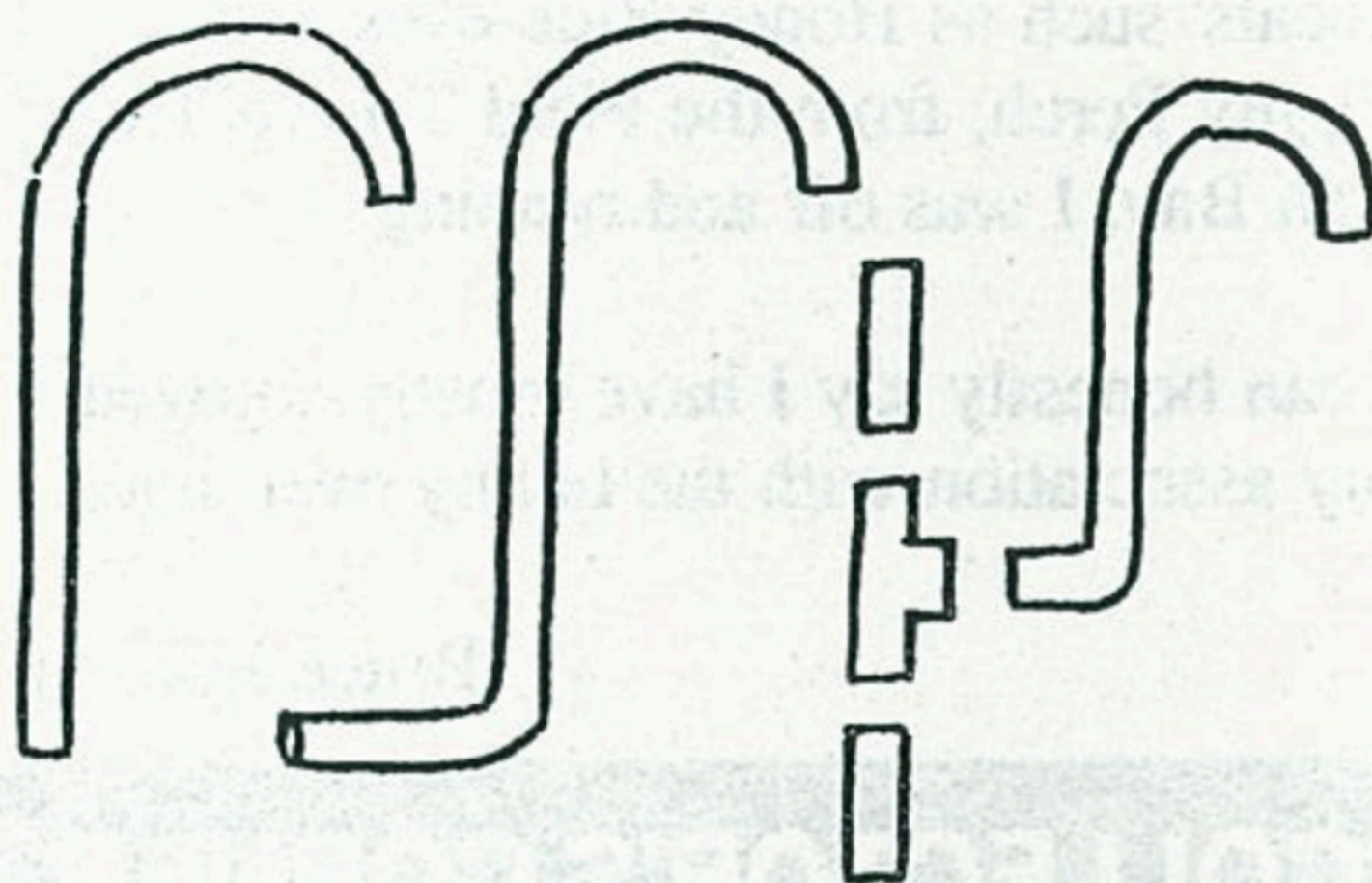
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!

Make Your Own Syphon Loops

1. Start with appropriate length of hard PVC tube.
2. Fill tube with fine sand and plug ends with paper.
3. Heat middle of tube over flame while rotating until pliable.
4. Bend to required shape.
5. Dunk in cold water to solidify.
6. Remove sand.

7. Various shapes possible to make your filtration components.

And you can use standard couplings etc. from your hardware store to complete your filtration system.



- Bruce Hansen