

generous donations; it has enabled the club to remain profitable.

ANGFA Membership

Membership numbers continue their upward trend, last time I reported in July to the ANGFA Committee we broke the 300 barrier again and presently at the time of writing we have 359 members. The financial year closed on 30th June, but the membership year is for a calendar year and will close on 31st December. Therefore, as we are only half way through the membership year, we are hopeful of adding another 30 – 50 members (renewing or new) over the coming months and hopefully beating last year's number. An observation is that whilst local (ie. Australian membership) has resumed growth this calendar year; it is obvious that our usual high overseas membership has collapsed. A worry for ANGFA is so few of our overseas members have renewed, normally there is quite a healthy 90 plus by this time of the membership year, we only have half (45) at present. The USA membership in particular has collapsed almost entirely (now only 12 members). Is this one of the prices of a wildly fluctuating Australian currency? Or perhaps ANGFA / native fish are no longer as relevant as they used to be to our overseas friends. The ANGFA committee is aware of these trends and will seek ways to address them. Anyway, I am not sure we can predict with certainty what will happen in future but comparisons with previous years are thus:

2013 – 359 members so far this calendar year (this is only the half-way point of the membership year)

2012 – 374 members for the year (GFC – Global Financial Crisis Part 2)

2011 – 385 members for the year

2010 – 331 members for the year

2009 – 388 members for the year (GFC – Global Financial Crisis Part 1)

2008 – 505 members for the year (ANGFA set a world record this year)

2007 – 488 members for the year

2006 – 433 members for the year

2005 – 378 members for the year

2004 – 366 members for the year

2003 – 209 members for the year

2002 – 187 members for the year

2001 – 143 members (a very low base)

As for myself, I am considering stepping down from my duties on the ANGFA Committee, but I'd like to acknowledge all the help received over many years in my dual roles of Treasurer and Membership Officer. Without you there would be no ANGFA, and without your support I could not have carried out my volunteer duties so happily. Irrespective of whether I step down or not, I will continue to help ANGFA in every way I can. There have been so many new and cherished friends made over the years, the list is too long to acknowledge here in the limited space available in this publication. The Melbourne convention is the place for me to thank you in person. So please come along to the convention.

Take care. Tony

Book review (John Cousins)

TITLE: **Pictorial Guide to Victoria's Freshwater Fishes**

AUTHOR: Rudie H. Kuiter

PUBLISHER: Aquatic Photographics

PAGES: 178

RETAIL PRICE: \$70

COVER: Soft

ARTWORK: Numerous colour photographs and distribution maps

The first thing to say here is that this is a very attractive volume and it contains over 600 images. There is a clue as to what to expect on the very front of the book: fantastic photos and a statement of intent. This book is about identifying the various species of Victoria's freshwater fishes, and I think that with the aid of photos and a detailed description of each species, it does the job really well. There are

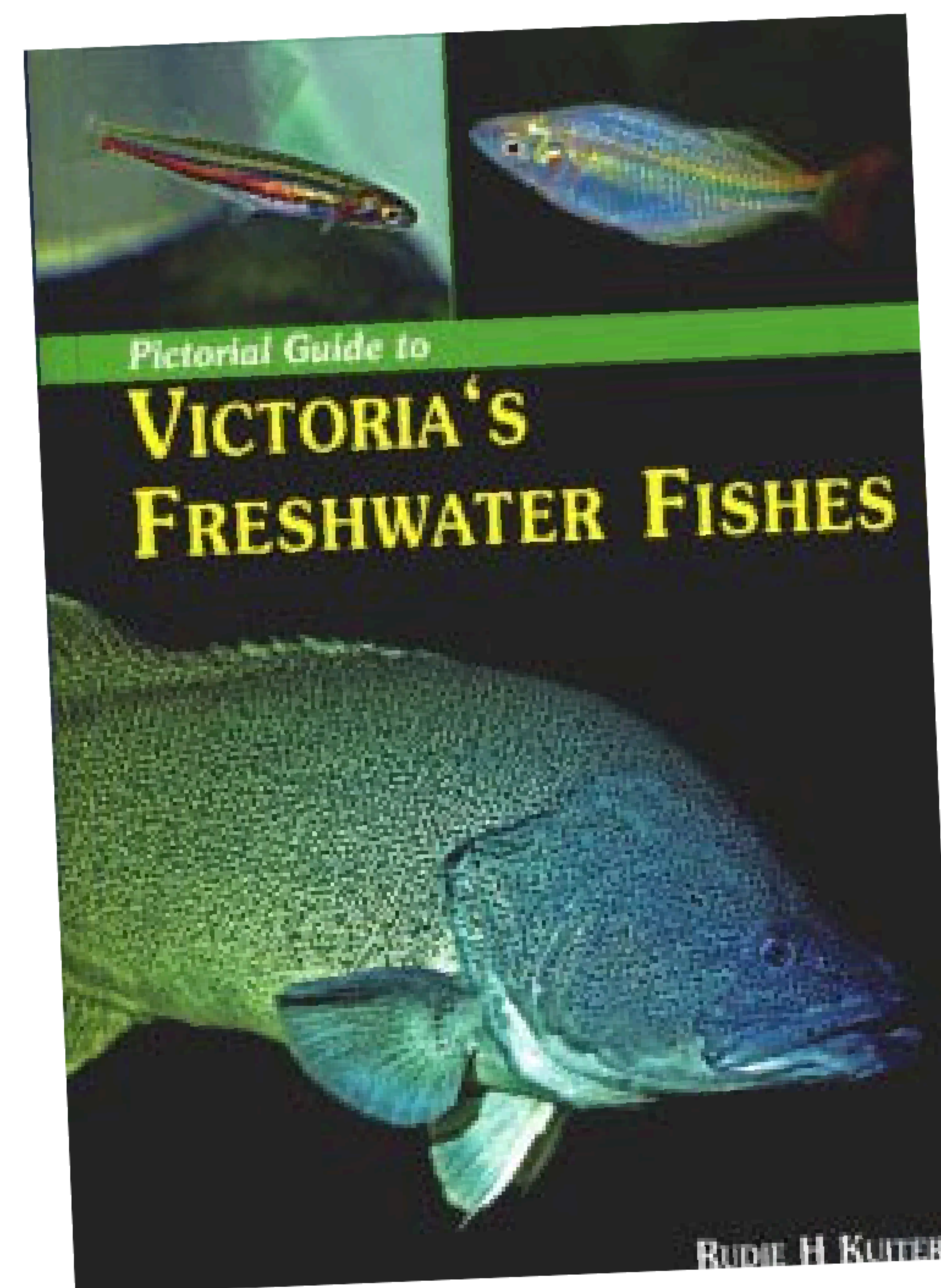
even references to work done this year (2013) included.

The basic layout of the book includes some very helpful definitions at the start, again with pictorial references. Did you know what the difference is between standard length and total length is for example? Between the cheek and the operculum?

Then there is a quick guide to the families of native fishes and the exotic fishes, with a small photo of a fish typical of each.

Following that, each family is addressed in turn and each species has at least a page devoted to it, usually with multiple photos. The text appears under the following headings: 'Description'; 'Size' (usually mentioning maxima and typical sizes); 'Colour'; 'Distribution and remarks'; 'Similar species'; and 'Other names used'. A distribution map was provided for each species too. Details of species already considered extinct were included.

It was pleasing to see an Index of species and a Reference list.



Comments relating to sexual differences are sometimes made, especially if there are marked differences in size, but not always. I found the notes very useful in providing clues to discriminate between species in the one family. When you knew what to look for, it was great to be able to go back to the photos which were always clear enough to enable someone with defective eyesight like mine, to make out those differences.

This was particularly useful when dealing with the Galaxids. Rudie goes to some pains to point out that the classification of *G. olidus* probably doesn't mean anything and that the 'Mountain Galaxid' is in fact a group of different species, some apparently still to be described. Such is the nature of this book that you can delve into that topic as deeply as you like or skip it entirely. I must say I wasn't sure whether some of the things Rudie was using to distinguish species, such as the relative positioning of the fins, and the ray counts in fins, were of themselves enough to define a separate species. (But of course, that was not the purpose of the book).

Often the photos include shots of the species at various stages in its life cycle; for example, *Gobiomorphus coxii* has transparent fry in the 'whitebait' stage and then larger fish climbing a vertical rock wall as they make their way upstream to where they will spend most of their adult life. There is a series of photos of the various forms of *Galaxiella pusilla*.

Throughout there are comments on the status of the various species and there was a disturbing number whose status was precarious and some such as the *Mogurnda adspersa* and *Galaxias ornatus* from Cardinia Creek that would seem to be already extinct. Mention was made of the main threats to these species, and sometimes of the solutions to the situation.

Within the parameters of the book, that is a 'Pictorial Guide...' there was very little that I would criticise, (and these comments probably reflect more on my particular background than the book itself!). However:

- there were errors that the proof-reader missed, but these did not detract from the sense of the text.

- the cartographic conventions were neglected: title, scale, key, etc. Some of the distributions were marked with fuzzy lines, some had perimeter lines enclosing the distribution, some shaded the stream sections. I thought this could have been done better and I'm not sure we needed railways and highways marked on the small distribution maps.
 - sometimes the captions of the photos were indistinct and a bit difficult to read.
 - sometimes the photos had no captions and I was often interested to know why Rudie had included those pictures. Did they illustrate variability within a stream? Between streams?
- The book did, like any good book should, raise questions for consideration beyond its scope:
- from our point of view, the aquarium and pond suitability of many species (a topic sometimes mentioned).
 - the role of captive breeding of threatened species.
 - other strategies for preservation of species.
 - the pointers used for distinguishing species.
 - photographic skills.
 - surveying in the wild.

This is a book I would highly recommend for the comprehensive nature of its coverage, for the beautiful photos and for the clear text. "It's a wonderful collection and distillation of much of Rudie Kuiter's photographic work and practical insights on Victorian fish and there is nothing on the market like it. It is an ideal resource for hobbyists and conservationists amongst us who are eager to learn more about local fish. \$60 (RRP \$65) if you buy in person and the author is available at the upcoming Melbourne Convention to sign his book in person if desired.

I should finish with the last sentence of the book:

"This book is for everyone who likes to look at living fishes in the wild or aquarium and cares for the natural environment".

Congratulations Rudie.

Book review (Ben Barrett)

TITLE: *A Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes, Crayfishes & Mussels of South-Western Australia*

AUTHORS: David L. Morgan, Stephen J. Beatty, Michael W. Klunzinger, Mark G. Allen, Quinton F. Burnham

EDITION: 2011

ISBN: 978-0-9871644-0-7

PUBLISHER: Printsmart

PAGES: 70

PRICE: \$10 + \$2 postage within Australia

COVER: Soft 20 x 14 cm

ARTWORK: Numerous colour photographs and distribution maps

COMMENTS:

From aestivating Gondwanan relics to iridescent purple crayfish, the South-West is to home to a unique array of freshwater fauna found nowhere else on Earth. Since Gerry and Mark Allen's definitive work "A Field Guide to Inland Fishes of Western Australia" was published in 1982, there have been limited publications on these fascinating creatures.

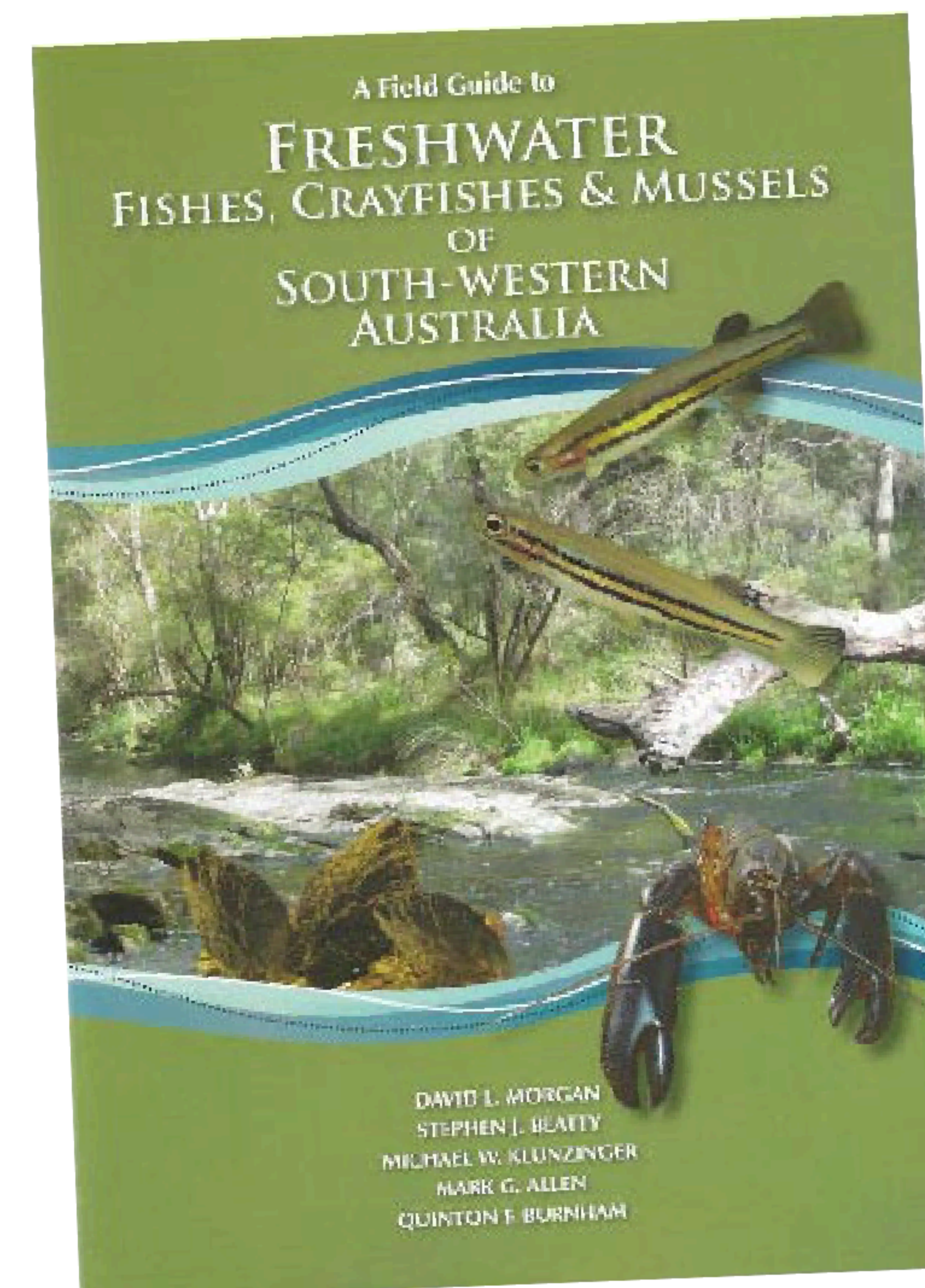
However, the authors have rectified this, presenting a comprehensive field guide detailing each of these intriguing freshwater species, including several newly discovered species. Given the reclusive nature of some of the lesser known species, this field guide presents an opportunity to not only peruse our current understanding of these creatures, but to also view rare photos, particularly of the little known *Engaewa* crustaceans.

The opening section of the field guide details the freshwater fish of the South-West. From the widely distributed Western Pygmy Perch *Nannoperca vittata*, through to the *galaxiids* and the iconic Salamanderfish *Lepidogalaxias salamandroides*, each fish has their distribution and biology described in detail. Considerable attention is also paid to the conservation status of each species and current conservation efforts. Of particular interest is the vertical slot

fishway designed to assist the dispersal of the critically endangered Trout Minnow *Galaxias truttaceus*. Invasive species are also discussed, including several recent infestations of tropical fish.

This follows onto perhaps the most fascinating aspect of this field guide, the section on freshwater crustaceans. The authors describe over a dozen species, including the *Engaewa* genus, some of which have yet to be formally classified. A clever identification key is also included, allowing the reader to differentiate between the subtle physiological nuances of each species.

An in-depth analysis of Carter's Freshwater Mussel *Westralunio carteri* is then presented, including hitherto poorly described aspects of its life cycle.



The Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of South-Western Australia is an incredible resource and a worthwhile investment for anyone interested in the freshwater fauna of the South-West. The level of information the authors have included allows the book to go

even further than its intended purpose of a field guide, becoming a valuable resource for amateur and professional naturalists alike.

You can purchase a copy of the field guide at <http://sercul.org.au/ffp.html>

Fish Research (Ed.)

The following paper describes yet another species of rainbow fish from West Papua. This one sounds like a red stunner!



Fig. 2A-B. Live photographs of freshly collected holotype of *Melanotaenia sneideri*, male, 80.1 mm SL. Photos by R. Schneider.

Gerald R. Allen and Renny K. Hadiaty (2013) *Melanotaenia sneideri*, a New Species of Rainbowfish (Melanotaeniidae), from West Papua Province, Indonesia

Abstract

A new species of melanotaeniid rainbowfish, *Melanotaenia sneideri*, is described from the Bomberai Peninsula in the southwestern Bird's Head region of western New Guinea (West Papua Province, Indonesia). The new taxon is described on the basis of 25 specimens, 15.9-80.1 mm SL, collected from a karst spring-fed creek in a small ephemeral lake basin at an altitude of 1,050 m in the Kumawa Mountains. It is distinguished from congeners by a combination of the bright red body colour, dark brown to blackish dorsal, anal, and pelvic fins, and relatively deep body (to at least 42.3 % of SL) of adult males. Additional diagnostic features include 18-20 gill rakers on the first branchial arch, 15-16 circumpeduncular scales, and an absence of vomerine teeth or a small, inconspicuous patch of rudimentary vomerine teeth...

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