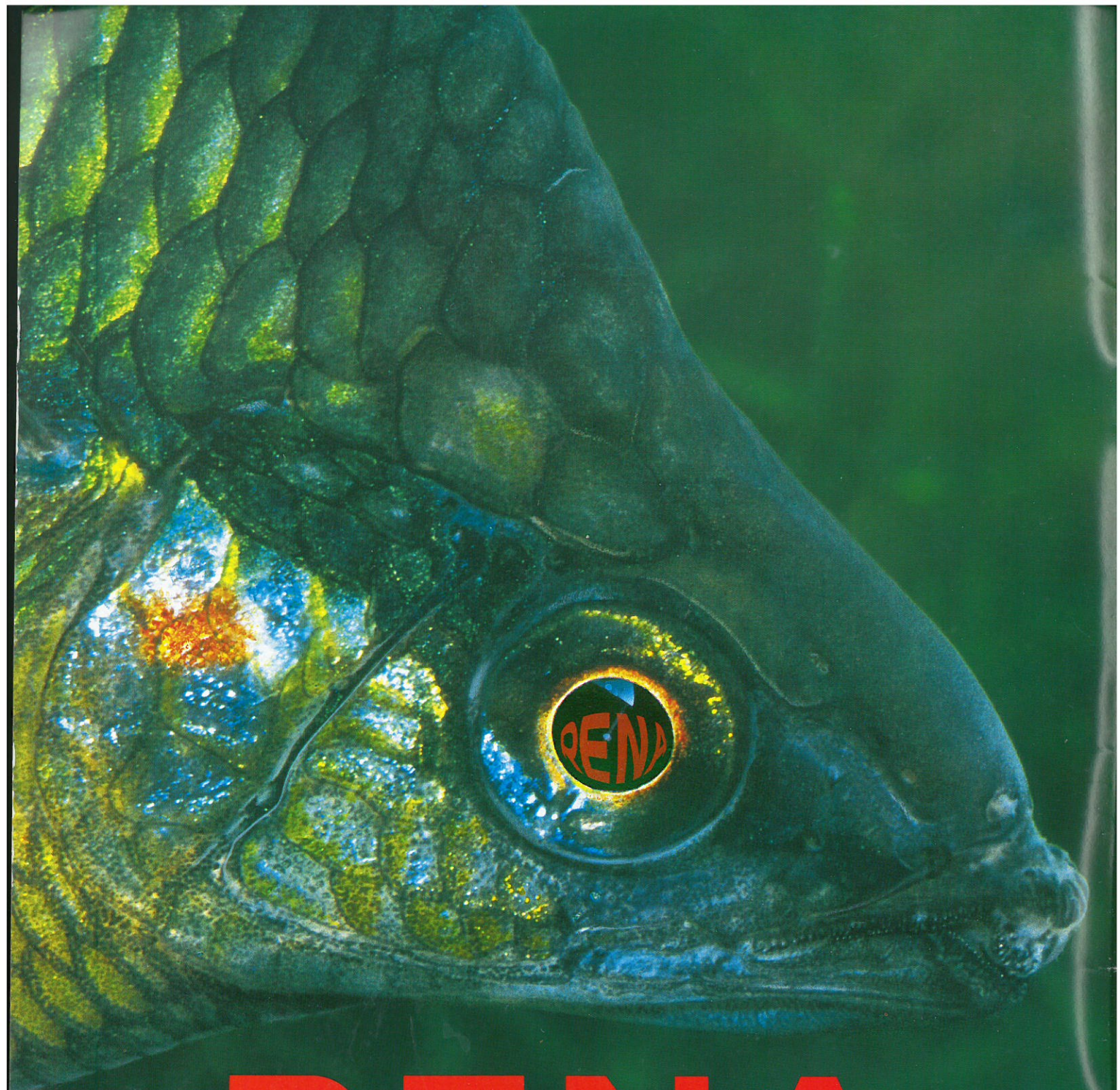




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Index of Convention Speakers

Dr. Gerald R. Allen	3	Bruce Hansen	3
Neil Armstrong	3	Noel Harcourt	8
Heiko Bleher	4	Jeff Knight	9
Ron Bowman	5	Gary Lange	10
Alex Caughey	6	Ray Leggett	11
Rick Datodi	7	Milton Lewis	12

Convention Programme

SATURDAY

- 8.30 Registration and coffee.
9.00 Opening of Convention
Noel Harcourt and opening by Rick Datodi.
9.20 Gerry Allen
"Irian Jaya, the last frontier".
10.20 Morning tea.
10.40 Jeff Knight
"Chemistry and fishkeeping".
11.10 Alex Caughey
"Old McDonald's got some fish".
11.30 Ron Bowman
"Vinegar worm harvesting, rainbow feeding and ulcers" followed by an open forum discussion.
12.00 Lunch.
1.20 Noel Harcourt
"The implementation of fish species within Melbourne Zoo's bioclimatic zones".
2.00 Rick Datodi
"The effects of government controls and 14 days quarantine on the aquarium industry in Australia".
3.00 Afternoon tea.
3.20 Heiko Bleher
"Irian Jaya '93. The most beautiful aquarium fish of all times or how to explore a totally unexplored area on planet Earth and find out that there are rainbows to be discovered (and other fishes) and there seems to be no end to it.
(There will be a break of 10 mins at approximately 4.20).
5.20 Finish.
6.30 Convention dinner.
7.40 Auction.

SUNDAY

- 8.30 Coffee and a chat.
9.00 Annual General Meeting.
10.20 Morning tea.
10.40 Milton Lewis
"Sex and symmetry in the Peacock Gudgeon".
11.20 Bruce Hansen and Neil Armstrong.
"Images of Arnhem Land. Part of the rich tapestry of life".
12.20 Lunch.
1.20 Ray Leggett
(presented on Ray's behalf by Bruce Hansen)
"The rainbow called Burdekin".
2.00 Gary Lange
"The joys and frustrations of keeping Rainbows in the United states".
3.00 Afternoon tea.
3.20 Heiko Bleher
a: "Waigeo — the unknown island in Sir Alfred Russell Wallace's footsteps".
4.20 Break.
4.30 b. "Abuna — the unknown river — a forgotten aquatic paradise in Bolivia's jungle".
6.00 Convention close.
Closing comments by Gerry Allen.



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with special thanks to:

Audrey Bowman
Pam Smales
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Dr. Gerald R. Allen
Senior Curator, Department of Ichthyology,
W.A. Museum, Perth

Neil Armstrong
ANGFA Melbourne

Bruce Hansen
ANGFA S.E. Queensland.

Topic of Lecture:

IRIAN JAYA, THE LAST FRONTIER

Irian Jaya is the last great frontier for rainbowfish discovery and exploration. In some respects, field work in this remote Indonesian province is like stepping back in time 150 years ago to the "golden age" of exploration. It is perhaps the only place in the world where the majority of freshwater habitat remains totally unexplored and where it is possible to make collections in which every single fish is new to science.

The history of ichthyological exploration in Irian Jaya will be briefly sketched. Most of this illustrated talk will be devoted to personal experiences during three trips to Irian Jaya with emphasis on rainbowfish collecting and plans for further exploration.

About Dr Gerald R. Allen:

B.Sc. and Ph.D. in marine biology from University of Hawaii. He has served as Head of the Department of Ichthyology at the Western Australian Museum since 1974. Dr. Allen divides his time equally between two major areas of taxonomic and ecological specialities: Indo-Pacific coral reef fishes and freshwater fishes of Australia and New Guinea. He is the author of 20 books and nearly 200 published scientific and popular articles. His greatest pleasure is derived from field work, underwater photography, and the discovery of new species. He has described more than 200 fishes, including 35 new rainbows and blue-eyes, many of them from Irian Jaya.

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Topic of Lecture:

"IMAGES OF ARNHAM LAND — PART OF THE RICH TAPESTRY OF LIFE".

An illustrated anecdotal description of the journey undertaken June-July '93 from Brisbane-Southern Arnhem Land to the previously uncollected Walker River, returning via the Goyder River to Darwin. Three 4-wheel drive vehicles carried 7 Queenslanders and one Victorian in varying degrees of discomfort through rugged and almost trackless parts of Aboriginal tribal land.

About Neil Armstrong and Bruce Hansen:

Neil combines a talent for growing aquatic plants with an insatiable curiosity for the fishes that swim in our rivers. He has collected from the streams across southern Victoria, where he first began collecting as a youngster, right up the eastern drainage to the Pascoe River, Cape York.

Neil has a great memory for details of the fish he collects and keeps, and those who have heard him discuss his hobby are inevitably caught up in his enthusiasm and benefit from his knowledge.

When his old school friend Barry Crockford collected during several trips to New Guinea in the early eighties, Neil looked after the in-coming shipments and enthusiastically photographed the new treasures.

A foundation member of ANGFA, Neil has been generous with time and effort in taking thousands of photographs until today his photographs have appeared in aquarium publications throughout the world.

Now retired, Neil has more time to devote to his photography and his hobbies and we in ANGFA always look forward to his brilliant slides and prints.

He recently returned from a journey from Brisbane to Arnhem Land, thence to Darwin via the Goyder River where he realized a long-held dream to see the habitat of the beautiful *Trifasciata*.

Sharing his excitement (and many jokes throughout the long drive) was Bruce Hansen.

Bruce, fast approaching 52, tries (not always successfully) to balance his time between his busy medical practice and his three teenage children. His interest in native freshwater fish provides him with challenges and recreation in a totally different field.

From boyhood he has always enjoyed "poking around" in creeks and rock-pools. He joined ANGFA as a foundation member in 1983 and the South East Queensland Regional Group in 1984.

Habitat surveys with the South East Queensland Regional Group were the stimulus for trips further afield. He enjoys sharing his experiences and thoughts with other enthusiasts either personally or through the pages of "*Fishes of Sahul*" and its sister publications.

Together, Neil and Bruce will take us to the wild Walker River and beyond on the journey they shared with 6 South East Queensland members in 3 4-wheel drives.



Heiko Bleher

Aquarium Rio, Darmstadter Landstrabe 3b,
D-6073 Egelsbach, Federal Republic of Germany

Topic of Lectures:

1. IRIAN JAYA '93
2. WAIGEO — THE UNKNOWN ISLAND
3. ABUNA — THE UNKNOWN RIVER

About Heiko Bleher:

Born in an air raid shelter in 1944 in the 80% war-damaged city of Frankfurt on Main, his development into probably Germany's most important international exporter of tropical fishes and discoverer of new species is so adventurous and eventful that it can only be described here in brief detail. His grandfather; Adolf Kiel after numerous collecting trips, founded what was early this century, Frankfurt's largest aquatic plant and tropical fish establishment. Heiko's mother, Amanda Bleher, continued the tradition with yet greater application and energy. The international press named her "The woman with the heart of Tarzan". Crash-helmeted on a motorcycle, she travelled throughout Europe and northern and central Africa. Her travelling ended with all four children (Heiko was the youngest) deep in South America. Starting at Rio de Janeiro, she went off with the children into the deep Brazilian jungle, into the Matto Grosso region, and lived there with the Indians for 6 months, searching for new plants and fishes. These experiences left their mark on Heiko, his future was pre-ordained.

Back in Germany in 1955, he attended school till 1960. Then back to Rio de Janeiro. Mother Amanda had set up a farm for aquatic plants, orchids and fishes at the city's edge. Heiko worked on the farm for four years and also looked for rare fishes and plants in the jungles of Goias, Minas Gerais, Parana, Para and the Amazon. Then to the United States for further study (biology, ichthyology, parasitology, limnology and oceanography). During his studies he set up a plant station for Dr. H.R. Axelrod's Gulf Fish Farms in Florida. After this two-year stay he went back to Brazil and opened his own fish-catching and collecting stations in three states. In 1967 he returned to Germany and opened Aquarium Rio in Frankfurt on Main.

Heiko Bleher is an unusually vibrant, versatile personality. He speaks seven languages fluently, writes (more than 100 publications in five continents, two books), shoots documentaries for TV (7 so far) and is an enthusiastic photographer. Heiko neither smokes nor drinks and eats mainly vegetarian food. Only the Frankfurt national dish, spare-ribs and sauerkraut can tempt him.

There is no doubt that like his ancestors he is an outstanding businessman. His own travel agency enables him to finance his expeditions. Experienced professional breeders see to reproducing his new and re-introduced species.

Heiko Bleher supplies the wholesale trade and zoological gardens worldwide with newly discovered species and those which have died out in the wild. Because of his experience with fish, his aquarium installation at Frankfurt is exemplary; among other things, he has introduced automatic water changes to the well being of the fishes.

When asked by Dr. Eduard Schmidt-Focke what motivated him to put his life at risk time and time again on hazardous expeditions, Heiko's reply was that the purpose of his life was to search for rare and undiscovered fishes before most natural paradises are finally destroyed by mankind, and his hope was to maintain the species in this way.

Many species of fishes which he has discovered have already been named after Heiko Bleher, including the popular red-headed tetra *Hemigrammus bleheri*, and the wine-red rainbowfish *Chilatherina bleheri*. We are indebted to him for almost innumerable species which now swim in European aquariums. Rainbowfishes such as *Melanotaenia boesmani*, *Melanotaenia lacustris*, *Melanotaenia trifasciata*, *Glossolepis wanamensis*, *Pseudomugil furcatus*, *Pseudomugil connieae*, *Pseudomugil mellis* and *Pseudomugil gertrudae*. He was the first to bring many characins into Germany, such as *Aphyocharax rathbuni* and *Aphyocharax paraguayensis*, *Belonophago tinanti*, *Hemigrammus ulreyi*, *Hyphessobrycon amandae* (named after Mrs Amanda Bleher), *Inpaichthys kerri*, *Micralestes stormsi*, *Mimagoniates barberi*, *Paracheirodon simulans*, *Petitella georgia*, *Triportheus angulatus* and *Triportheus rotundatus*. Barbs such as *Barbus candens* and *Sawba resplendens*. Many cichlids including *Hemichromis lifalili*, various *Nanochromis* and *Pelvicachromis* species, *Acaronia nassa*, some well known *Aequidens* and *Apistogramma* species, many Cichlid species from Central America, *Crenicara filamentosa* and *Crenicara maculata*, *Geophagus balzanii* and *Geophagus steindachneri*, most *Discus* morphs such as the Blue-headed Heckel, the Royal Blue and Royal Green, Gypsy, Tefe and Manacapura, the true *Pterophyllum altum* etc. Amongst Catfishes the list is still longer, including the majority of armoured cat fishes (*Aspidoras*, *Brochis*, *Corydoras*) and *Synodontis*, *Chiloglanis* and *Glyptothorax* (most recently the ornamental *Glyptothorax burmanicus*), *Ancistrus*, *Rineloricaria* and *Peckoltia*, the fabulous *Liosomadoras oncinus* and *Merodontodus tigrinus*. He has also been active amongst the killies: *Aphyosemion*, *Epiplatys*, *Hylopanchax*, *Hypso-panchax*, *Rivulus*, *Cynolebias*, *Neofundulus*, *Pterolebias* and *Trigonectes* species reached the trade through him. Nor must we forget the rare freshwater ray and the first freshwater swordfish which hit the world press in 1983. Then there were the Arowanas such as *Osteoglossum ferreirai* and *Scleropagus leichardti*, and the Knife fishes of various species, several of the resplendent gobies such as *Tateumndina ocellicauda* and *Ophie leotrisaporos*, and others to follow if he has a bit of luck. To enrich the fish keeping world Heiko Bleher has now gone even further and after two years intensive planning, has had a mobile Noah's Ark built. With the Heiko-Mobile he intends to open up the last unexplored places on earth.

ANGFA would especially like to thank DUPLA for allowing us to publish this condensed version of the biographical article by Dr. E. Schmidt-Focke which originally appeared in the 2/88 edition of Today's Aquarium.



Ron Bowman

ANGFA Melbourne.

Commercial Art Teacher (retired), Advertising Artist

Topic of Lecture:

OPEN DISCUSSION PANEL

In five minutes Ron will comment on Vinegar Worms, Rainbowfish feeding and Ulcers from his own experience and then Chair a Discussion Panel of top aquarists to give Convention Attendees a chance to join in an exchange of observations and information in public forum.

About Ron Bowman:

Built his first goldfish pond in 1937 at the age of 12. Three more followed within two years, one of which was designed for breeding and fry rearing.

Discovered Tropical Fish in 1955 and was fascinated by the prospect of breeding them.

Joined the Aquarium Society of Victoria that year.

Designed and edited the A.S. of V. magazine "finchat" which became well known nationally.

During the next twenty odd years Ron registered 52 species with A.S. of V. as bred for the first time in that Society — the first of these was *Melanotaenia splendida splendida* in the late fifties. He has spawned and raised over 220 species in the past 36 years with some forty of those being Australian and New Guinea species.

Invitations came in the 70's to judge major aquarium shows, and Ron judged in Hobart, Brisbane and Adelaide.

Eastern Districts Aquarium Society made Ron a Patron of that Society in 1980.

The proposed formation of a national study group for indigenous fish species interested Ron and during the first meeting he coined the acronym ANGFA and sketched a cover proposal for the Journal.

Meanwhile Ron's aquaristic activities had grown until he had 3 fish rooms with 200 tanks, ponds, and containers to keep up with.

Fishes of Sahul began in 1983 with Ron responsible for design, editing and camera ready art.

Then came an idea that egg posting might be a way of getting Rainbowfish species into other countries. Ron envisaged pioneering this program but found himself flying solo and overworked after a few years. Many species were introduced into various countries and Ron had an emotional reward for his Belgium efforts when Gilbert Maebe put on his famous slide lecture at the ANGFA Convention in Brisbane.

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Alex Caughey
Interpretation Officer,
Snobs Creek Visitor Centre

Topic of Lecture:

OLD MCDONALD'S GOT SOME FISH

Slide-talk. This outlines the background to ANGFA's sponsorship from McDonalds. It presents information which could assist regional groups to identify potential sponsorship openings, and how to go about taking advantage of them.

About Alex Caughey:

Alex has been involved with fish keeping virtually from birth. His father was a pioneer of fishkeeping in Scotland in the 1940's and 50's when equipment was built, not bought.

Alex has been keeping fish since the early 1960's and has kept and bred a wide variety of species. He was attached to the National Fauna Squad in the mid 1970's, investigating the import and export of fish, both legally and illegally, and the quarantine implications of these activities.

He worked for Pet & Aquarium Industries in a number of roles including, Livestock Manager and Marketing.

He is currently based at the Visitor Centre of the Snobs Creek Freshwater Fisheries Research Station and Hatchery as an Interpretation Officer and Aquarist.

Alex has been involved with the organised hobby for almost 20 years and has held a host of positions with various clubs and the Victorian Federation of Aquarium Societies. He has also lectured and judged events for Victorian and interstate clubs.

His hobby credits include Life Member, Eastern Districts Aquarium Society, Foundation Member, ANGFA and Judge, Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania. He has over 50 species registered with the Breeders Achievement Awards.

He is currently Vice President and Bulletin Editor for ANGFA, and co-ordinates "Project Eachamensis".



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Rick Datodi

Pet and Aquarium Industries Pty. Ltd.
68 Chifley Drive, Preston, Victoria 3072.

Topic of Lecture:

THE EFFECTS OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLS AND 14 DAYS QUARANTINE ON THE AQUARIUM INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA.

Australia is an island continent and the Government has sought to protect the Australian aquatic fauna and flora in several ways.

Only fish that are listed on Australia's Schedule 6 of the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports Act 1982), can be imported into Australia. A national committee known as the Advisory Committee On Live Fish (ACOLF), screen fish by means of a strict criteria and reject species that are potentially, environmentally dangerous.

ACOLF takes an extremely conservative approach to approving fish for import, as can be seen by the relatively few species Australia has to trade in, compared to other countries of the world.

All freshwater fishes imported into Australia, must be quarantined for 14 days.

This talk will show the effect of quarantine on the industry, through changes to holding and handling techniques, reduced numbers, increased prices, changes to fish quality, and the emergence of organized smuggling, on a large scale.

About Rick Datodi:

Rick Datodi has been working professionally with aquarium fish since 1962. His wholesale business, Pet and Aquarium Industries, now employs over 40 people and distributes in excess of 3 million fish annually. The efficient operation of Australia's largest quarantine station provides Rick with an enormous opportunity to gain knowledge in factors effecting fish health such as water quality, diseases, and nutrition.

Rick has travelled extensively; he has been on collecting expeditions in the jungles of Asia; spoken at international conventions and belongs to many professional trade and hobby organizations, both nationally and internationally.

He has been a director of PIJAC Australia (The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council), since its beginnings and has represented the industry in negotiations with the government, over quarantine and permissible import issues, for the last 12 years.



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Noel Harcourt
Melbourne Zoo

Topic of Lecture:**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FISH SPECIES
WITHIN MELBOURNE ZOO'S BIO CLIMATIC
ZONES**

Melbourne Zoo is well into its reconstruction programme which, when completed, will represent the fauna and flora from various climatic zones such as rainforests, savannas, deserts etc. of the world. To date the African rainforest areas have been completed housing Gorillas, Pygmy Hippos, Mandrills. The Asian rainforest section, to display Sumatran Tigers, Otters and Binturongs is nearing completion. It is within these and other zones that fish species will also be represented. In 1992 Noel was sent on a fact finding tour of North America which encompassed 16 institutions within a 21 day period. It is from this that valuable information was acquired to assist with the fish representation programme with which Noel will be very much involved.

About Noel Harcourt:

Prior to commencing work at Melbourne Zoo, Noel worked in wildlife parks mainly interested in Reptiles as well as Fish which he has maintained from an early age. This interest stemmed from a community aquarium and eventually graduated to the keeping of Discus and also other South American species such as Prochilodes.

Noel's other interests include exhibit design and construction, South American plants, mainly Bromeliads, aquatic plants, native fish and gardening. Noel lives in Greensborough, an outer Melbourne suburb, with his wife Jenny and their two children.

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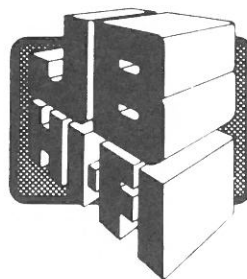
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Jeff Knight
ANGFA Perth, W.A.

Topic of Lecture:

CHEMISTRY AND FISHKEEPING.

Jeff will introduce the topic by a mercifully short, but boring, discourse into the basic chemistry used in fishkeeping. He will briefly discuss determination of pH, hardness and salinity in the field and afterwards. He will use this background to outline such problems as acclimatisation of wild fish into the aquarium, as well as the Curse of Bicarbonate. Finally, Jeff will talk about the application of chemistry to pest control, with particular attention to his bete noire, hydra.

About Jeffrey Knight:

In his youth, he contracted the fatal slow virus, HIV (Haquarist's Infective Virus) and now, 45 years later is in the terminal phases of AIDS (Aquarist's Infectious Disease Syndrome), a complaint for which there seems to be no cure. In-between-times, he has also acquired a Ph.D. in organic chemistry ("Triterpenoid Constituents of the Pittosporaceae" which, alack, had nothing to do with fishkeeping). Three years postdoctoral research in California, however, exposed him to a particularly virulent strain of the disease, killifishkeeping. On returning to Western Australia in 1963, Jeff switched professional fields to clinical biochemistry, maliciously attributed by some as a desire to further his fishkeeping knowledge. Untrue, but useful, none-the-less. His latest field of interest, trace metal analysis has been of value in checking water hardness (calcium and magnesium) as well as detecting toxic elements (copper and zinc) in aquarium water.

Jeff's chemical background has attracted him to those fish species which require special water conditions, ranging through killifish (soft, acid water) and the genus Julidochromis (hard, alkaline water). In his old age, however, Jeff has a strong rekindled interest in less bothersome Australian rainbows and relatives (water straight from the tap).

Exploits between then and now have included sending killifish eggs to Australia (from his Californian days), corresponding editor of the Australian Killifish Exchange (long since turned up its fins) and endeavouring to breed as many fishes as possible. Jeff has maintained strong links with Victorian aquarists since taking up the hobby (a small magazine published by the Aquarium Society of Victoria lured him into fishkeeping in the late 1950s), and he has had a particularly strong and rewarding association with Ron Bowman since those early days. Jeff was an early member of ANGFA. The subject of his talk this year was inspired by a wild trip to Darwin in 1991, acknowledging with gratitude the help of David Wilson.

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Gary Lange

Rainbowfish Study Group of North America

Topic of Lecture:

THE JOYS AND FRUSTRATIONS OF KEEPING RAINBOWS IN THE UNITED STATES

Half a world away from Australia a small group of Aquarists in the U.S. are quietly showing others about the joys of keeping and breeding rainbowfish. Although living with a ban on the importation of most tropical fish (as in Australia) can be frustrating, unlimited choices can make for fickle or trendy hobbyists. Finding hobbyists and wholesalers willing to keep and breed the same species year after year is indeed a difficult task. New crosses are always turning up and produced by the Florida fish farmers or Far East importations. Fortunately there are some very dedicated Florida operations that are still producing quality "bows". Past, present and future of the R.S.G. will also be examined. Some of the newer species of rainbows from New Guinea that have reached the U.S. will also be discussed.

About Gary Lange:

Gary is a research biochemist for Monsanto in St. Louis. He has been keeping fish since he was 10 years old and has been associated with the organized hobby for the last dozen years. He is a member of the Missouri Aquarium Society (MASI) and has held various positions including '93 show chairman for a show that saw over 5,000 visitors. He is a grand master breeder in MASI, (one of only seven), and has taken the coveted "Best Fish In Show" on three different occasions, two times with rainbowfish. He is also a founding member of the St. Louis Killifish Association. On the national level he has been active with the North American Fish Breeder's Guild, serving on their BOD from '88-90. In the fall of 1987 he started the Rainbowfish Study Group of North America (RSG) which now boasts a membership of over 300. In 1989 they were successful in funding a trip by Dr. Allen to the ICC in Orlando Florida to participate in one of the largest meetings for aquarists ever held in the U.S. In 1990 the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS) awarded Gary "Aquarist of the Year" honors.

Gary is still the Chairman of the RSG and their principal photographer. He gives two or three talks a year to various clubs in the U.S. speaking the praises of "the bows". He is currently running over 75 tanks and keeping about 30 varieties of rainbows and blue-eyes.



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Ray Leggett

Natural History Consultant

Topic of Lecture:

THE RAINBOW WE CALL THE "BURDEKIN"

(This paper to be presented by Bruce Hansen on behalf of Ray Leggett).

About Ray Leggett:

Born in Brisbane in 1936, Ray began his working life as a tradesman and with a friend travelled around Australia during 1957-1959 studying the wildlife and taking a variety of jobs from helping to construct the Thredbo chairlift in the snowy mountains to working on a cray boat at Bicheno on the east coast of Tasmania. Cycling, rowing and scuba diving were Rays main sports as a youth and in 1961 represented Queensland in the Kings Cup Regatta held on the Port Adelaide River.

From the age of eight, with the encouragement of his father, Ray kept and bred a range of Australian finches but it was after the war, following a move by the family to a poultry farm, that Ray acquired his first fish. An unusual choice, three *Monadactylus argenteus*. Despite moving home fourteen times since his marriage Ray has always managed to have a number of aquariums and to date has bred over 230 species of freshwater and marine fishes.

In the late sixties Ray left Australia for a working holiday around the world and spent two years in London managing the quarantine room for an importer of tropical birds, reptiles and fishes. As a member of the Hounslow Aquarium Society he undertook a judging course with the Federation of British Aquarists Societies and gained considerable experience judging both open and home shows throughout England.

Upon his return to Australia he introduced the now nationally recognised F.B.A.S. judging standards and as a Senior Judge for the Q.F.A.S. has run judging schools to encourage aquarists to take up this very rewarding side of the hobby.

While in Europe Ray became interested in the design and manufacture of natural looking internal backgrounds for both public and home aquariums and has been responsible for the design and construction of backgrounds at several aquarium displays in south east Queensland. In addition he has been responsible for a trend towards using backgrounds in both show tanks and home displays.

From 1950 onwards Ray has collected and studied our native fishes but it was only after his stay in Europe that he realised how little was known of our freshwater species and from the early seventies has made numerous field trips to isolated areas of northern Australia to survey the streams for the aquatic fauna. In 1986 a major four month field study of the Kimberley region of Western Australia was undertaken and sixty four sites on twenty two rivers were surveyed.

Results of his major field surveys have been published in scientific journals and all material from Ray's collections has been donated to the Queensland Museum for future study. In 1987 Ray authored with publisher John Merrick, *AUSTRALIAN NATIVE FISHES FOR AQUARIUMS* and still contributes a variety of articles to local and overseas natural history magazines.

Since 1988 Ray has been a part time Interpretation Officer with the Queensland Museum, and has his own consultancy business.

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Milton Lewis

James Cook University, Townsville

Topic of Lecture:**SEX AND SYMMETRY IN THE PEACOCK GUDGEON****About Milton Lewis:**

After completing a B.Sc.(hons) in 1985 Milton commenced work as a Research Officer with the Department of Zoology at the Australian National University in the field of Evolutionary Ecology. He quickly realised that this aspect of science held many puzzles that intrigued and stimulated his imagination. Milton has since taken up a position at James Cook University as Associate Lecturer in the Zoology Department while studying for a Ph.D. Much of his research focuses on questions concerned with the evolution of behaviour in birds but he has recently extended this to those concerned with fish. In particular he is interested in sexual selection and the evolution of courtship colour in rainbowfishes.

The study of sexual selection and acquisition of secondary sexual characters such as the bizarre and beautiful plumes found in peacocks and birds of paradise have for a long time held immense interest for evolutionary ecologists. The puzzle for these traits lies in trying to explain why they may have evolved? The feathers themselves are cumbersome and with their added obviousness must leave any birds having them open to increased predation pressure.

Recently, a new theory has come to the fore that explains how these specialized features may have evolved. It has always been thought that the reason why males have these plumes is because they attract females but very few studies have shown why females prefer these males over others. The explanation is that females are not so much choosing for brightness or extravagance but are selecting for symmetry within these characters.

With this idea in mind Milton has recently begun a series of experiments to test if females are choosing for more symmetrical patterns in male ornaments. The animal he has chosen, and hence the relevance to this conference, is the Peacock Gudgeon (*Tateurndina ocellicauda*). This species has many advantages facilitating this type of experimentation; the more obvious being the colour patterns exhibited by males from which this species derives its name. During this seminar Milton intends to give a brief background to the ideas behind this aspect of Evolutionary Ecology, a description of his experiment and a summary of the results.

***The organizing committee of
ANGFA hopes you enjoy the 1993
National Convention and sincerely
wishes that we may again rendezvous
at the next convened time and place.***

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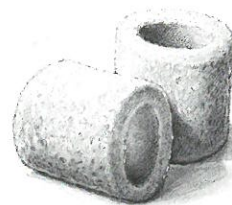
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