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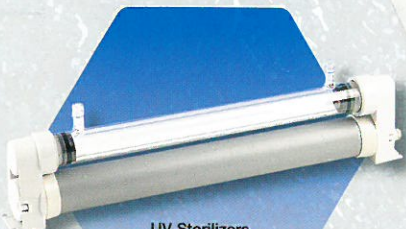
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CONVENTION PROGRAMME

SATURDAY:

- 8.30 Registration.
9.00 Opening of Convention by ANGFA National President Noel Harcourt.
9.10 Slide Photography Presentation: Neil Armstrong – *"Rainbow fish"*.
9.30 Rob Wager
"ANGFA and the Threatened Fishes of Sahul".
10.00 John Merrick
"Australian Freshwater Crayfish".
10.30 Morning Tea.
10.45 Slide Photography Presentation: Gunther Schmida – *"The Jewels of Sahul"*.
11.30 Stephen Pyecroft
"Fish disease diagnosis: The fact and the fiction".
12.00 Brett Herbert
"Survey of Cape York freshwater habitats".
12.30 Lunch.
1.30 Angela Arthington with John Esdaile
"Distribution, ecology and conservation status of the Oxyleyan Pygmy Perch".
2.00 Chris Marshall
"The distribution and ecology of the Honey Blue Eye".
2.30 General discussion on endangered and vulnerable fishes.
3.00 Afternoon Tea.
3.15 Gilbert Maebe
"The History of rainbow fishes".
4.00 *"Fishkeeping technology"* – Panel of presenters led by Rick Datodi: Alex Caughey, Scott Buckel, Gilbert Maebe, David Wilson, Ray Leggett.
5.00 Close.

SATURDAY EVENING:

- 6.00 Pre-dinner drinks.
7.00 Convention dinner.
8.00 Auction.

SUNDAY:

- 8.00 Pre-business assembly.
8.30 ANGFA Inc. Annual General Meeting includes segment by Ron Bowman on *Fishes of Sahul* also ANGFA assistance role to Government and Science.
10.00 Morning Tea.
10.15 Slide Photography Presentation: Gunther Schmida – *"Australian aquatic life"*.
10.30 Alex Caughey
"The Mighty Murray Cod".
11.00 Ray Leggett
"Displaying fish for public education".
11.30 Noel Harcourt
"World zoos, public aquaria displays".
12.30 Lunch.
1.30 Slide Photography Presentation: Neil Armstrong – *"Gobies, gudgeons"*.
1.50 Stuart Bunn
"Riparian – stream habitat linkages".
2.30 Scott Buckel
"Rainbow fishkeeping in the USA".
3.15 Afternoon Tea.
3.30 Heiko Bleher
"New fish of Papua New Guinea".
5.00 Convention close by ANGFA National and ANGFA Queensland Presidents.
-



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Greg Ure; Rob and Kathy Wager.

*This publication produced by Ron Bowman;
Mark Chettle; Barry Meiklejohn; Ken Smales.*

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Alex Caughey; June Caughey; Silvia Gilbert;
Noel Harcourt; Ian Smith; Ken Smales.

with special thanks to:

Audrey Bowman; Pam Smales
Rick Datodi



NEIL ARMSTRONG
ANGFA Melbourne
Wildlife/Fish Photographer

WELCOME!!

Please use this weekend to exchange information and make new friends and contacts. Use the pages at the back of this Souvenir Booklet to record their names and addresses.

Take notes, ask questions. This is a unique opportunity to increase your knowledge of our aquatic environment. Please join in and enjoy yourself

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Topic of Discussion:

SLIDE PHOTOGRAPHY PRESENTATION:

- a. "RAINBOWFISH"
- b. "GOBIES, GUDGEONS"

About Neil Armstrong:

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 as well as several trips into Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

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 *Melanotaenia trifasciata*.

Only weeks ago Neil completed another successful trip to the N.T. This time to a site west of Darwin not previously surveyed; collecting, studying and photographing all the wonderful wildlife and scenery that our country offers.

Concerns over the state of our environment has led BP to spend over \$100,000 on research into the mangrove habitats at the mouth of the Brisbane River



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ANGELA ARTHINGTON & JOHN ESDAILE

Griffith University, Nathan Qld

Topic of Discussion:

DISTRIBUTION, ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION STATUS OF THE VULNERABLE OXLEYAN PYGMY PERCH, *NANOPERCA OXLEYANA*

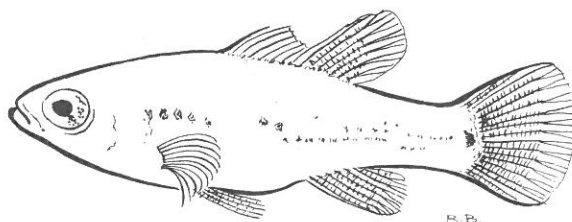
This paper will describe the results from a research program on the Oxleyan Pygmy Perch and discuss its conservation status in Queensland and New South Wales. The Pygmy Perch is found only in coastal wallum (Banksia dominated heathlands), in south-eastern Queensland (small coastal streams and swampy drainages on the mainland and on Fraser, Moreton and Stradbroke Islands; also throughout the Noosa River) and from one lake in Bundjalung National Park south of the Richmond River, northern New South Wales. This is a shy species usually found in still and slow-flowing waters where there is dense aquatic vegetation or some form of instream cover; beds of the sedge *Eleocharis ochrostachys* seem to be preferred in some localities. The water is almost always acidic (pH 5.4-6.7) and of very low conductivity (<200 uS cm⁻¹), often darkly stained with humic acids, over substrates of siliceous sand and plant debris. The species tolerates temperatures between 12 and 28 C and spawns from about October to May at temperatures >20 C. Females breed at 30 mm, males at 27 mm. Spawning is protracted, with a few eggs laid daily; eggs are demersal, scattered over the substrate or aquatic vegetation. Young hatch in 3-4 days and feed on rotifers and Protozoa; aquarium bred fish mature in 4-5 months. Larger fish feed on copepods, *Cladocera*, *Caridina*, and aquatic insects, especially *Chironomidae*, plus a few terrestrial insects, diatoms and filamentous algae.

The Oxleyan Pygmy Perch occurs in the same habitats as the Honey Blue-eye and both have been classified as "vulnerable" species in the Action Plan for Australian Freshwater Fishes (Wager and Jackson 1993). This category includes taxa not presently thought to be endangered but which are at risk by having "small populations" and/or "populations which are declining at a rate that would render them endangered in the near future". The major

factors threatening these species are believed to be habitat disturbance, fragmentation and loss coupled with water quality deterioration. Additional stress may occur due to the presence of the exotic Mosquitofish, *Gambusia holbrooki*, and possibly, collecting of fish for aquariums. Most of these "threats" are difficult to quantify. Interim Recovery Plans have been prepared for both native species and the Dept of Environment and Heritage will shortly establish a Recovery Team to begin the formal work required to protect the remaining populations of these fishes

About Angela Arthington & John Esdale:

Angela Arthington is Professor of Limnology and Director of the Centre for Catchment and In-stream Research at Griffith University. She has been working on conservation ecology, ecotoxicology/biological monitoring and the ecology of native and introduced fishes since 1975. John Esdale, a graduate of the University, is a Research Assistant in CCISR with major involvement in the Pygmy Perch research program.



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HEIKO BLEHER

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

Topic of Discussion:

NEW FISH OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A special presentation on his trip to PNG following his attendance at the 1993 Townsville Convention

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 rainbownfish *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*, *Hypsopanchax*, *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 *Tateurndina ocellicauda* and *Ophieleotris aporos*, 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 Discussion:

(to be presented during ANGFA Inc Annual General Meeting)

FISHES OF SAHUL - THE JOURNAL

A pictorial resumé of 11 years (384 pages) of published data on the Australia and New Guinea aquatic environment and future projections.

About Ron Bowman:

During late 1982 Ron learned of the proposed formation of a national study group for indigenous fish species and, attending his first meeting, he suggested the name "Australia New Guinea Fishes Association" to provide the acronym ANGFA and sketched a cover proposal for the journal which was to become *Fishes of Sahul*.

A Graphic Artist since 1948 and a passion for fish breeding since 1955, combined skills and "An Eye for Detail" needed as Editor, Designer and Production Artist for *Fishes of Sahul*.

Supported by the typesetting of Ken Smales and photography by Neil Armstrong Ron produced the first issue for July 1983.

Artwork for ANGFA logos, the badge, letterheads and Convention brochures '91, '93 and '94 followed.

This production team is still intact and has acquired an addition, Mark Chettle, whose Computer Reprographic skills have given Ron the freedom to design more colour pages for the Journal.

The future depends on the success of their latest effort - the membership leaflet to generate wider interest in the ANGFA project, both in membership and active participation as contributors.

SCOTT BUCKEL

Rainbowfish Study Group of North America
Editor *The Rainbow Times*

Topic of Discussion:

RAINBOW FISHKEEPING IN THE USA

About Scott Buckel:

This speaker's interest in keeping tropical fish began while helping a friend when both were in graduate school. The friend asked him if he could take care of his fish and his cat. The cat had no effect on Scott while the fish had a profound effect. The daily trek to the fish tank was both relaxing and fascinating to our speaker. On the last day of the fish sitting, he saw an advertisement for an aquarium which he quickly purchased. From this beginning, his fascination with fish has grown to the extent of a dedicated room housing 63 aquariums. Who would have ever thought that a simple little favour would have such a lasting effect?

His interest in fish is very unlike his career choice in that his taste in fish is definitely not specialised like many hobbyists. He has spawned over 60 species of fish covering most groups. He has spent time with dwarf cichlids, killifish, tetras, and rainbowfish to mention only a few. Currently, his favourite fish include rainbowfish, blue-eyes and tetras. His presentation will likely demonstrate this diverse interest in fish.

He is currently the editor of the Rainbowfish Study Group of North America's publication, *The Rainbow Times*. He serves as a committee chair for the Federation of American Aquariums Societies Publication Award Program as well as their Handbook Committee. He is a member of many local aquarium societies, the America Killifish Association and ANGFA. He has been an invited speaker and judge at many local societies and recently was a Speaker at the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs annual convention.



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STUART BUNN

Deputy-Director, Centre for Catchment and In-Stream
Research, Griffith University

Topic of Discussion:

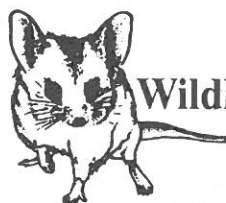
RIPARIAN-STREAM HABITAT LINKAGES: A NATIONAL R&D PROGRAM FOR AUSTRALIAN STREAMS AND RIVERS

Riparian zones represent the critical component in the linkage between streams and the catchments they drain and important ecological roles of this terrestrial/aquatic interface are well documented. However, much of the existing information on these key ecological processes in Australia is based on studies of small forest streams in the temperate regions of the south-west and south-east. This leaves a considerable gap in our understanding of the vast number of stream systems in the more arid regions of the continent, as well as those in the subtropical zone and the wet/dry tropics of northern Australia. To address these deficiencies, the Land and Water R&D Corporation has launched a national research program with the broad objective of increasing our understanding of these important riparian-stream linkages. This information will be used to develop quantitative guidelines on the necessary width and other characteristics of riparian zones that are needed to protect stream ecosystems. Additional roles of riparian zones as buffers for nutrients, sediment and chemicals, and as wildlife corridors will also be addressed. The rationale for a national research program will be discussed in this paper, together with an outline of the proposed research.

About Stuart Bunn BSc (Hons) PhD:

Stuart Bunn obtained his doctorate at the University of Western Australia in 1985, for research on the ecology of stream communities in south-western Australia. Since

then, he has worked on a broad range of aquatic systems, including arctic streams in northern Canada, billabongs in Victoria, rainforest streams, tropical mangrove estuaries and prawn mariculture ponds. His current studies include various aspects of the ecology of rainforest streams in SE Qld and in the wet tropics. Stuart is the coordinator of ecological research in the National Riparian Zone R&D Program, funded by the Land and Water Resources R&D Corporation, which will include studies of stream systems throughout Australia. In addition to this research, he maintains an active interest in biomonitoring of water quality in streams.



Ian Smith
Wildlife Photography

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- Promoting the standardisation of aquarium competition through the adoption of the Federation of British Aquarium Societies rules.
- Aiming to ensure the long-term survival of Aquarium Societies in Queensland.





ALEX CAUGHEY

Interpretation Officer
Snobs Creek Visitor Centre, Victoria

Topic of Discussion:

THE MIGHTY MURRAY COD

The Murray Cod is Australia's largest freshwater native fish. Its association with man goes back to the aboriginal Dreamtime and even today it is a fish that legends are made of. A look at the fish, its history, distribution, conservation status and management. There will also be information on its aquarium care and management.

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

Chairperson/Panelist:

FISHKEEPING TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION

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.

A.S.Z.K. Australasian Society of Zoo Keeping

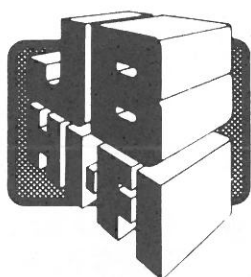
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NOEL HARCOURT
Melbourne Zoo

BRETT HERBERT
Walkamin Research Station
Cape York, North Queensland

Topic of Discussion:

WORLD ZOOS, PUBLIC AQUARIA DISPLAYS

Melbourne Zoo is currently formulating a fish representation strategy which will see the construction of numerous aquariums within the zoos bioclimatic zones which will represent the flora and fauna inhabiting rainforests, savannah, deserts, etc of the world.

Noel was sent on a fact finding trip to North America by Melbourne Zoo to gain valuable information to assist with the representation of fish species. Noel visited some 16 institutions within a three-week period which encompassed New York, Baltimore, Chicago, Seattle, Vancouver, San Francisco and Honolulu.

About Noel Harcourt:

Prior to commencing work at Melbourne Zoo, Noel worked in wildlife parks which enabled him to gain valuable experience within the field of animal husbandry.

Noel joined Melbourne Zoo in 1985 in the Reptile Department and has worked in the education keeping department which, he headed, for 12 months as acting keeper in charge. Noel now works within the carnivore department where he is responsible for the husbandry of the Lions, Cape Hunting Dogs, and a large collection of small Cat species which includes Bobcats, Lynx, Golden and Fishing Cats, etc.

Before becoming involved with ANGFA Noel was on the management committee of the Australasian Society of Zookeepers (ASZK) where he served as president for several years. Noel's ambition is to see the fish representation within Melbourne Zoo become a reality as well as promoting fish keeping as a worthwhile hobby. Noel's other interests include exhibit design, Bromeliads, aquatic plants, native and South American fish and gardening.

Noel lives in Greensborough, an outer Melbourne suburb, with his wife Jenny and their two children, Simon and Chloe.

Topic of Discussion:

SURVEY OF CAPE YORK FRESHWATER HABITATS

Cape York Peninsula has been often visited by members of ANGFA but the area still has a few surprises in store for those of us who travel off the beaten track. As part of the Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy Natural Resources Analysis Program a small team from the Queensland DPI Fisheries surveyed freshwater fishes of the Peninsula from August 1992 to June 1994. Those areas still relatively poorly researched in terms of fish were the focus of this study. Additional information on habitat associations and water quality was collected. A brief outline of the research conducted, methods used and results will be presented describing some of the areas visited and the aquatic fauna and flora.

About Brett Herbert:

Completed a Bachelor of Science in 1984, and worked on the initial aquaculture projects involving research into mud crabs, redclaw crayfish, barramundi and prawns at Deception Bay, Qld. Brett also assisted in projects surveying the status of east coast cod and disease of freshwater crayfish. Early 1988 to mid 1990 he was employed in Sri Lanka as a volunteer abroad and worked on projects on eels, investigating fish kills, rehabilitation of a eutrophic lake in the highlands, training fish and prawn farmers, designing pond and fish rearing infrastructure, and assisting with marketing of product. Brett also surveyed water bodies in relation to aquatic weed control and suitability for fish stocking. From 1990-1992 he studied Tropical Fish Health Management in Malaysia, and after completing the course worked as a research assistant, tutor and demonstrator for students in the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences. From 1992-1994 he worked on Cape York Peninsula surveying the freshwater fishes and aquatic habitats of the area. His other interests include bushwalking, swimming and natural history.

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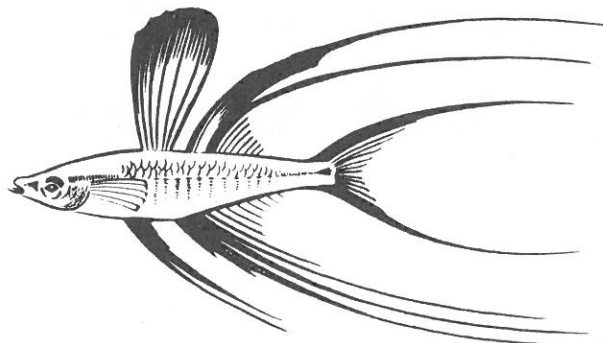
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RON BOWMAN



RAY LEGGETT

Natural History Consultant

Topic of Discussion:

DISPLAYING FISH FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

About Ray Leggett:

Born in Brisbane in 1936, Ray 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.

Ray has been an aquarist for many years and has bred over 230 species of freshwater and marine fishes. In the 1960's he undertook a judging course in the U.K. with the Federation of British Aquatic Societies and on his return to Australia has established these standards here and encouraged local aquarists to embrace this 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 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 (including *Fishes of Sahul*) 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.



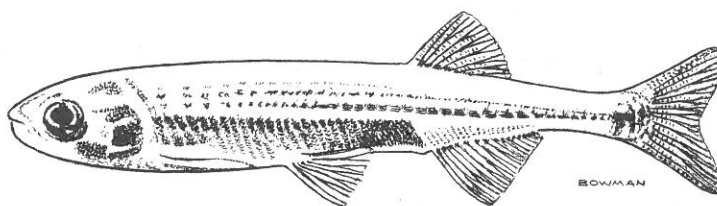
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GILBERT MAEBE
Technical Teacher, Belgium

CHRIS MARSHALL
Research Assistant
Griffith University

Topic of Discussion:
THE HISTORY OF RAINBOW FISHES

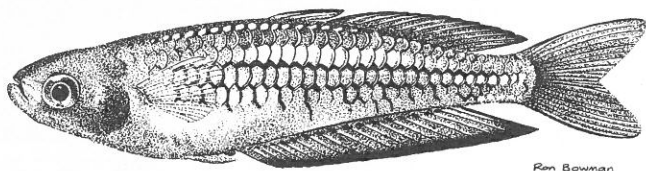
About Gilbert Maebe:

Gilbert Maebe was born in 1941 as the third child in a family of four children, two boys and two girls. Married in 1962 and father of two sons, by profession for the last 20 years he has been a Technical Teacher.

He has been an ardent aquarist for many years and for the last 10 years has specialised in rainbowfish. Gilbert passionately keeps and breeds rainbowfish in a fishroom with 50 tanks and regularly takes part in aquarium shows to make rainbowfishes popular with a larger group of aquarists.

Since 1988 Gilbert has been a judge for the Belgian Aquarists Association and since 1989 has helped to organise the I.R.G. Conferences. Many who attended the 1990 ANGFA Convention in Brisbane will attest his presentation was one of the best. Certainly he is by far the most successful recipient of the ANGFA egg shipment programme.

His enthusiasm for rainbowfish has taken him to Australia twice now as well as to that other major home for these beautiful aquarium subjects – New Guinea, our nearest northern neighbor. Gilbert's presentation will be The History of Rainbowfish.



Ron Bowman

Topic of Discussion:
THE DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY OF THE HONEY BLUE-EYE, *PSEUDOMUGIL MELLIS*
C. J. Marshall and A. H. Arthington.

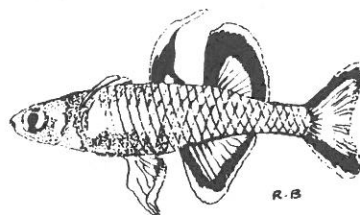
The distribution of the Honey Blue-eye was documented in mainland S.E. Queensland and Fraser Island. It was evident that populations of the Honey Blue-eye were associated with "Wallum" heaths and wooded forests. Within the fragmented areas of Wallum vegetation, Honey Blue-eyes populations were found to be patchily distributed.

The local distribution and habitat requirements were described in the Noosa River where the Honey Blue-eye preferred areas vegetated with *Eleocharis ochrostachys*, a submerged sedge. Diet and reproductive biology were described in the Noosa River population over a two year period. Similarities in food resource utilisation with co-occurring small bodied fishes were examined.

About Christopher Marshall:

Since he graduated as Bachelor of Science with Honours at the University of Queensland in 1989, Chris has been working as a research assistant at Griffith University for Professor Angela Arthington initially and then Dr. Stuart Bunn. Projects have included the biology of the Honey Blue-eye and more recently rainforest stream communities.

Chris has been a member of ANGFA for 9 years and served many terms as activities and outings co-ordinator. He and his brother Jon were usually on the wet (ie., deep) end of the club seine net during collecting trips.



R.B.

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JOHN R. MERRICK
School Biological Sciences
Macquarie University

STEPHEN PYECROFT
Animal Disease Scientist
Aquatic Diagnostic Services

Topic of Discussion:
AUSTRALIAN FRESHWATER CRAYFISH

About John Merrick:

Appointed as Tutor and then Lecturer, John Merrick has worked for many years in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Sydney and School of Biological Sciences and Graduate School of the Environment at Macquarie University. He was awarded an M.Sc. and Ph.D. from the University of Sydney for studies on the Australian freshwater perches (grunters) in the Family Teraponidae.

Research programmes since 1970 have involved extensive field work on streams, lakes and dams throughout Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory. Over 40 publications have included 4 books, general articles and scientific papers on aquaculture and fisheries management, reproduction and taxonomy of a range of Australian native fishes as well as conservation of endemic crayfishes. Dr. Merrick has been a member of the Linnean Society of New South Wales for 19 years.

The "Blue Book", *Australian Freshwater Fishes- Biology and Management*, co-authored in 1984 with Gunther Schmida, is still considered the major reference work in this field and was followed in 1987 by the "Orange Book", *Australian Native Fishes for Aquariums* published in co-authorship with Ray Leggett. His books on crayfish include *The Yabby, Marron and Red Claw - Production and Marketing* in 1991 with Nick Lambert, and in 1993 *Freshwater Crayfishes of New South Wales*. His address to this convention will be on Australian freshwater crayfishes

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John Corneille

Topic of Discussion:
FISH DISEASE DIAGNOSIS: THE FACT AND THE FICTION.

There are many specific disease causing organisms which will infect aquarium fish and produce characteristic pathology. There are as many diagnostic techniques available for the correct and accurate diagnosis of fish disease as there are for non-aquatic animals. Utilisation of these procedures allows accurate diagnosis of disease causing organisms which in turn allows accurate and specific treatment protocols to be instigated. The real challenge for the fish disease diagnostician arises when the picture is not so clear cut. Specific pathogens may not be isolated and the affected animal may be showing vague signs of a number of possible problems. It is the underlying non-specific causes of fish disease which will be addressed in this short talk. Improper nutrition and its links with low grade ill-health will be discussed. Aspects of aquarium fish nutrition and the management of the non-specific fish stressors will be covered in a practical way so that any aquarist can put the principles into action for maximum fish health maintenance.

About Stephen B. Pyecroft:

As a B.V.Sc. graduate of the University of Queensland Stephen worked in mixed veterinary practice throughout Queensland for eight years before returning to university for further study in the area of fish disease. After finishing a first-class Honours degree in Veterinary Science with a research project on Piscine Tuberculosis he is now finishing a PhD degree with work on a previously undescribed protozoal parasite of goldfish.

Currently President of ANGFA Qld. Inc., Stephen has been the sole proprietor of a fish only veterinary practice for the last 5 years and is currently a partner in Aquatic Diagnostic Services, a group of aquatic animal disease diagnostic scientists who provide a complete health care service for the aquaculture and aquarium industries. He has presented papers and conducted practical workshops on many aspects of fish health to aquarists, veterinary practitioners, aquaculturists and aquarium industry trade people.

Like many of his fellow aquarists Stephen's journey into the fish keepers fraternity was started with a humble 2ft. tank of mixed tropicals which then became numerous tanks full of various native Australian species and has now become a passion which has led him from main stream veterinary science into an area set for great growth in the next 5 years.



GUNTHER E. SCHMIDA
Wildlife/Fish Photographer

ROB WAGER
Fisheries Biology Officer
Queensland DPI Fisheries Branch

Topic of Discussion:

SLIDE PHOTOGRAPHY PRESENTATION:

- a. **THE JEWELS OF SAHUL**
- b. **AUSTRALIAN AQUATIC LIFE**

About Gunther Schmida:

Gunther Schmida is one of Australia's foremost wildlife photographers and is a frequent contributor to many travel and geographical magazines including *Aquageo*, *Geo* and *Overland*. His beautiful photographs of Australian freshwater fishes have for over 20 years entranced fish-lovers worldwide and have complemented numerous scientific and aquarium publications.

Gunther grew up in Braunschweig, Germany and was interested in wildlife from an early age. During his teens he kept tropical fish and was a keen scuba diver and photographer before moving to Australia in 1965.

Following his arrival, he travelled extensively throughout the continent, devoting most of his time to the photography of reptiles and frogs. When he eventually settled in Sydney he rekindled his childhood fascination with freshwater fish – a fascination which resulted in the co-authorship of the comprehensive *Australian Freshwater Fishes* and later his solo study *The Cold-Blooded Australians*.

Now based at Mudgeeraba in the Gold Coast hinterland, he is still photographing native fish, frogs and reptiles whenever work commitments will allow him. Recently he has developed new enthusiasm for photography since a shift to the 35mm format. Accordingly many of the slides to be presented at this convention will have never been on public display before.

Topic of Discussion:

ANGFA AND THE THREATENED FISHES OF SAHUL

About eight to ten percent of Australia's freshwater fishes are threatened with extinction. Among these are a number of species that are kept by aquarists or that could be maintained in aquaria. ANGFA and its members are known worldwide for their work in saving the Lake Eacham rainbowfish. However there are other species that need our attention. I will discuss the responsibilities of aquarists and ANGFA members in maintaining populations of threatened species. This will include the issues of: pretties versus uglies (keeping those unattractive, obnoxious or aggressive species); collection of fishes from the wild; maintenance of genetic diversity; the legalities of keeping, selling, trading or auctioning threatened fishes (including International, Federal and State legislation), and rewards for maintaining populations of threatened species. Finally I hope to propose a framework for an "ANGFA National Threatened Fishes Maintenance Network."

About Rob Wager:

Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA in 1963. His parents took him trout fishing at age six weeks, then sent him home to Australia in a tea crate at age one and half or two years (yes, there are photographs). Rob started keeping fishes at about age six thanks to his mother's interest in tropical fishes. He became interested in native fishes in high school, and went on to study aquatic ecology and fisheries biology at Queensland University. Rob graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1986 and was employed as a plumber's offsider, a research assistant, technician and consultant before starting with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries Branch in 1989. Since then Rob has worked on aquaculture of Australian bass and barramundi, the spawning of the endangered Mary River cod, publication of a conservation status list for Queensland freshwater fishes and the preparation of *The Action Plan for Australian Freshwater Fishes* for the Australian Nature Conservation Agency. Rob is currently involved with developing conservation recovery plans for the fish fauna of artesian springs in Queensland. This project is funded by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency and involves working with the endangered Red-finned blue-eye, Edgbaston goby and Elizabeth Springs goby.





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DAVID WILSON

Aquarium staff, Territory Wildlife Park
Berry Springs, Darwin.

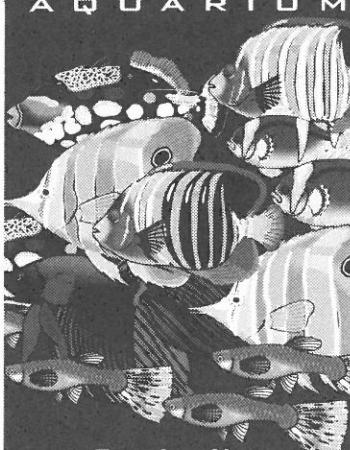
Panelist: Fishkeeping Technology

About David Wilson:

David became a keen angler at a very early age and started keeping native fish as an extension of this. As is sometimes the case, he gradually became more interested in the bait than the "real" fish and from that he developed a fascination with habitats and distributions and ultimately how and where to catch the less common members of our native fish fauna. He met up with Andy Wattam in Canberra in 1980 and as a result added breeding to his interests.

In 1992 Dave made a major career change and resigned from the Australian Federal Police, (after 12 years), and joined the Aquarium staff of the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs, south of Darwin. Now he is enjoying the challenge of keeping fish, (and the associated technology), on a big scale, and is probably the envy of many of us here at this convention.

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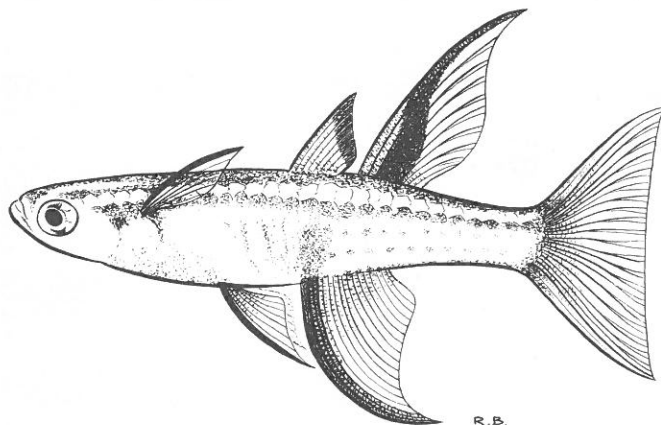
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FISHES of SAHUL

VOLUME EIGHT
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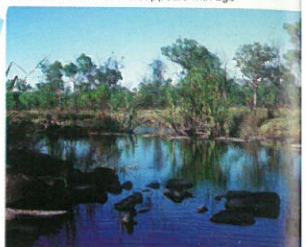
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AUGUST 1993

JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION



juvenile *Hanna greenwayi*. The black spot at base of second dorsal disappears with age



Bachsten Creek, on Mt Elizabeth Station



Oxyeleotris kimberleyensis



Oxyeleotris sp1

photos Gunther Schmida

COLLECTING IN THE KIMBERLEY

Ray Leggett



Melanotaenia pygmaea

AUSTRALIA'S RAREST RAINBOWFISH

ANGFA (QLD.) INC. CAPE YORK SURVEY

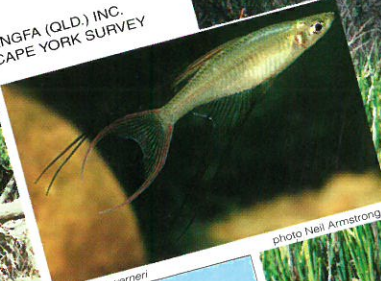
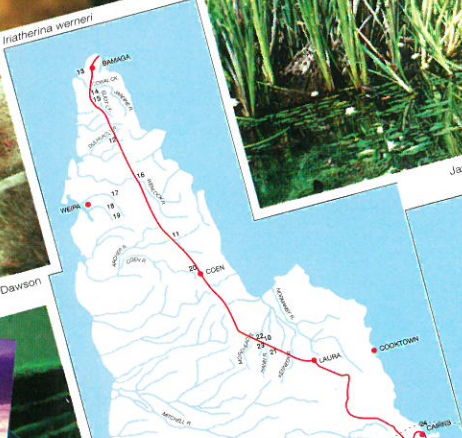


photo Neil Armstrong

photo Adrian Dawson



Jardine River Swamp

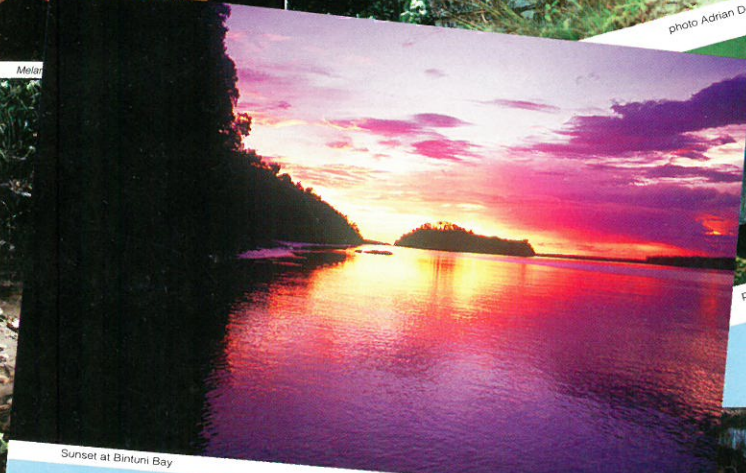


FISHES of SAHUL

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VOLUME EIGHT
NUMBER TWO
MARCH 1994

JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION



Sunset at Bintuni Bay

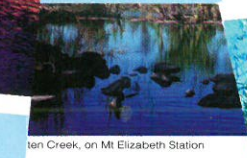
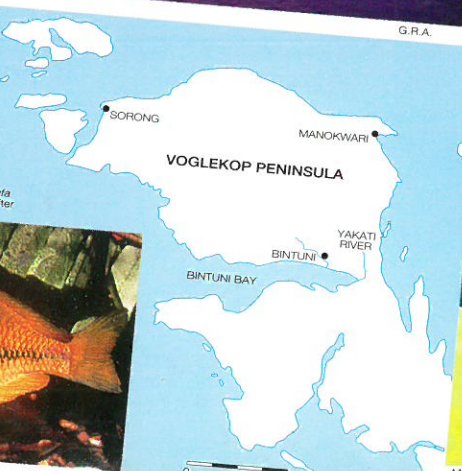
G.R.A.



This specimen of *Melanotaenia angia* was photographed a few minutes after its capture.



Melanotaenia angia



Bachsten Creek, on Mt Elizabeth Station



Melanotaenia gracilis

photo Neil Armstrong



Melanotaenia splendida australis
photo Neil Armstrong

DESERT RAINBOWS