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1996

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 19-20
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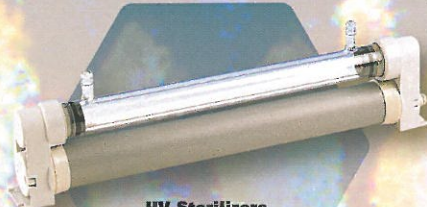
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CONVENTION PROGRAMME

FRIDAY EVENING:

8.00 ANGFA Annual General Meeting.

SATURDAY:

8.30 Registration.

Session 1: Chaired by Bruce Hansen.

9.00 Special Opening Presentation of Convention followed by Official Welcome by Victorian President Ken Smales and National President Bruce Hansen.

9.15 Alex Caughey
"Australia's endangered fishes ... an overview".

9.45 Heinz Staude
"Life before ANGFA".

10.15 Rob Wager
"Conserving Queensland's Artesian Spring Ecosystems".

10.45 Morning Tea.

11.00 Gilbert Maebe
"Pajinka". A story of an exploration trip from Cairns to the Top and back.

12.30 Lunch.

Session 2: Chaired by Glenn Briggs

1.30 Richard Carson
No. 1: *"Controlling Water Quality".*

2.00 Dr. Walter Ivantsoff
No. 1: *"Endangered American Fish".*

2.30 Ron Bowman
"Eggs by E-mail".

3.00 Afternoon Tea.

3.30 Patrick de Rham
"The Fishes of the Inland Waters of Madagascar ... little known and endangered".

5.00 Saturday Session Close.

SATURDAY EVENING:

5.45 Pre-dinner Drinks.

6.15 Convention Dinner.

8.30 Auction.

SUNDAY:

8.30 Assemble, coffee, chat time.

Session 3: Chaired by Alex Caughey.

9.00 Gilbert Maebe
No. 2: Special Presentation:
"Rainbow Symphony".

9.15 John Keohn
"Trout Cod: on the brink"

9.45 Tarmo Raadik
"Management of the nationally threatened Barred Galaxias (Galaxias fuscus)".

10.15 Nick Romanowski
No. 1: *"Genetics and Captive Breeding Programs for Smaller Fishes".*

10.45 Morning Tea.

11.00 Andrew Boyd
"Internet Rainbowfish Mailing List".

11.30 Neil Armstrong
"Ornate Inornata".

12.00 Richard Carson
No. 2: *"Future Directions".*

12.30 Lunch.

Session 4: Chaired by Ken Smales.

1.15 Nick Romanowski
No. 2: *"Growing Wetland Plants in Victoria".*

1.45 Andrew Murray
"Fast times in Ferntree Creek: The Orbest Spiny Crayfish Story".

2.15 Noel Harcourt
"From Theory to Practice ... Part of the Grand Design".

2.45 Walter Ivantsoff
No. 2: *"Eachamensis Update".*

3.00 Afternoon Tea.

3.30 Heiko Bleher
To be announced.

5.00 Convention close by ANGFA National and ANGFA Victoria Presidents.



ANGFA COUNCILS/COMMITTEES

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CONVENTION ORGANISERS

Council and Members of ANGFA Victoria.

The Committee would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Council and members of ANGFA Victoria: Neil Armstrong, Ron Bowman, Glenn Briggs, Alex Caghey, June Caghey, Mark Chettle, Ken Smales, Ian Smith with a special mention to Andy Wattam, ANGFA ACT.

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

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

SPECIAL NOTICE:

**ALL MEMBERS AND VISITORS TO
THE CONVENTION ARE
REQUESTED TO ENSURE THAT
MOBILE PHONES ARE SWITCHED
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CONVENTION CENTRE.**

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NEIL ARMSTRONG
ANGFA Melbourne,
Wildlife/Fish Photographer

Topic of Discussion:

Slide Photography Presentation:

Ornate inornata

Neil will present a precis of various morphs of *Melanotaenia inornata* and their habitats.

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.

Neil has recently returned from Cape York with 9 other ANGFA members (and has added over a thousand slides to his collection) from what turned out to be a 4500 km journey. Neil's photographic talent gives ANGFA members the chance to travel with him as we see the images he captures.

HEIKO BLEHER

Aquarium Rio, Darmstadter Landstrabe 3b,
D63329 Egalsbach, Federal Republic Germany

Topic of Discussion:

To be announced

About Heiko Bleher:

Heiko really needs no introduction to ANGFA members. He has thrilled us with his exciting stories of the remote parts of the world he visits in his never ending quest to collect new fish species. These stories are illustrated with hundreds of slides in a brilliantly entertaining manner which has always been a highlight of our Convention program.

Heiko's passion for the welfare of the world environment and his concern for the shrinking natural world and the fishes and animals that inhabit it is a reminder to us all not to take these things for granted – that what we see and enjoy today may not be there tomorrow.

His fine magazine *Aqua Geo* gives us a clear insight into these concepts and is but one of the many methods he uses to express his views – TV documentaries, books, articles, and thousands of photographs are his means of communication.

Experienced professional breeders work with his new and reintroduced species at his aquarium installation in Frankfurt, Germany, and from there he distributes the progeny of his collections to the rest of the world.

Heiko usually manages to fit in a visit to our Convention just before a collecting trip to the island of New Guinea and we often see and hear the result of these adventures at our next convention.

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RON BOWMAN

ANGFA Melbourne
Commercial Art Teacher (retired); Advertising Artist

Topic of Discussion:

Eggs by E-mail

Ron will use his own slides to inform and discuss methods used in egg collection, packing for postage and then hatching and fry raising suggestions for the recipient.

Ron hopes that this information will stimulate ANGFA members to participate in egg swaps and trades through the pages of *ANGFA Bulletin*.

About Ron Bowman:

Ron began an egg posting program for ANGFA in 1983, with two objectives:

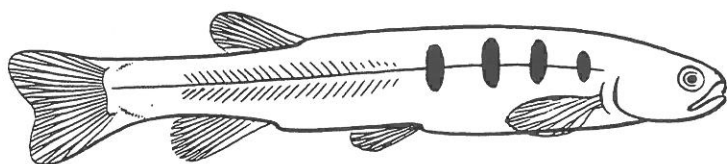
To make available rare Australian and New Guinea fish species to members across Australia and in other countries and as a fund raiser for ANGFA.

During the five years that the program was functioning he was responsible for the successful introduction of many Rainbow species into Belgium, U.S.A., Canada and Britain.

After this time the egg program was discontinued but occasional postings of new Rainbow morphs were still made to U.S.A. to add to the variety of fishes there.

In May 1996 Ron sent two vials of *Pseudomugil furcatus* eggs to Siberia and was pleased to hear that 4 juveniles had hatched and were growing well – the first in Russia.

The Express Post parcel took about 40 hours to get to Moscow and then another eight days before they arrived at the Nazarovo home of Sergey Makarenko, Secretary of the Russian Regional Group of ANGFA.



ANDREW BOYD

Co-founder The Rainbowfish Mailing List
ANGFA A.C.T.

Topic of Discussion:

INTERNET RAINBOWFISH MAILING LIST

Internet Mailing Lists are a common way of disseminating information on various specialist subjects: The Rainbowfish Mailing List was started in May 1996 by Alan Ford and Andrew Boyd. It has grown to include 45 members, representing all mainland states of Australia as well as the USA, Germany, Belgium and France. Members come from a variety of backgrounds, both scientists and hobbyists, with varying levels of experience from absolute beginners to some of the most accomplished in the world. Topics discussed in the last few months include captive maintenance of Rainbowfish, Ulcers, Brackish Gobies, importation of Rainbows both lawful and unlawful, Aquatic Plants, origins of *Melanotaenia herbertaxelrodi* in the hobby in Australia, commercial sources of fish, amongst others. The list generates around 500 postings a month. Postings are archived monthly and are available at <http://www.pcug.org.au/~andrew/rml.htm>. Subscription details are available at the site, or you can contact the list "Moderators" Alan Ford (aford@pcug.org.au) or Andrew himself (andrew@pcug.org.au).

Andrew will chair a panel of Rainbowfish Mailing List Members in attendance at the 1996 Convention ... many of these meeting each other in the "flesh" for the first time since the Rainbowfish Mailing List was formed earlier this year.

About Andrew Boyd:

Andrew has been involved with fishkeeping since the age of eight, but only "formally" for the last ten years. His interests obviously include spending too much time in front of a keyboard, chatting to people, online, writing webpages, and helping where he can. He enjoys watching Desert Gobies. He is co-owner of the Rainbowfish Mailing List, and archivist for AUNZZA, the Southern Hemisphere Killifish Mailing List.



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John Corneille



RICHARD CARSON

Aquasonic Pty. Ltd.

Topic of Discussion:

(1) Controlling Water Quality

Fish health is directly associated with water quality. Richard will explain in layman's terms which water quality parameters are important, how to measure them accurately, how to control them, what levels of the parameters are regarded as safe and how to build systems to give important water quality attributes to water, just by design. Assurance of water quality is the best insurance in keeping stock alive. Much of the knowledge and equipment development originated via demand from enthusiastic hobbyists. This technology is now being applied to aquarium, aquaculture and live seafood systems with great success.

(2) Future Directions

Catches of fish from the oceans are not increasing yet the world population is. The difference has to be made up from Aquaculture. Traditional pond culture is not assured production because of the difficulties in controlling water quality etc. and environmental authorities are demanding higher standards for effluent water. The new direction is in recirculation systems that can control all important water parameters including oxidation, oxygen, hardness, temperature, phosphates, nitrates, etc. The results are faster growth rates, better FCR (Food Conversion Ratios), minimal to non-existent disease problems. As confidence grows and the systems get larger, then new equipment has to be continually developed. This is a very exciting time as manufacturers, breeders and growers strive to meet the demands of the expanding market.

About Richard Carson:

Richard has been involved in the aquarium and aquaculture trade in one form or another for more than 30 years. His experience spans from the collection of wild caught stock, import and export of aquarium and food fish, manufacture, wholesaling and retailing of aquarium products. For the last 23 years, Richard has specialised in manufacture under the Aquasonic name. In all, Aquasonic makes more than 300 products. These include Test Kits, Filtration Housings and Mediums, Medications, Sea Salt, Water Additives, large Aquacultural and live seafood installations. Aquasonic exports many of its manufactured products as well as imports and distributes products from many renowned international manufacturers. As aquaculture has developed in Australia, Aquasonic has been at the forefront in supply of specialised equipment and systems. A great deal of Richard's time is now spent in the development of radical new filtration systems



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ALEX CAUGHEY

Interpretation Officer

Marine & Freshwater Resources Institute - Snobs Creek

Topic of Discussion:

Australia's Endangered Fishes ... an overview

This presentation will put Australia's endangered fish in a world perspective.

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 Discovery Centre of the Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute - Snobs Creek 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. A prolific writer, he contributes articles to a range of aquarium hobby, conservation and technical publications in Australia and overseas.

Alex was recently appointed to the Freshwater Fish Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

NOEL HARCOURT

Senior Carnivore Keeper, Melbourne Zoo

Topic of Discussion:

From Theory to Practice ... Part of the Grand Design

When building a new exhibit or redesigning an existing one, we call upon our past experiences or other peoples' expertise within the field to assist in endeavouring to meet or surpass our expectations.

Melbourne Zoo has much experience it can call upon when involved in such a project, proven practices, such as exhibit size and strength, materials to be used and landscaping techniques to assimilate a natural environment, etc. are used. However, when it comes to some aquatic and semi-aquatic displays, Melbourne Zoo calls upon various proven aquascaping and landscaping techniques used within other institutions.

This presentation will look at some of the techniques and ideas that have been and can be used to contribute to the overall Grand Design.

About Noel Harcourt:

Noel's career in animal husbandry began as a teenager when he worked during school holidays at Melbourne Zoo.

After working in wildlife parks Noel joined Melbourne Zoo in 1985 and is currently a senior carnivore keeper and co-ordinator of fish species and exhibits.

Noel has been involved in numerous Associations and Societies including ANGFA. His other main interest is exhibit design and development and he is always on the look-out for new techniques within this area. Some of the aquascaping and landscaping techniques he has applied to his own home aquarium.

Noel believes that there is a great future for the representation of fish species within Melbourne Zoo involving Associations and Societies within Victoria.



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DR. WALTER IVANTSOFF
Senior Lecturer in Biology
Macquarie University, New South Wales

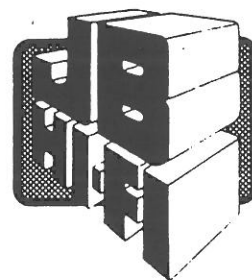
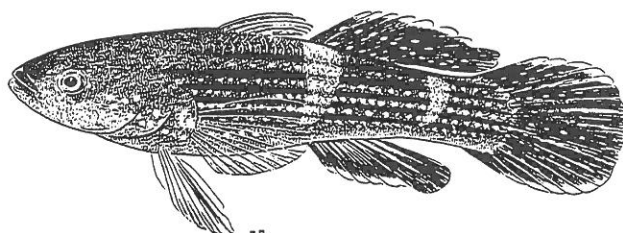
Topic of Discussion:

- (1) **Endangered American Fish**
- (2) **Eachamensis Update**

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About Dr. Walter Ivantsoff:

B.Sc. from the University of Sydney and a Ph.D from Macquarie University. He has taught at Macquarie University, first as a part-time tutor in 1967 and as a full-time member of staff about a year later. His present designation is a senior lecturer. He has published about thirty papers on blue-eyes, hardyheads and rainbowfishes having collected the various species from as far away as Mexico and the Mediterranean and has collected right around Australia and Tasmania. One of his most recent projects was working on the identification of one of Australia's latest and rarest discoveries, the redfinned blue-eye. Much of his time is devoted to teaching university students and the course he likes to teach every year is called the Biology of Fishes.



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JOHN KOEHN

Principal Scientist/Manager Freshwater Ecology Division
Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute

Topic of discussion:

Trout cod: on the brink?

Trout cod remain listed as endangered in Australia. Despite Trout cod having been artificially propagated and stocked by both government and non-government organisations, only recently has intensive study been undertaken on the ecology of this species. The aims have been to determine the habitat, movement and spawning requirements of Trout cod and to assess the existing populations. This work has been undertaken in the Murray River downstream of Lake Mulwala and in Seven Creeks. In summary, large wood debris is the habitat of preference, together with deeper and faster water. There appears to be very little general movement, with some movement shown during the spawning period during high floods. Spawning appears to occur at log or log jam sites, or with boulder substrates, whichever is available, following a rise in water temperatures, which appear to be a cue. Larvae have been shown to drift downstream, sometimes into unsuitable habitats, which is of concern. An intensive survey of the Murray River population has shown it to be relatively small in number, patchily distributed in relation to habitat and poorly structured with little successful recruitment having occurred over the past 5 or so years. Never-the-less, given the lack of success of the establishment of self-sustaining populations from stockings, the future of Trout cod remains with this Murray River population and all efforts should be made to conserve and expand it. This work has been undertaken with the support of Australian Nature Conservation Agency and the Murray-Darling Basin Commission.

About John Koehn:

John has been interested in freshwater fish all his life and now has over 16 years experience in research, assessment, conservation and management. Most of this time has been spent in various parts of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (under its many different names) and he has conducted work on most of Victoria's freshwater fish species. John has gained an international reputation for leading research into the determination of movement and habitat requirements of Australian freshwater. In recent times this has included major work on the radio tracking of Murray cod. This work in particular, has lead to the use of new technology and has revolutionised the study of large freshwater fishes in this country. The technology used in this work has been adapted for Trout cod and other species including Golden perch, Silver perch and Carp. John has been active in river management, river restoration and fish conservation and a key player in providing biological information on fish species toward such projects. He has been active in assessing the conservation status and threats to many endangered species as well as preparing and implementing Management Plans for them.

John has authored over 40 publications and has made presentations at many national and international forums

on these subjects. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee which advises the Victorian Minister for Conservation and Natural Resources on issues relating to the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, a member of the National Carp Taskforce and a member of the National Recovery team for Trout cod. John is currently the Principal scientist and manager of the Freshwater Ecology Division of the Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute.

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GILBERT MAEBE
Technical Teacher, Belgium

Topic of Discussion:

Slide Photography Presentation:

"Pajinka" (Aboriginal place name for Cape York)

A story of an exploration trip from Cairns to the Top and back.

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, Stefan and Gert. Gilbert spent 12 years as a factory worker before becoming a Teacher in a Technical School for the next 20 years. He took early retirement at the age of 55 just two weeks before leaving Belgium to come to Australia for this presentation plus a well deserved holiday for himself; wife Hilda plus friends Franze-Peter and Ulli Mullenholz who helps Gilbert with choosing the appropriate music for his many presentations.

He has been an ardent aquarist for more than 20 years and for the last 10 years has specialised in rainbowfish. Gilbert passionately keeps and breeds rainbowfish in a fish-room with 50 tanks. Gilbert has been a member of the board of his local aquarium society for 15 years including 5 years as President. He is also a Judge for BBAT (Belgian Aquarists Association) as well as being co-founder of IRG (Internationale Regenbogenfish Gesellschaft in 1986; official IRG representative for Belgium and was also the organiser of the IRG Congress in 1989 and 1994. Gilbert also lectures regularly (about 30 times a year) in both his home country and the Netherlands. Gilbert joined the ranks of ANGFA in 1984 and "brought the house down" with his presentations at the 1990 and 1994 Brisbane Conventions.

His interest in fish and nature has taken him to Sri Lanka 1982; Brisbane to Daintree and back in 1990; Java, Bali, Irian Jaya (Lake Sentani and Biak) in 1991; Cape York and Fraser Island in 1994 and when he leaves Melbourne in the next few days he is going exploring in the Northern Territory.

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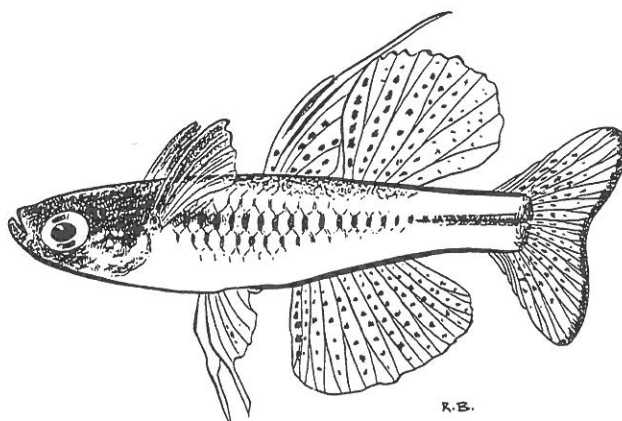
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ANDREW MURRAY

Fauna Planner
Department Natural Resources and Environment

Topic of Discussion:

Fast Times in Ferntree Creek:

The Orbost Spiny Crayfish Story:

The Orbost Spiny Crayfish, *Euastacus diversus*, is a small freshwater crayfish confined to Far East Gippsland. It is listed as a threatened taxon under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, and as such an Action Statement is being prepared. Like many of the species in the *Euastacus* genus, the Orbost Spiny Crayfish has a

limited distribution, making conservation of the species challenging. This seminar will review the rediscovery of this species, the survey and management effort being undertaken, and the implications of being listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988. The broader implications of protecting streams for the Orbost Spiny Crayfish will also be discussed.

About Andrew Murray:

Andrew is a Fauna Planner with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment in Orbost, East Gippsland. He is currently involved in the early stages of a major project which involves poisoning foxes over large areas of forested habitat and monitoring the response of the prey species (bandicoots, possums and potoroos). Hopefully the decline in predation pressure will lead to an increase in the numbers of these small ground-dwelling animals. His other priorities include on-going research, survey and improved management of Tiger Quolls, as well as raising public awareness of this magnificent meat-eating marsupial. He has input into the management of a number of other endangered critters, including Little Terns (nesting on the coast); Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies (upper Snowy River) and Long-footed Potoroos (forests). When not involved in saving East Gippsland's wildlife, he is to be found foolishly barracking for the Adelaide Crows whenever they play in Melbourne.

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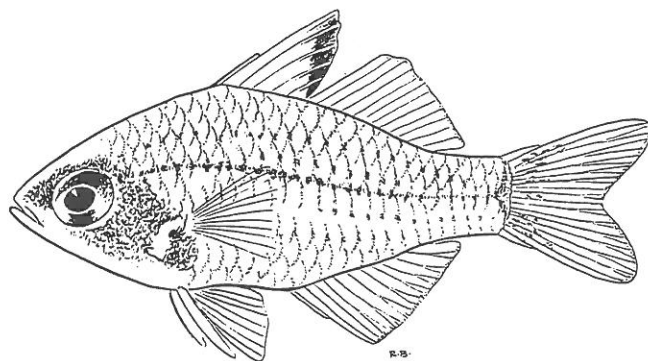
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TARMO RAADIK

Senior Biologist
Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute

Topic of discussion:

Management of the nationally threatened Barred Galaxias (*Galaxias fuscus*)

The Barred Galaxias is one of Australia's most threatened fish species and one of the two most threatened fish species in Victoria. It is listed as Endangered at a national and state level and is also listed on the *Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, and hence provided legal protection. This small freshwater fish is endemic to Victoria, originally described in 1936, and has been collected in low numbers from 16 small headwater streams in the upper Goulburn River system, all above 400 m in altitude. Currently, populations are known from 12 sites and it appears that the present distribution represents the fragmentation of a previously much wider range.

The main threat to this species is the negative interaction between it and Brown and Rainbow Trout. This takes the form of active upstream colonisation of trout into previously exclusive Barred Galaxias waters, direct predation on juvenile galaxias followed by aggressive competition with adult galaxias for food and space, leading to the rapid extirpation of the Barred Galaxias population and a contraction of the species further upstream. This has become critical in many areas as the remaining populations occupy small headwater tributaries (less than 1.0m wide), and where trout have colonised to the top of the system, Barred Galaxias have become extinct.

Healthy Barred Galaxias populations are present in some streams, upstream of natural barriers which appear to prevent the upstream movement of trout. This concept of effective trout exclusion has been applied to various degraded Barred Galaxias streams with the aim of securing and rehabilitating the galaxias populations. Artificial barriers have been constructed, trout have been purged from upstream of these, and monitoring of the recolonisation of the Barred Galaxias population downstream into the rehabilitated section is currently being conducted.

This talk will outline the steps taken to manage this threatened species, including the results of recent monitoring in rehabilitated streams.

About Tarmo Raadik:

Tarmo's career in fish began relatively recently in 1984 as he was completing an honours degree in Zoology at the University of Melbourne. Being overcome by too much hard thinking he grabbed a dipnet, left his behavioural experiment running, and discovered Mountain Galaxiids at Mount Macedon. After knuckling back down to work, he then moved to the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands (as it was then known) surveying fish in the Geelong Region, followed by three years working at the Department of Zoology, Monash University. During this time, Tarmo also worked as a volunteer in the Department of Ichthyology, Museum of Victoria, re-identifying and organising the freshwater and estuarine fish collection, where he worked full time in 1989-1990. In 1990 Tarmo rejoined the DCFL (now Department of Natural Resources and Environment) and worked on aquatic systems (freshwater and estuarine) throughout the state, before being split-off into the semi-privatised Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute in 1995. His main interests are aquatic conservation, species distribution and taxonomy.



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PATRICK de RHAM

Biologist, Conservationist, Aquarist & Fish Collector

Topic of Discussion:

Slide Photography Presentation:

The fishes of the inland waters of Madagascar, little known and endangered

The biogeographical situation of Madagascar is fundamentally different from that of the three other large tropical islands of the world, New Guinea, Borneo and Sumatra, as not being situated on a shallow continental platform repeatedly emerging during each ice age. It has remained totally isolated from any other land mass for at least 60 million years. This explains why its flora and fauna show a high degree of endemism, with between 80-90% of the native species not being found anywhere else in the world. The fishes of the Island, are no exception to this rule, especially the truly freshwater species which are nearly a hundred percent endemic. No primary freshwater fishes have managed to cross the oceanic barrier and therefore large freshwater groups such as the Cypriniforms are missing from the island.

All the native fishes found presently in Madagascar have colonised the freshwater systems from the sea and at one time of their evolution (but often, not anymore today) were able to live to withstand an extended period in seawater. It is interesting to note that in spite of their secondary nature, most Madagascan freshwater fishes are representative of ancient lineages when compared to their relatives found elsewhere in the world. There are many similarities between the Madagascan ichthyofauna and that, much larger, of the Sahul Region. However there are also some important and revealing differences.

Unfortunately Madagascar and Australia share another common characteristic: both regions count many endangered species, freshwater fishes being undoubtedly the most endangered vertebrates of the Great Island. The conservation of native fishes is extremely difficult in Madagascar as one of the main factors responsible for their decline is the competition of introduced continental species which have already completely replaced native fishes over large areas of the island. This problem is

further aggravated by the difficult economical situation of the country. It is hoped that advice and possibly support can be found in Australia where there is already a considerable experience in conserving native fishes.

About Patrick de Rham:

(Dr.) Patrick de Rham is a Swiss biologist and conservationist who has lived and worked in West and East Africa, South East Asia and South America. An aquarist and fish collector since the age of 7 (in England) he has taken the opportunity of his extensive stays and travelling in tropical areas to satisfy his ruling passion of studying and collecting fishes in their natural habitats. Since 1991 he has developed a special interest for the endemic fishes of Madagascar and has undertaken six collecting expeditions to the Great Island. Patrick is a Corresponding Member of the Museum of Natural History of Geneva and a Director of Aquatic Conservation Network. He is very keen to develop a Conservation Programme for endemic Madagascan fishes so that at least a representative sample of this unique and scientifically very interesting ichthyofauna may be conserved.

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NICK ROMANOWSKI
Dragonfly Aquatic Nursery, Colac

Topic of Discussion:

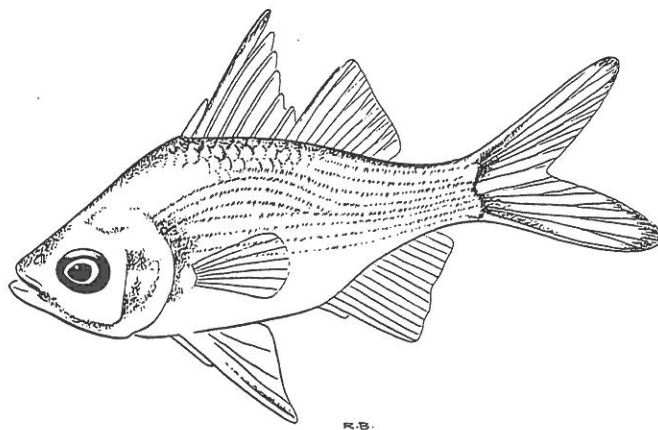
Genetics and Captive Breeding Programs for Smaller Fishes

Over the past decade and more, our understanding of genetic problems in captive populations in many animals has improved considerably. Various studies have approached these from many different angles, from isolated wild populations looked at by conservation biologists, to the problems of inbred populations in zoos. The theoretical background for long-term maintenance is also better understood than ever before, especially in terms of minimising loss of genes over many generations.

This talk describes the basics of maintaining genetic diversity in groups of smaller fishes, using Victorian species as examples. Although the general approach recommended is commonsense, there are also less obvious forces acting, and these are described. Above all, the emphasis is on keeping fishes fit for re-introduction to natural waters if this becomes possible with time.

About Nick Romanowski:

Nick has had a lifelong interest in all aspects of aquatic biology. Although his formal qualifications are in Zoology, he is probably known best as owner and manager of *Dragonfly Aquatics*, the first nursery to specialise in Australian water and wetland plants, and maintaining by far the largest range of these in cultivation. The nursery is also home to many frogs, invertebrates, visiting waterbirds and has allowed Nick to expand his breeding programs for many native fishes including *Edelia obscura* and *Galaxiella pusilla*; he has maintained some populations of the latter for over 15 years. Nick's books include "*Water and Wetland Plants for Southern Australia*" and "*Farming in Ponds and Dams: An Introduction to Freshwater Aquaculture in Australia*." Nick is currently completing a practical wetlands manual as well as a field guide to the aquatic and wetland plants of south-eastern Australia.



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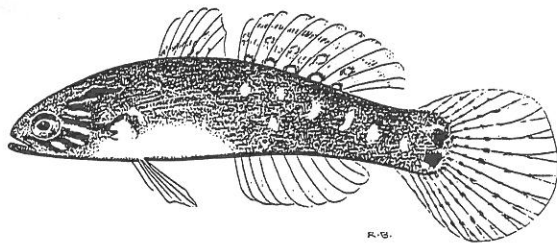
Topic of Discussion:

Life Before ANGFA

A talk on the early days of native fishkeeping in Australia including some early collecting trips prior to the formation of ANGFA.

About Heinz Staude:

Heinz is married with two grown sons. Proprietor of his own business, All Aquarium and Pet Supplies, Heinz has been in business for 26 years and specialises in rare and unusual aquarium fishes including natives. He has been actively keeping and breeding fish for well over 40 years and boasts more than 300 species of fish bred.



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ROB WAGER

Director and Consultant
Raintree Aquatics Pty Ltd

Topic of Discussion:

Conserving Queensland's Artesian Spring Ecosystems

Four species of fish appear to be restricted to Queensland artesian springs. These are the red-finned blue-eye, the Edgbaston goby, the Elizabeth Springs goby and a newly discovered hardyhead. All of these fish, and the ecosystems in which they live, are in extreme danger of extinction through the impacts of humans and other introduced species. The Federal Government through the Australian Nature Conservation Agency has coordinated and funded a "Recovery Plan for Queensland Artesian Spring Fishes". Rob will describe the proposed recovery actions and progress made to date. He will also describe the impacts and hardships on landowners and companies faced with the need to make a living in a harsh environment while coping with the responsibilities of having such unique ecosystems on their properties.

About Rob Wager:

Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA in 1965. 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 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 the University of Queensland. Rob graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1986 and has since been employed as a plumber, research assistant, technician, consultant and fisheries biologist. During an eight year stint with the Fisheries Section of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Rob 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; preparation of "The Action Plan for Australian Freshwater Fishes" for the Australian Nature Conservation Agency and preparation of the "Action Plan for Queensland Artesian Spring Fishes."

Rob left the relative ease of Government in 1995 and, along with his wife Kathy, established Raintree Aquatics Pty. Ltd. Apart from work on artesian spring fishes, Rob and his staff are involved in a number of projects assessing, monitoring and managing natural and artificial freshwater ecosystems and preparing environmental management plans for developments and aquaculture. Raintree Aquatics also runs a fish farm which breeds native fish for mosquito control, recreation and ornamental uses.



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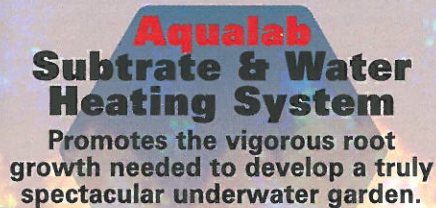
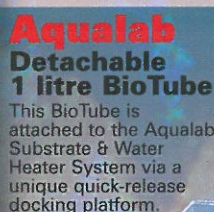
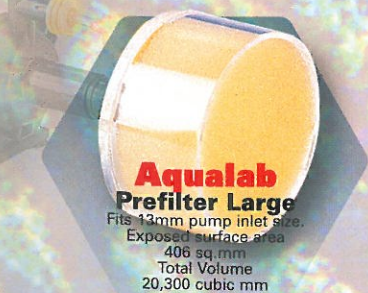
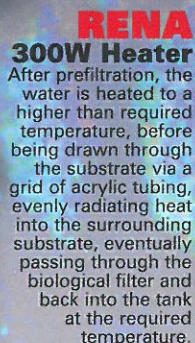
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