



AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

1998

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 23-25
BRISBANE AUSTRALIA**



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CONVENTION PROGRAMME

FRIDAY EVENING:

8.00 ANGFA Annual General Meeting.

SATURDAY 24th OCTOBER:

Morning Program

8.00-9.00 Registration.

9.00-9.15 Welcome to the Convention -
Opening Slide Sequence.

Session Chairman: Bruce Hansen (President ANGFA).

9.15-9.45 Steve Baines
"Aquascaping with Adventure".

9.45-10.15 Stephen "The Fishician" Pyecroft
"Medication via Fishfood".

10.15-10.45 Morning Tea

Session Chairman: Derek Girkin (President ANGFA
N.S.W.).

10.45-11.00 Gunther Schmida
Slides "Aquatic Animals Other Than
Fish".

11.00-11.30 Martyn Robinson - "Freshwater Crabs".

11.30-12.30 Dr Gerry Allen - Recorded Presentation
"Explorations in Irian Jaya".

12.30-1.30 Lunch.

Afternoon Program

Session Chairman: Rob Wager (ANGFA Queensland).

1.30-1.45 Neil Armstrong
Slides "AOV Native Fish".

1.45-2.15 Andrew Lo
"Surveying with ANGFA N.S.W.".

2.15-3.15 Dr. Helen Larson - "What are Gobies?".

3.15-3.45 Afternoon Tea.

Session Chairman: Andy Wattam President (ANGFA
A.C.T.).

3.45-4.00 Gunther Schmida
Slides "Our Rainbowfishes".

4.00-5.00 Franz-Peter Mullenholz (IRG)
"Around the World with a Fishnet".

SATURDAY EVENING:

7.00-8.30 Dinner - followed by coffee in
auditorium.
After dinner presentation by Ray
Leggett:
"A Naturalist in Costa Rica".

SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER:

Morning Program

Session Chairman: Adrian Dawson (IPP ANGFA
Queensland).

8.30-9.00 Neil Armstrong
Slides "Female Rainbow
Identification".

9.00-9.30 Ed Frazer - "Livefoods".

9.30-10.00 Gilbert Maebe
"One Name Colours the Rainbows".

10.00-10.30 Morning Tea

Session Chairman: Glenn Briggs (President ANGFA
Victoria).

10.30-11.00 Gunther Schmida
Slides "The Habitats of Significant
Native Fish".

11.00-11.45 Culum Brown
"That's the Trouble With
Rainbowfish".

11.45-12.45 Heiko Bleher
"Heiko's Recent Collections in New
Guinea".

12.45-1.00 Convention Close - ANGFA National and
ANGFA Queensland Presidents.

1.00-2.00 Lunch.

Afternoon Program:

Auction (commencing 2.00 pm in
Convention Room).

Evening Program:

Informal Dinner

Presentation by Heiko Bleher
"The Heiko-mobile in Central Asia".



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USA: Rainbowfish Study Group

President: Gary Lange Telephone: (314) 837 6181.

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CONVENTION ORGANISERS

The "Convention Planning Sub-Committee" of ANGFA QLD. Inc. organised this Convention – regulars included Barry Meiklejohn, Doug Collom, Peter Surmon, Jeff Gunston, Rod Pick, Bruce Hansen, and Mary Rowland with assistance when able from Adrian Dawson, Eng Chuah, Greg Ure, Steve Baines and appreciated input and "promises" from several others..

*This publication produced by Ron Bowman;
Mark Chettle; Ken Smales with much appreciated input
from Convention Planning Sub-Committee.*

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
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MOBILE PHONES ARE SWITCHED
OFF WHILST INSIDE THE
CONVENTION CENTRE.**

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Dr. GERALD R. ALLEN

About Dr. Gerry Allen:

Unfortunately Gerry cannot be here in person this year, although originally intending to be with us he has been called to Suluwesi in his work with the World Conservation Council. He has however, prepared a recorded slide show of one of his intended talks for our enjoyment.

Gerry Allen was born in Los Angeles, California in 1942. He received a Ph.D. in Marine Zoology from the University of Hawaii in 1971. A year later he emigrated to Australia with wife Connie and son Tony. He served as Curator of Fishes at the Western Australian Museum in Perth for 24 years, having recently retired to take a position with Conservation International as their Science Team Leader for marine surveys. Although he was trained as a coral fish specialist and remains active in this field, Dr. Allen has been passionately involved with the study of freshwater fishes of Australia and New Guinea for the past 25 years. He lists New Guinea as his favourite travel destination for both freshwater and marine work. Although interested in all faunal groups, rainbows, blue-eyes, and gobioid fishes occupy most of his freshwater research. Dr. Allen is the author of 27 books and more than 300 scientific articles.

Gerry Allen's Presentation:

"Explorations in Irian Jaya"

In April-May of this year Gerry had the opportunity to visit Irian Jaya once again for the purpose of participating in a flora and faunal survey of the remote Wapoga River system in northern Irian Jaya. The trip was organised by Conservation International and involved a team of international experts on such diverse fields as plants, insects, fishes, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals. The survey was supported by the Freeport Mining Company, which supplied logistic assistance including helicopter transport. The fish collecting was very rewarding - 45 species were captured, including four rainbows of which two were new to science. Surprisingly, *Melanotaenia praecox* formerly known only from the Mamberamo drainage, was found in swampy areas close to foothills.

As an added bonus after the survey he visited the Raja Ampat Islands. This Group contains several large islands, including Waigeo, Batanta, and Salawati, situated immediately west of the Bird's Head Peninsula. Three rainbows were collected including a new species from Batanta. In addition, large numbers of the unique telmatherinid (a group known mainly from Sulawesi) *Kalyptatherina helodes* were encountered in the mangrove zone at Batanta.

NEIL ARMSTRONG

About Neil Armstrong

One of the 'characters' of ANGFA, nicknamed *The Silver Budgie* by his friends, Neil has been an active member since the foundation of the association. He ranks as one of the leading photographers of fish, and his photographs grace many of the magazine articles published about fish in this country and overseas.

Based in Melbourne, Neil has travelled to many parts of this country collecting fish, and his eye for detail and great knowledge of the habits, habitats, and breeding of Australia's native fish is called upon regularly by all involved in the study and keeping of our fishes. Last year Neil travelled to the United States where he presented some of his slides at *Rainbows '97* - the RSG's conference in San Francisco.

Neil's presentations:

1. "AOV Native Fish"
2. "Female Rainbow Identification"

Neil is making two presentations and will show his superb slides and comment on them. The shortest session will be on some of the less commonly encountered groups. The second session will give us a photographic insight into sexing rainbowfishes and differentiating between the females of different species.

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STEVE BAINES

About Stephen Baines:

Steve Baines is an experienced aquarist with over 25 years of fish-keeping knowledge. Apart from managing and owning aquarium stores, he is one of the few who has been able to turn his passion for aquascaping into a full-time growing professional occupation.

He has won many major aquarium competitions as well as displaying his skills in producing stunning, eye-catching displays for the retail and wholesale sectors. In his spare time he has managed to become the proud father of eight children.

Steve's presentation:

"Aquascaping with Adventure"

Steve will expound the virtues of entertainment and education in aquatic displays. His theme "Aquascaping with Adventure" will focus on ideas extending outside the four walls of an aquarium.

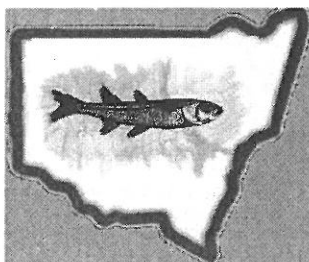
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HEIKO BLEHER

About Heiko Bleher:

Heiko Bleher is one of the best known aquarium fish collectors in the World. Heiko travels the world seeking new fish, and has had many varieties of fish named after him, including *Melanotaenia bleheri*, so beloved of rain-bowfish enthusiasts.

Born in wartorn Germany in 1944, into a family with a history of collecting aquatic plants and fish, Heiko followed on from his grandfather and mother in developing Frankfurt's largest aquatic plant and fish establishment.

Heiko spent much of his youth in Rio de Janeiro and the Brazilian interior, with his Mother and siblings. Fluent in seven languages, he has authored articles which have appeared in more than 100 publications, including *Aqua Geo* which he set up himself to highlight studies of aquatic environments worldwide.

Heiko uses the "Heiko-mobile", a go-anywhere vehicle, built to his specifications, in quests to the last unexplored places on earth that may reveal new aquatic species. His expeditions into New Guinea have provided us with much of the knowledge of New Guinea species we have today.

Heiko's presentations:

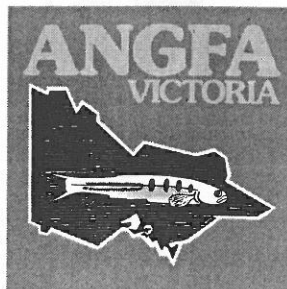
1. "Heiko's Recent Collections in New Guinea"

Since he last was able to be with us Heiko has made several expeditions to Irian Jaya and Nuigini, and this presentation features new and recently collected rain-bowfish and other species from these trips.

2. "The Heiko-mobile in Central Asia"

Heiko has very recently returned from a unique trip, collecting fishes and aquatic plants in Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. This will be the first time that many of these habitats have been revealed to Western eyes.

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Thanks to

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Victoria**
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Convention Book



CULUM BROWN B.Sc. (Melb) Hons.(Qld).

About Culum Brown:

Ever since he was a child Culum has wanted to be a marine biologist. Much of his youth was spent in South East Asia where he spent as much time as possible snorkelling off remote islands. In his teenage years he obtained his SCUBA licence and spent a lot of time diving around Port Philip Bay. His keen interest in biology won him a position at Melbourne University, where he majored in Marine Ecology and Conservation Biology. He came to realise that his main interests however lay in animal behaviour.

Finding marine science was already the subject of very necessary studies by a large number of fellow marine biologist, Culum transferred his interest to freshwater environs and in 1994 moved to Brisbane to undertake an honors degree. His work on the Lake Eacham Rainbow led to a First Class Honors Degree, and an Australian Postgraduate Award to continue his studies to a Ph.D. During his PhD studies he has investigated numerous aspects of rainbowfish behaviour, mostly centred on predator avoidance tactics, habitat choice, learning and memory all geared towards conservation biology.

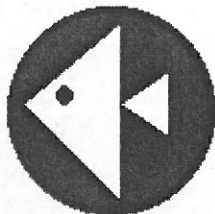
Culum Brown's Presentation:

"That's the trouble with rainbowfish"

The story of the Lake Eacham rainbowfish is a twisted tale of drama and intrigue, of hopes and disappointment. This talk will begin with a brief history of the Lake Eacham rainbowfish saga. From its late beginning's and acceptance, its disappearance, reappearance, identity crisis and the current conservation status confusion. Culum will go on to concentrate primarily on the research that has been conducted into eachamensis at the University of Queensland, its behaviour, physiology, genetics and its distribution. He will then discuss where eachamensis sits in respect to the rest of the rainbowfish species and look at the latest and greatest phylogeny of the rainbowfish family. Finally Culum will talk about the problems of identifying rainbowfish species in the Wet Tropics.

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ED FRAZER

About Ed Frazer:

Ed is a horticulturist who worked in New Zealand and Australia as an agricultural journalist and was editor of the *Graingrower* and *Pig Farmer* magazines before working as a marketing executive in the fertiliser industry.

For the past 27 years he has owned Australia's leading aquatic plant nursery employing around 36 people. During recent years his company has developed a large live food section and now supplies a wide range of worms and insects to all major zoos and the pet industry.

Ed Frazer's presentation:

"Livefoods"

Ed Frazer will give a challenging talk on the natural foods and feeding habits of our commonly kept native fish. He will discuss how far the feeding of fish in aquaria falls short of their needs and how this can be improved.



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Dr. HELEN LARSON

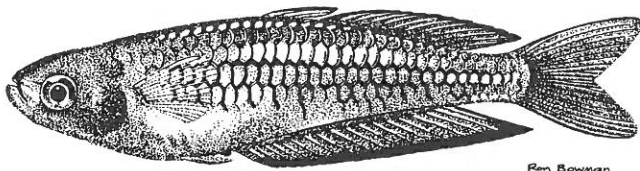
About Helen Larson:

Dr. Helen Larson has been Curator of Fishes at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory in Darwin for 17 years and previously was at the Australian Museum, Sydney. She has been working on tropical marine fishes (and gobies) for about 30 years and has published over 50 papers on fishes. Most of her work involves the taxonomy and systematics (= biodiversity) of the marine and estuarine fishes of northern Australia and the Indo-west Pacific. Gobies are found world-wide; are the most speciose group of marine fishes, and are very poorly known. Helen admits to being very conscious of being an endangered species in this day and age, as museum taxonomists are all growing older and not being replaced and students are not being trained in taxonomy.

Dr. Helen Larson's Presentation: "What Are Gobies?"

Why do people ignore gobies, one of the most diverse and weird groups of fishes on the planet? Do ordinary people recognise gobies? A brief introduction of goby classification will be provided and several characters shown which are used to tell one group from another.

Representatives of all 8 families will be illustrated and discussed. Most goby groups can be told apart by their lateral line and sensory papillae patterns on their heads. Their diversity in body form, size, behaviour and colour is amazing.



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RAY LEGGETT

About Ray Leggett:

Interested in nature all his life, Ray began bird watching with the encouragement of his father at age six. The first book he ever owned was *What Bird is That?* by Neville Cayley, and on receiving this book for his ninth birthday spent many hours with his mates out in the local bush of the western suburbs where he lived. Fishing for lobbies was also very popular and the occasional fish caught was also seen as a challenge to identify. No books on Australia's freshwater fish existed back then in the mid-forties so although rainbows, spangled perch and gudgeons were caught and kept in old bath tubs only the common names were known.

During the mid fifties through to the present day Ray has kept and bred over 250 species of freshwater fish from around the world and had a keen interest in the tetras and cichlids of the American continent. Ray began travelling through-out Australia from age 20 and later overseas to Europe, Asia and New Zealand but until 1997 had never visited the Americas.

Ray's Presentation: "A Naturalist in Costa Rica"

Realising a trip to Costa Rica would give the opportunity of seeing a range of diverse fauna and flora of both South and North America planning began in early 1997 for a northern winter visit with long term friend Steve Wilson. As Costa Rica has a wet summer November to January was chosen for the trip hoping to gain the maximum dry days for photography. This presentation is the result of that journey.



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ANDREW LO

About Andrew Lo:

Andrew Lo originally came to Australia from Hong Kong to complete his tertiary education. He joined ANGFA after attending the first National Conference in Sydney in 1987 and is currently ANGFA NSW Secretary.

He is an environmental economist by profession. In between his teaching and research work at the School of Economics at UNSW, he goes looking for fish in the bush and also does commissioned art works for architects and designers at home and abroad. (Brisbane Hilton's top floor, where Asian high rollers hang out, has 12 of Andrew's big colourful ink paintings.)

Andrew Lo's Presentation:

"Surveying with ANGFA NSW"

Andrew's presentation in the ANGFA 1998 Conference is on fish surveys undertaken by ANGFA NSW members over the last 18 months. The paper has three parts. Part one is on approaches to fish surveying. Part two covers the diversity of fish habitats surveyed by ANGFA members. Part 3 deals with fish surveys and conservation of biodiversity issues. The presentation will be well illustrated in a variety of ways, including some of Andrew's own art works.



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GILBERT MAEBE

About Gilbert Maebe:

Gilbert is from Belgium, and has been a keen aquarist for over 20 years, and for much of that time has specialised in rainbowfish. He has a fishroom with over 50 tanks and is a leading European breeder of rainbowfishes. Gilbert was a co-founder of the IRG (*Internationale Regenbogenfish Gesellschaft*) in 1986, and continues to be an enthusiastic supporter.

Gilbert has been an ANGFA member since 1984, and his previous appearances at ANGFA conventions in 1990, 1994 and 1996 have been highlights of those events. He also made three presentations at Rainbows '97 in San Francisco. Gilbert is a retired teacher at a technical school, and now takes the opportunity to travel as often as possible with his wife Hilda, and is a very popular presenter on the subject of rainbowfishes, lecturing some 30 times a year.

Gilbert's Presentation:

"One Name Colours the Rainbow"

The presentation Gilbert will give at this convention was originally prepared for the 50th anniversary of the Belgian Aquarist Association, and will be unchanged except for being in English. The subject is *Melanotaenia trifasciata*, and shows how these beautiful fishes are promoted in Europe. The title "one name colours the rainbow" indicates that in one rainbowfish species, *trifasciata*, all the colours of the spectrum can be found.

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FRANZ-PETER MULLENHOLZ

About Franz- Peter Mullenholz:

Franz-Peter Mullenholz is a fishkeeper from Germany, who has been keeping fish for about 32 of his 46 years, and has been specialising in Rainbows and Guppies for many years. Franz-Peter has travelled extensively, about 25 trips around the world! and is well known here as the producer of the excellent audio visual productions of Gilbert Maebe.

In his travels Franz-Peter has collected fish from many parts of the world, although he has yet to achieve one ambition, to visit Irian Jaya and sample the rainbows there.

Franz-Peter's Presentation:

"Around the World with a Fishnet"

Starting from his home in Germany Franz-Peter takes us through Europe, America (Venezuela, Mexico), Africa (Madagascar), Asia (Thailand, Sri Lanka, Maldives) and Australia (Cape York, Arnhemland). In these locations we see the landscape, nature, people, and beautiful fishes caught at each stop.

STEPHEN PYECROFT BVSc Hons.

About Steve Pyecroft:

A past President of ANGFA Queensland, Steve has had a long association with ANGFA. A qualified veterinarian, Steve has specialised in fish health, and has a diagnostic business providing support to the varied fields of aquaculture, as well as to fish hobbyists. Steve is also an adviser to government quarantine authorities. Steve travels throughout Australia in his work, and has recently returned from lecturing in America. He is also well known for the articles he writes on fish health as 'The Fishician'.

Steve's Presentation:

"Medication via Fishfood"

Following on from his 1997 Convention talk in Sydney on Fish Health and indications, Steve will expand into the fascinating topic of how to administer medication to your fishes through their food.



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MARTYN ROBINSON

About Martyn Robinson:

Martyn Robinson works at the Australian Museum in Sydney and has done so for approx. 2 decades. He has worked in a variety of Museum departments and has a broad field of interest in Natural History including aquatic invertebrates. He is Vice President of ANGFA NSW.

Martyn Robinson's Presentation: "Australian Freshwater Crabs"

The freshwater crab fauna of Australia is little studied. New species turn up in pet shops before they are officially described in Museums. Most are from the family Sundathelphusidae the group often being referred to as 'Potamid' Crabs after their last family name Potamidae. Others include Grapsid crabs and spider crabs which are usually estuarine species which can live in freshwater for part of their lives. Some species are becoming popular as pets and aquarium subjects but are often housed incorrectly. More specimens are required from various parts of the country to find out distribution ranges, and what species we have.

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GUNTHER SCHMIDA

About Gunther Schmida:

Based at Mudgeeraba, behind the Gold Coast, Gunther Schmida is renowned as one of Australia's leading wildlife photographers. His photographs are published worldwide in leading magazines, and accompany many scientific publications. Gunther grew up in Braunschweig, Germany, and developed his lifelong interest in wildlife at an early age, keeping tropical fish from his teens, and taking up SCUBA diving and photography before moving to Australia in 1965.

He travelled throughout the country, settling for some years in Sydney where he co-authored the well known *Australian Freshwater Fishes*, and his solo publication *The Cold Blooded Australians*. His most recent publication is a book entirely on "Rainbowfishes" in the German language.

Gunther continues to build up his collection of photographs of not only fishes, but frogs, reptiles and a vast range of creatures and their habitats and in preparation for a likely Volume 2 of *The Cold Blooded Australians*.

Gunther's Presentations

1. "Our Rainbowfishes"

2. "Aquatic Animals Other Than Fish"

3. "The Habitats of Significant Native Fish"

We are fortunate to have Gunther making three presentations. Two short ones: "Our Rainbowfishes", and "Aquatic Animals other than Fish" to be presented on Saturday. On Sunday in a longer session, Gunther will show a collection of slides on the various aquatic habitats that he has encountered throughout Australia.

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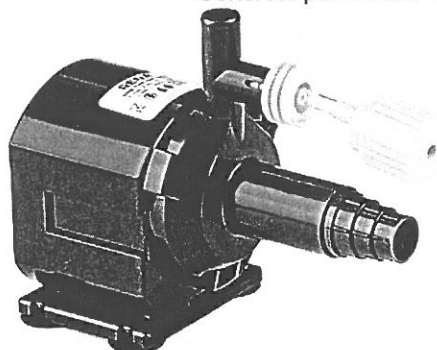
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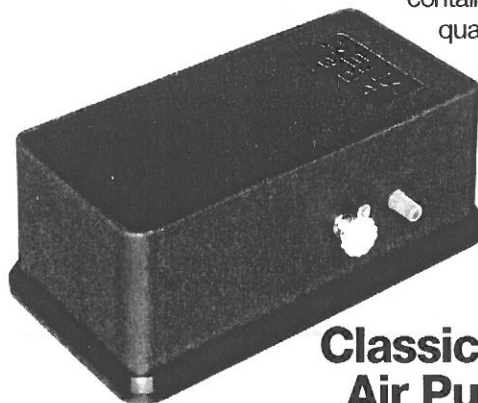


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may again rendezvous in 1999 at the
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