



AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

2000

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 20-22
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA**



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CONVENTION PROGRAMME

FRIDAY EVENING:

8.00 ANGFA Annual General Meeting.

SATURDAY 21st OCTOBER:

Morning Program

Session Chairman: Ken Smales (ANGFA Vic.).

8.00-9.00	Registration & Coffee.
9.00-9.15	Convention Opening.
9.15-9.45	Phil Littlejohn - "Oddities of Victorian Waters".
9.45-10.15	Gunther Schmida - "Have Camera - Do Travel".
10.15-11.00	Morning Tea
11.00-12.00	Franz-Peter Mullenholz - "Australia for Aliens and Beginners".
12.00-1.30	Lunch.

Afternoon Program

Session Chairman: John Cousins (ANGFA Vic.).

1.30-2.15	Tarmo Raadik - "Fish of Cardross Lakes - Their Significance and Management".
2.15-3.00	Bob McDowall - "Around the World with Galaxiids".
3.00-3.30	Afternoon Tea.
3.30-5.00	Heiko Bleher - "Unknown Presentation".

SATURDAY EVENING:

5.30-6.00	Pre-Dinner Drinks.
6.00-8.00	Convention Dinner.
8.00-11.30	Auction.

SUNDAY 22nd OCTOBER:

Morning Program

Session Chairman: Bruce Hansen (ANGFA Qld.).

8.30-9.00	Registration & Coffee.
9.00-9.10	Opening Sequence.
9.10-9.30	Gilbert Maebe & Franz-Peter Mullenholz - "Aquatic Symphony".
9.30-10.15	Gunther Schmida - "From the Gulf to the Cape".
10.15-11.00	Morning Tea
11.00-11.45	Bob McDowall - "More Galaxiids and Freshwater Fish of New Zealand".
11.45-12.30	Gilbert Maebe - "10 Years Later".
12.30-1.45	Lunch.

Afternoon Program:

Session Chairman: Mark Chettle (ANGFA Vic.).

1.45-2.30	Ivor Stuart - "Migration: The Journeys of Fish and the People that Follow Them".
2.30-3.00	Neil Armstrong - "The Arafura Swamp".
3.00-3.30	Afternoon Tea.
3.30-5.00	Heiko Bleher - "Unknown Presentation".

SUNDAY EVENING:

5.30-6.30	Rest & Recovery & Pre-Dinner Drinks.
6.30	Wind-Down BBQ Dinner.



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The 2000 ANGFA National Convention has been organised by the ANGFA Vic Committee with special thanks to Jennifer Palmer for organising sponsorship.

The support of our sister clubs and their committees, sponsors and members also deserves special mention. Without their support and help our task would have been just that little more difficult.

Mention should also be made of Mark Toothill and the staff at Ciloms for their enthusiastic help and support in helping to ensure this Convention will be a success.

Royal Melbourne Zoo and the Melbourne Aquarium are also to be thanked for making available special admission tickets for our post-convention outings on Monday ensuring our overseas, interstate and local visitors see some of the major highlights of Melbourne.

This publication has been produced by Ken Smales and Mark Chettle.

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 OFF WHILST INSIDE THE CONVENTION CENTRE.

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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.

In 1997, Neil travelled to the United States where he presented some of his slides at Rainbows '97 - RSG's conference in San Francisco.

In 1999 Neil was invited to speak at the I.R.G. convention held in Bensheim Germany on the weekend of June 12th-13th. He gave 2 talks, the first on Saturday consisted of the fish and their habitats in the many parts of Australia that he has travelled. The second talk on Sunday mainly covered the many Fishes of Sahul. In Neil's own words, it was a '*Bloody good convention*'.

In 1999 Neil travelled to the Arafura Swamp together with ANGFA members Bruce Hansen, Andy Wattam, Dave Wilson and Ian Morris (of Kakadu fame) where amongst other things they discovered *Iriatherina Werneri* for the first time in the Northern Territory. The famous Goyder River drains into the Arafura Swamp, which is a goldmine of native fish.

Neil's Presentation:

"The Arafura Swamp"

This presentation features a trip to the Arafura Swamp in 1999 with other ANGFA members. Highlights will be the fish and other wildlife found within this unique part of Australia.

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 rainbowfish 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 & 2. "Not Known"

Heiko will do 2 presentations - one on Saturday, one on Sunday. Due to overseas commitments he was not able to supply us with details of his chosen subjects before we went to print. Those familiar with Heiko's presentations will just have to fasten their seatbelts and wait. We know the wait will be more than worthwhile.

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PHIL LITTLEJOHN

About Phil Littlejohn:

Being drawn to the local creeks as a boy, Phil started catching small fish to replace the goldfish his father had bought for him.

Many years later, Phil joined his dream job with the largest importer/wholesaler of aquarium fish in the Southern Hemisphere and has been employed there for over 20 years. Over that period he has gained knowledge in fish keeping and has the opportunity to meet similar minded people.

Phil not only collects from the local creeks these days, but the whole of the State in search of fish species he hasn't collected before. After all it's his hobby to collect every known freshwater fish of Victoria, as well as collect on film the numerous crustaceans and oddities whilst on his travels, with the next trip always as exciting with the possibility of collecting something new.

Working closely with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Phil submits his findings to them to be stored on their database.

Phil's Presentation:

"Oddities of Victorian Waters"

Exploring your local waterways for fish can turn up the unexpected. Freshwater sponges, jellyfish, crustaceans, mussels, snails, leeches and aquatic insects to name some. Where Victorian fish may be familiar to the eye and often kept, the invertebrates for example may be difficult to identify and information on keeping them under aquarium conditions hard to find, or non-existent on some species.

The slides presented will be an assortment of creatures collected by Phil in Victorian waters, with some that may be of interest to be kept in aquarium conditions.

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 Regenbogenfisch 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, 1996 and 1998 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.

Gilberts presentation:

"10 Years Later"

1990 Gilbert made his first visit to Australia. This talk and slide presentation will cover from that trip through to his last visit in 1998 and will cover quite a number of locations through his extensive collecting trips around our country. Highlights will also cover a small section to the Lake Santani region of Irian Jaya back in 1991. Also to be included will be some of the highlights of his first presentation featuring drawings by his friend, Frans Proost, of some of the early fish obtained from early egg shipments to Belgium.

Gilbert will also do a combined presentation with Franz-Peter Mullenholz entitled "Aquatic Symphony" (see Franz-Peter Mullenholz).

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BOB McDOWALL

About Bob McDowall:

Bob has worked since the early 1960s on New Zealand and southern cool temperate freshwater fishes: taxonomy and relationships, biogeography, ecology and life histories, fisheries and has focussed beyond New Zealand mostly on galaxioids – Galaxiidae, Retropinnidae, Aplochitonidae, Prototroctidae – in Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Patagonian South America and southern Africa – most recently collected in the Falklands. He spent six months at the Australian Museum in the mid 70's working on Australian galaxioids – which was the impetus for the two editions of *Freshwater Fishes of Southeastern Australia* – which New Holland are talking about reprinting. Bob is presently involved in a major study of galaxioid phylogenetic relationships. He has also published lots of papers as well as 10 books.

Presentation 1 (Saturday):

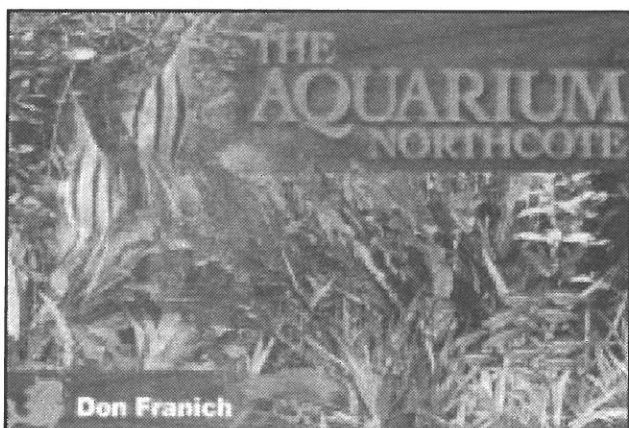
"Around the World with Galaxiids"

Bob's first presentation will cover galaxiids from various parts of the world – their history, natural history, taxonomy and biogeography.

Presentation 2 (Sunday):

"More Galaxiids and Freshwater Fish of New Zealand"

This presentation will continue on with galaxiids but will also touch on diadromy – one of Bob's other major interests – because of its implications for a whole raft of aspects of fish biogeography, distribution, community structuring, recovery from perturbation, etc. This is of particular relevance to southeastern Australia (coastal drainages) and Tasmania, as in NZ, since quite a significant proportion of the fauna there is diadromous – implications relate, for instance, to the sorts of issues raised recently in ANGFA News.



FRANZ-PETER MULLENHOLZ

About Franz-Peter:

Franz-Peter has been married for 27 years to his wife (and travelling companion) Ullie. He lives in Germany and has been a keen fish keeper for many years. Franz-Peter began fish keeping with a tank in a small flat. He kept Guppies and Australian Rainbows. Franz-Peter is a member of the International Rainbow Study Group (IRG) which is a European based Australian Rainbow group. As a hobby photographer he is a member of a specialised aquarium association in Germany known as Fisch Knipser Koln (Fish photographers Cologne). This groups main aim is to create and present multi-vision presentations of aquatic related subjects using up to sixteen projectors. Franz-Peter has made many journeys around the world to catch fish, find water plants, make contact with people from those countries and then return home to give a slide show about his journeys. Franz-Peter is a regular visitor to Australia and he journeys all over the country looking for fish and plants.

Franz-Peters Presentation:

"Australia for Aliens and Beginners"

(A presentation for ANGFA Fishermen and their Fish Widows)

The first time we travelled to Australia was to look for fish, and we have been back seven times since! The presentation will be a slide show about our trips including the most important habitats (Cape York, Arnhem Land and the Kimberley's), the fishes we caught, all the special experiences and the friends we have wined along the way. This is a presentation for both Rainbow Specialists and everyone else.

Combined Presentation:

Franz-Peter Mullenholz & Gilbert Maebe

"Aquatic Symphony"

Gilbert and Franz-Peter have been mates for over 10 years. They are very keen photographers and fish keepers. This journey to Australia to talk at the ANGFA Conference is their fourth trip together to Australia and this is the first time they have worked together on a slide presentation.

The presentation will take you on a journey through an Aquarium Exhibition in Belgium in 1999. The show will be a relaxing journey with music and images from some wonderful aquariums and this fish displayed in them.



TARMO RAADIK

About Tarmo Raadik:

Senior Biologist - Freshwater Ecology
Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research

Tarmo's career in fish began 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 fish behaviour experiment running, and discovered Mountain Galaxias at Mount Macedon. After knuckling back down to work, he then moved to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) surveying fish in the Geelong Region, then to the Department of Zoology, Monash University for four years. During that time Tarmo also worked as a volunteer in the Department of Ichthyology, Museum of Victoria, which he joined in 1989. His final move was back to DNRE in 1990 to work on aquatic fauna (freshwater and estuarine) and conservation issues across Victoria (and more recently outside of the state). He now manages a group of nine science and technical staff involved in fish ecology/conservation, environmental flows, and aquatic macroinvertebrate research in the Freshwater Ecology section of the Arthur Rylah Institute. Tarmo's main interests are aquatic conservation, species distributions, and taxonomy.

Tarmo's Presentation:

"Fish of Cardross Lakes, Their Significance and Management"

The Cardross Lakes are a series of small, artificial wetlands in the dry northwest of Victoria, to the south of Mildura, which historically were ephemeral, shallow basins in the mallee dunefields. Disposal of tile drainage and excess irrigation water and run-off since the 1920's has created a series of permanent freshwater lakes. Recent alterations to the irrigation water supply for the district, implemented under the local Salinity Management Plan (SMP), has led to a dramatic decrease in the supply of relatively fresh water to the Cardross Lakes. An additional component of the plan aims to divert highly saline discharge water away from the River Murray to an inland disposal site, with the Cardross Lakes selected as an appropriate site.

Until the SMP, no detailed biodiversity survey of the aquatic fauna in the Cardross Lakes had been conducted. In response to the plan, a brief assessment of the population of Freshwater Catfish (*Tandanus tandanus*) known to be present in the system was undertaken during 1995. This survey also recorded a species of fish previously thought to be extinct in Victoria: the Southern Purple-spotted Gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*). Additional surveys of the lakes has revealed that the aquatic fauna of Cardross Lakes has high significance as the lakes:

- Contain an exceptionally high diversity of native fish species (10 species);
- Are the only lakes in Victoria with such a high diversity;
- Contain four fish species listed as threatened in the state (two listed nationally);
- Contain a population of a species previously presumed extinct in Victoria;
- Contain significant populations of the Freshwater Catfish and Murray Hardyhead;
- Contain one species of tortoise considered threatened in Victoria.

This talk will outline the significance of the Lakes and their fauna, current management including monitoring, and the potential for future management of the system.

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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 has spent the last six months in the central western area of Queensland (mainly Mt Isa) working. In his spare time he has been sampling and photographing some of the local fish of the area as well as reptiles, amphibians, etc.

Presentation 1 (Saturday):

"Have Camera - Do Travel"

This presentation (as well as presentation no 2) covers highlights of many parts of Australia that Gunther has travelled and will feature many of the fish, reptiles and amphibians that Gunther has photographed whilst on these travels.

Presentation 2 (Sunday):

"From the Gulf to the Cape"



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IVOR STUART

About Ivor Stuart:

Ivor grew up in Northern Victoria on the Murray River and was a keen, if unsuccessful, angler from an early age. After finishing university in 1991 he worked for NSW Fisheries at Narrandera and Cronulla on several fishway projects and the NSW Rivers Survey. In that time he travelled extensively in western NSW and took a particular interest in the field of fish migration. In 1995 he moved to Rockhampton to study the effectiveness of a new fishway on the Fitzroy River barrage for passage of tropical fish species (primarily barramundi). On completion of the project he helped develop fishway guidelines for the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. He then did further fishway research on the Burnett River at Bundaberg studying passage requirements of Queensland lungfish and many other freshwater and estuarine fish species. In late 1999 Ivor returned to Victoria and presently leads a major research project from the Arthur Rylah Institute investigating movements and spawning patterns of common carp in the Murray River within the Barmah/Millewa floodplain.

Ivors Presentation:

"Migration: The Journeys of Fish and the People that Follow Them"

When studying Australian freshwater fish an initial and obvious observation is that they move. Some of these journeys can be explained as a regular part of the fish's life cycle, such as migrating to a particular habitat to reproduce. Other fish movements remain largely inexplicable. Researchers have been fascinated with the idea of understanding the mechanisms behind fish migration, so they have devised a great variety of methods to follow fish, or capture them on their journeys. Many of these projects have added to our understanding of the importance of migration, to both individual fish and for the health of whole fish communities. I wish to explore some of the more recent projects and the technology that have

added to our knowledge of fish biology and migration. While also mentioning some of the pitfalls researchers have found while following fish.

One of the more fascinating aspects when studying fish migration is how fish know their own location and their repeated use of routes to and from separate habitats. For example, radio tracking of Murray cod and more recently common carp has shown each fish to have a home snag, from which they make annual movements of several hundred kilometres. Mass migration of fish through new fishways on coastal and inland rivers also suggests that fish know where they are, and more importantly where they are going. Generally, fish are thought to only migrate for breeding, such as Australian bass and barramundi swimming downstream to an estuary to spawn. However, what role does exploration play for juvenile golden perch migrating upstream in fishways? Are passive downstream drifts of large Queensland lungfish during floods another way of exploring their environment?

These questions and the mechanics of fish navigation are fundamental to understanding the ecological significance of different types of migration. Migratory fish, such as sea mullet, are often the most commercially exploited and have also suffered the most serious declines in distribution and abundance after dam construction. A greater understanding of fish migration is needed to reduce the impacts of man on individual fish, whole fish populations, and on the environments in which they live.

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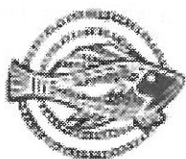
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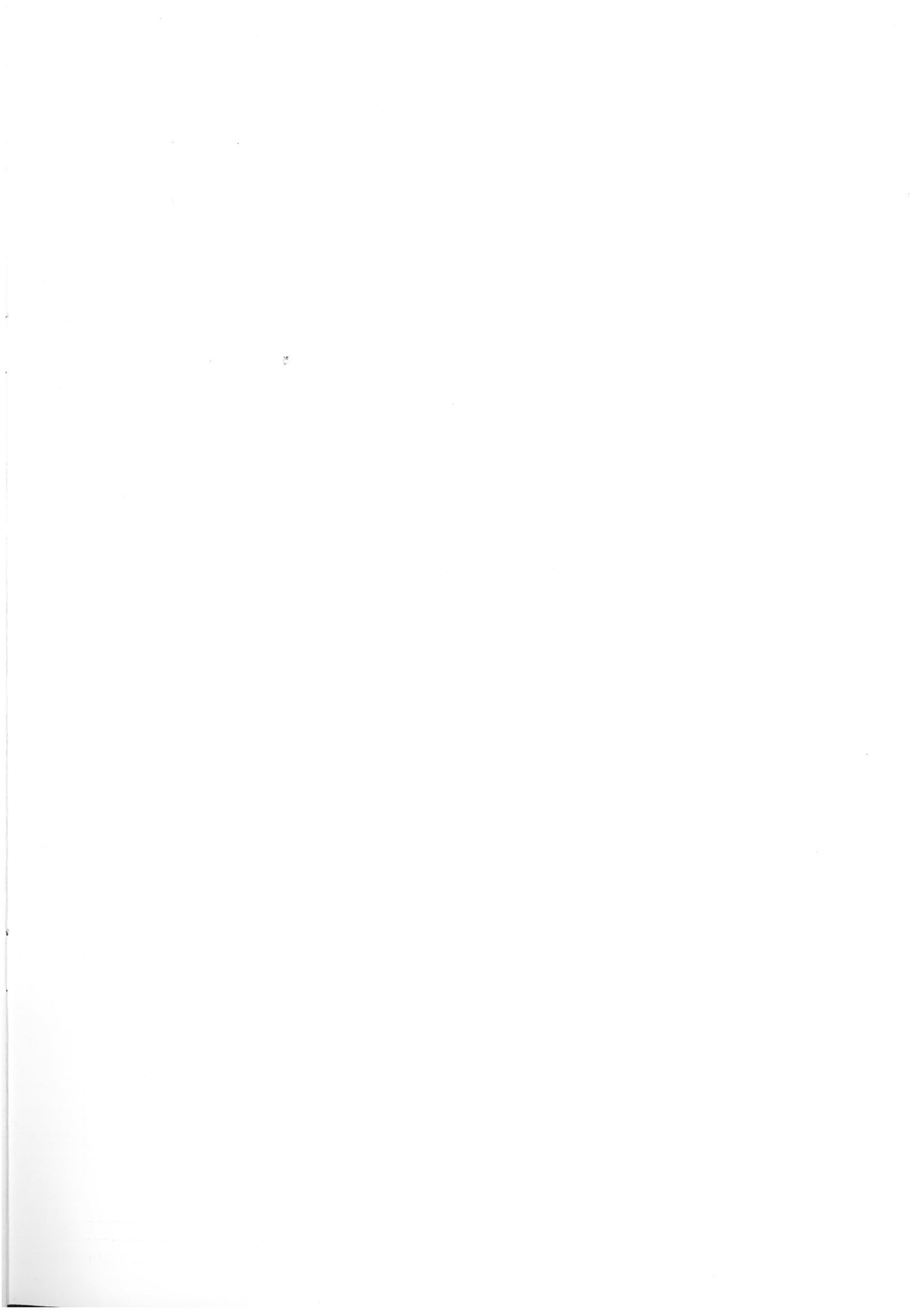


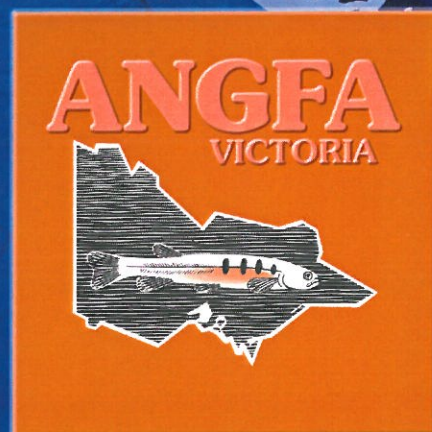


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