

ANGFA 2002 CONVENTION

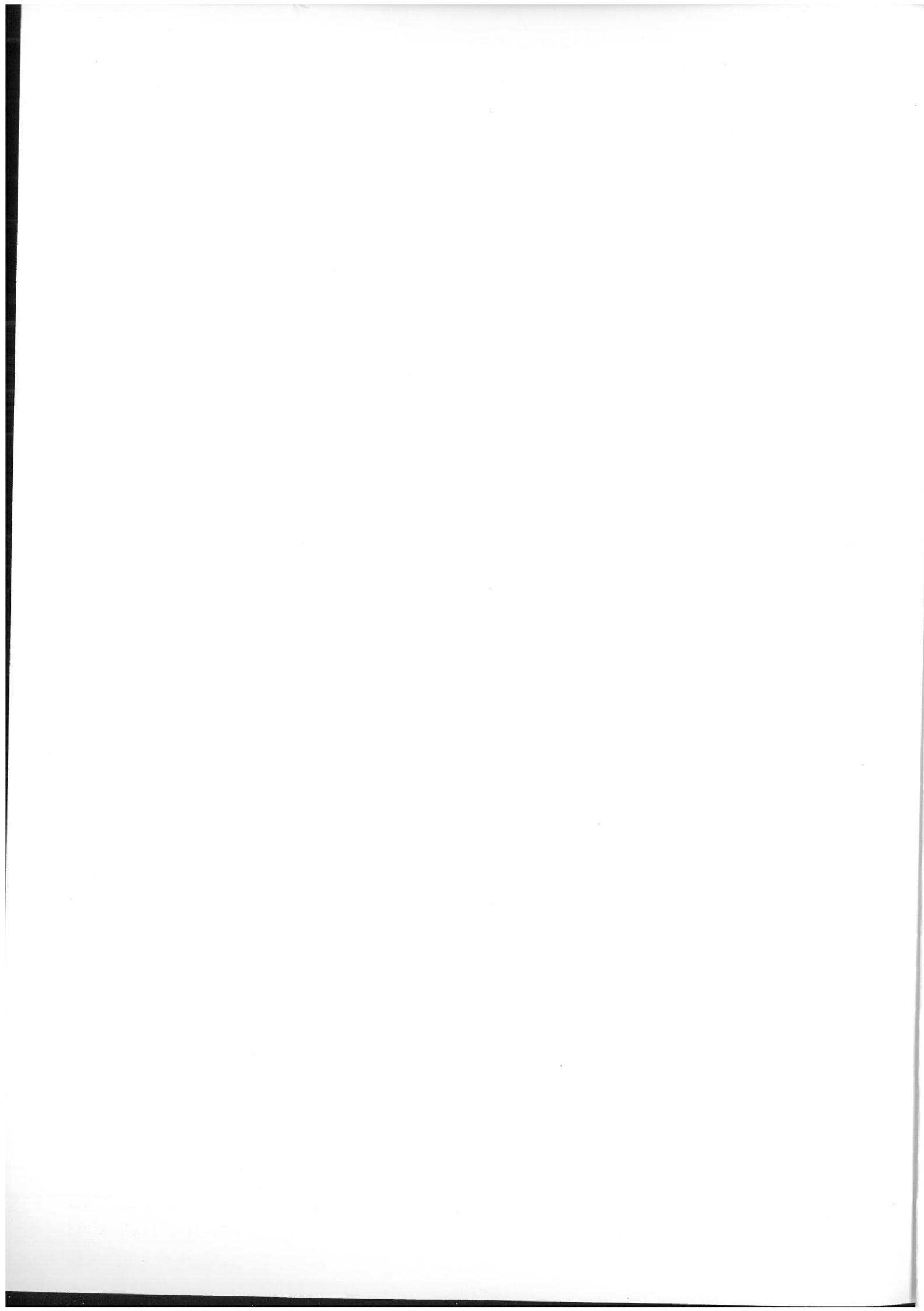


**PORT MACQUARIE
SAHUL & BEYOND**

AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION

2002

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 26 - 27
NSW AUSTRALIA**





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CONVENTION 2002 PROGRAMME

FRIDAY EVENING:

7.00-8.00	Pre-AGM Drinks
7.00-7.30	Convention Registration
8.00	ANGFA Annual General Meeting

SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER:

Morning program

Session Chairperson: Derek Girkin

8.00-8.45	Registration & Coffee
8.45-9.10	Convention Opening
9.10-9.50	Dave Wilson <i>"Fish bothering in remote areas of the top end, and some of the people you meet"</i>
9.50-10.20	Martyn Robinson <i>"Mudskipper basics"</i>
10.20-11.05	Morning Tea

Session Chairperson: Andy Wattam

11.05-11.45	Bob Wong <i>"Male-male competition and female choice in the Pacific blue eye"</i>
11.45-12.30	Rob Wager & Paul Smith <i>"Conserving the Oxleyan Pygmy Perch on North Stradbroke Island"</i>
12.30-1.45	Lunch

Afternoon Program

Session Chairperson: Chris Howe

1.45-2.15	Jamie Knight <i>"Distribution and Habitat Preference Of The Endangered Oxleyan Pygmy Perch in NE NSW"</i>
2.15-3.00	Gunther Schmida <i>"How to take a "pretty" picture of aquatic life forms in an aquarium"</i>
3.00-4.00	Afternoon Tea

Session Chairperson: Ron Bowman

4.00-5.00	Andrew Lo <i>"Fish Lover's Guide To The Galaxias of NSW"</i>
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Evening Program

5.00-6.00	Pre-Dinner Drinks
6.00-8.00	Dinner
8.00-	Auction

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER:

Morning program

Session Chairperson: Bruce Hansen

8.15-8.45	Registration & Coffee
8.45-9.15	James Sakker <i>"NSW Fisheries Projects"</i>
9.15-9.45	Effie Howe <i>"12 months with Dragon Search NSW"</i>
9.45-10.15	Adrian Dawson <i>"The Best Across the Top"</i>
10.15-11.00	Morning Tea

Session Chairperson: Barry Meiklejohn

11.00-11.30	Walter Ivantsoff <i>"Dalhousie Springs revisited"</i>
11.30-12.20	Franz-Peter Muellenholz <i>"Good Australian Mates"</i>
12.20-12.30	Greg Howe <i>"Feral Fish: Is the Plague Minnow in the Myall River System?"</i>
12.30-1.45	Lunch

Afternoon Program

Session Chairperson: Glenn Briggs

1.45-2.30	Scott Hunt <i>"The long way round to ANGFA Convention 2001, Adelaide"</i>
2.30-3.00	Andy Wattam <i>"Collecting Expeditions- The Truth Uncovered"</i>
3.00-4.00	Afternoon Tea

Session Chairperson: Ken Smales

4.00-5.00	Barry Meiklejohn <i>"Fish of Central Australia"</i>
5.00	President Elect 2002/3 <i>"Convention Close"</i>

MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER:

Post Convention Activities

Port Macquarie Cruise Adventures "Oyster World" Cruise. Includes morning tea & BBQ Lunch.
10.30 am-2pm



ABOUT THE NSW AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION GROUP

On behalf of ANGFA NSW, we welcome you to the 2002 National Convention, this year held in the picturesque area of Port Macquarie.

The ANGFA NSW regional group was formed in 1995 after the Brisbane convention, by avid fish-keepers David Crass, Ian Baddock and Barry Hollingsworth who all agreed there was a need for such a group in NSW. As with all of the regional and affiliated groups, our aims follow the guidelines of study, conservation and breeding of the fishes unique to this area of the world. Our membership is very diverse and is strongly aimed toward conservation with the future looking bright for upcoming projects.



We have set up displays at the Australian Museum in Sydney, to whom we donate fish specimens on a regular basis and in turn they have given talks at our monthly meetings. We are still involved in giving fish data to Fisheries NSW and are still concerned with the plight of the Oxleyan pygmy perch. Over the weekend, the picture will become much clearer with Rob Wager, Paul Smith and Jamie Knight discussing this very species. The first ever Fish & Reptile Show in the outer suburbs of Sydney was a huge success for both ANGFA NSW and the organisers, PIJAC, as the public turned out in force. The displays went over really well and we look forward to the next one. Once again, we were run off our feet with questions.

Our field trips have been well attended although not as numerous as we had hoped for, due mainly to inclement weather and, of course, organising the convention. The highlight of the past 12 months has been the trip to Broken Head, Evans Head and Wooli NSW in conjunction with Queensland ANGFA members. This looks like it will become an annual event. A great time was had by one and all with an area at Broken Head, surveyed in the dark, revealing some particularly nice signifer. *Rhadinocentrus* were found at Evan's Head as well as empire gudgeons.

Oxleyan pygmy perch were also located. Wooli had both red and blue forms of *Rhadinocentrus* and we also located some more Oxleyan in the area.

One of our members, Dr Andrew Lo discovered a *galaxias* in the Wooli area that should not occur there. This is under study by Robert McDowell in New Zealand with the Australian Museum aiding in the process of getting the specimens to New Zealand.

Closer to home, during a survey in a wetlands, for Wyong Council (NSW), we encountered thousands of gambusia with the occasional empire gudgeon thrown in for good measure. On this trip I found a small species of yabbie that could be a new species to science. It is being investigated by the Australian Museum.

Of the ANGFA NSW achievements, in summary, we have spoken to many of the public on which native fish to keep in ponds, translocation of species and, of course, the bane of native fish, gambusia, whom the public at large deem a native fish. A submission to N.P.W.S. is being prepared for funding to produce an information booklet for councils, schools and conservation groups outlining native fish found in NSW and the feral imports.

Our newsletter, "The Rivus", is sent out to members bi-monthly and the editors endeavour to bring interesting articles and regular updates of activities.

For this convention, we have tried to incorporate the tried and true formula that has been so successful in previous times. We hope you learn from and enjoy the guest speakers and the topics they present and we feel sure you will find ample time to catch up with old friends and make many new ones. So, sit back, relax and take in the smorgasborg of delights we have in store for you. If your plans include looking for fish whilst in this area, don't forget that Hastings River and its tributaries hold the southernmost distribution of *M. duboulayi*, which are quite an attractive colour form.

Derek Girkin President ANGFA NSW

The organising committee hopes that you enjoy the 2002 Port Macquarie ANGFA National Convention, proudly hosted by New South Wales. We look forward to meeting again in 2003 at the National Convention in Brisbane.



CONVENTION ORGANISERS

The 2002 ANGFA National Convention has been organised this year by ANGFA NSW. The committee, comprised of Derek Girkin, Lorraine Girkin, Jennifer Palmer and Andrew Thornton, would like to thank the following for their invaluable help in organising this event:

- Bruce Hansen, Neil Armstrong, Neil Travis and Greg Ure for the use of their images;
- The offers of support from various national members and regional groups, before, during and after the event;
- The management and staff of the Sails Resort, especially Kate Wood, for making our task so much easier;
- Our sincere thanks go to the guest presenters, the session chairpersons and all of those who help make this the unique experience it is.
- This publication has been produced by Jennifer Palmer, with assistance Derek Girkin, Lorraine Girkin. Special thanks to Danielle Carson, Sue Carson & Aquasonic for their assistance with the cover artwork & printing of this booklet.

WELCOME!!

Please use this weekend to exchange information and make new friends and contacts.

Take notes, ask questions. This is a unique opportunity to increase your knowledge of our aquatic environment. Learn from some of Australia's foremost experts. Enjoy spectacular pictorial shows.

*Join in the fun,
and enjoy yourself!*

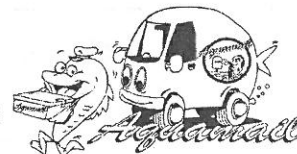
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DAVE WILSON

About Dave Wilson:

Dave, who hails from near Darwin, in the Northern Territory, has his finger on the pulse concerning native fish and plants. His knowledge of the bush and waterways of Australia's north can always be relied upon when asking his advice, which he gladly gives. Dave has put his knowledge to work in establishing a full-time business propagating and growing aquatic plants, specialising in Australian native varieties. He is also expanding into native fish. He has collected and identified many species in the NT, Far North Queensland and the Kimberley regions. One species Dave found has been named in his honour, a mangrove goby, *mugilogobius wilsonii*. He is famed for his knack of catching trifasciatus on light fishing tackle and the hospitality of himself and wife, Robyn. Anyone who has been fortunate enough to be accommodated by the Wilson's will remember with fondness the time spent in their company and that of their extended canine family.

Dave has worked at the Northern Territory Wildlife Park where his expertise came to the fore in the setting up of the new aquarium section a few years back, where he replicated the waterbodies with the aquatic plants and fishes endemic to that area of Australia.

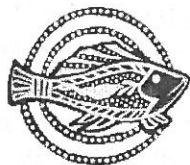
Dave's Presentation:

"Fish bothering in remote areas of the Top End and some of the people you meet."

Travelling around the top of NT and WA and a look at the interesting people that live and work in these remote places. A slide presentation concentrating on people who work in some remote places of the top end. Photographs of the work place of Otto Campion Bullmaniya and Ray Hall who work in Central Arnhem Land near Maningrida. A series of photographs from Ian Morris on his travels around the Kimberley and the North West of the Northern Territory. Photos from his ecotours into various remote areas of the Kimberley such as the Prince Regent River and Kuri Bay as well as some photos from Dave during the trip to retrieve the \$1000 note book on Bradshaw Station near the junction of the Angalarri and Victoria Rivers.

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MARTYN ROBINSON

About Martyn Robinson:

'91 - '99 Worked in Education Division of AM. Duties involved management & hire of education specimens. Management, design, preparation, and construction of Museum in a Box display/outreach service. Media interviews, research for displays, writing books, short papers, articles, and field notes for journals, bulletins and newsletters. Research on several projects. Participation on two exhibitions (Frogs, and Spiders) including collection and preparation of specimens, research and writing of data for exhibition text, maintenance of live specimens, media interviews as required. Networking with other organisations for mutual gain (eg NPWS, Sydney Aquarium, Taronga Zoo, ANGFA, ANBRC, SGAP). Contact and liaison for media organisations (eg documentary makers, BBY, Totally Wild, Harry's Practice, Wonderworld). Lectures, teaching demonstrations, and talks to interest groups as required (Museum Volunteers, APS, Gardening Clubs, ANGFA convention, Land Care groups)

'99-'01 Worked in Science Communication in Science at the AM. Duties include location, casting, and preparation of specimens for display (Animal Champions display case). Location preparation and moulding of specimens for teaching/demonstration purposes (Scientist for a Day program). Writing and researching material for text panels, books, articles, short papers and field notes. Media interviews, research for media organisations, liaison with media contacts (eg documentary makers, BBY, Totally Wild, Harry's Practice, Wonderworld). Assisting in setting up, maintenance, running, trouble shooting and planning of SITC. Lectures, teaching demonstrations, and talks to interest groups as required (Museum Volunteers, APS, Gardening Clubs, ANGFA convention, Land Care groups).

Books/articles:-

1993 A Field Guide To Frogs Of Australia from Port Augusta to FraserIs. including Tasmania, Reed Books.
2000 Frogs & Toads, Random House Australia
2000 Native Bees of the Sydney Region a Field Guide (A. Dollin, M. Batley, M. Robinson, & B. Faulkner), ANBRC publication
1998 Aussie Bee Issue 6, The secret social bees that live in Lantana, ANBRC
1999 Aqua Geographia Vol 20, Freshwater Crabs, (S. Ah-yong & M. Robinson)
July-August '99, Spiny Crays, Rivus
Sept-Oct '99, Pygmy Mudskippers, Rivus
Nov- Dec 2000, Travelling North, Rivus
Nov-Dec 2001, Red Water Mites, Rivus
2002 Dangerous Creatures of Australia, Green Guide, New Holland Publication.

Martyn's Presentation: *"Mudskipper basics"*



BOB WONG

About Bob Wong:

School of Botany and Zoology, Australian National University, Canberra

Bob's qualifications would fill two pages of this booklet. Here are a selected few:

Educational qualifications:

Ph.D. candidate 2000. ANU Canberra: Sexual selection in Fish

Bachelor of Science (1st class) 1999 ANU: Factors affecting acoustic signaling in the winter-calling frog, *crinia signefera*.

Bachelor of Laws ANU. Thesis: Saving the seahorse. Legal instruments and community-based management. Evaluating strategies for conservation of *syngnathids* in Australia and the Philippines.

Employment history and Work experience:

Guest lecturer in Australian Wildlife, ANU

Demonstrator - Evolution, third year course ANU

Field assistant (volunteer) James Cook Uni Qld. Trapping and habitat surveys for pebble mound mice in E. QLD

Others duties, amongst many include:

Grid mapping and noosing of white skinks, Research assistant (volunteer) at the lab of Dr John Kalish ANU. Preparation of Golden Perch otoliths for ICPMS, determining age and growth of *galaxias olidus*.

Bob is also a member of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour, Linnean Society of New South Wales, the Australian Geographic Society and ANGFA.

Research grants have included, Paternal genetic contribution to dominance and attractiveness in the Pacific Blue Eye fish and the reproductive ecology of the spotted pipefish, *Stigmatopora argus*.

Contributed conference papers:

Dominance and fitness consequences of female choice in the Pacific Blue Eye and related papers in Australia, Canada and the USA.

Ian & Joan MICHELS

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BOB WONG

Bob's Presentation:

"Male-male competition and female choice in the Pacific blue eye"

Females are assumed to benefit by mating with dominant males. This assumption, however, has rarely been tested and may often be incorrect due to conflicts between the reproductive interests of males and females. Australian freshwater fishes, in this regard, may offer scientists some useful insights into how the two processes of sexual selection (male competition and female choice) interact to drive the evolution of extravagant male traits such as body size, colour and fin length. Bob has conducted an experiment separating the effects of male-male competition and female choice in the Pacific blue eye (*Pseudomugil signifer*), to test whether females prefer dominant males and to determine whether females benefit from being choosy. He found that females did not prefer males successful in male-male competition and that there was no difference in hatching success between eggs guarded by dominant and subordinate males. Instead, females preferred males that spent a greater proportion of time engaged in courtship. Further, females paired with preferred males spawned sooner and preferred males also succeeded in bringing a greater proportion of eggs to hatching. These results indicate that dominant males are not necessarily more attractive than subordinate individuals but females benefit through the exercise of choice.

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PAUL SMITH & ROB WAGER

About Paul Smith:

A mad keen fisho and surfer Paul went to University of Queensland after finishing highschool to do a fisheries biology degree. After a year he changed to Bsc applied Environmental Science. Paul graduated with honors in 1993. After graduation Paul worked as a consultant dealing in contaminated land and groundwater. This took him all round the eastern seaboard for two years before finally landing his dream job at CRL. Every day is different at CRL and his duties can include: Significant Species Management, Licensing, pre-mine surveys, Fauna Management, Aquatic Ecology Management and Management of Environmental issues at both mines and processing plant in Brisbane. Paul has lived on North Stradbroke Island for the last 7 years with his partner Allyson renovating an old house and caring for a multitude of critters including swamp wallabies, a frogmouth owl, mice a cockateil and long suffering dog, Shelley. Paul is also juggling a part-time masters degree and trying to find the time to go fishing!

About Rob Wager:

Rob's parents took him trout fishing at age six weeks. That was the start of the end. Rob started keeping fishes at about age six thanks to his Mum'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, fisheries biologist and aquaculturist. Rob has worked with many native and exotic fishes, written a few papers on fish conservation and a book on the Fishes of the Lake Eyre Catchment. Since 1995 Rob and his wife Kathy have operated "Raintree Aquatics" - an aquatic environment consulting company. They primarily assisted industry and governments in complying with the various legislative and environmental obligations associated with developments on or near water. In 2002 Raintree Aquatics Pty Ltd was sold and Rob "retired" to the family fish farm at Caboolture where he grows goldfish and native species.

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JAMIE KNIGHT

Paul & Rob's Presentation:

"Conserving the Oxleyan Pygmy Perch on North Stradbroke Island"

The talk will focus on how Consolidated Rutile Limited (CRL) has approached the issue of avoiding impact on the Oxleyan Pygmy Perch in Little Canalpin Creek on North Stradbroke Island. CRL has gone one step further and undertaken a detailed management program aimed at its protection. The management program has detailed the possible threats to this species posed by the mine and offered innovative measures to ensure no impact. One of these measures has been the construction of a large scale breeding facility solely for the purpose of producing Oxleyan Pygmy Perch should re-stocking be required. The management program actions, including the breeding facility have been a success and now there exists a number of additional ways that CRL can help the species as a whole.

Jamie's Presentation:

"Distribution and Habitat Preferences Of The Endangered Oxleyan Pygmy Perch Nannoperca Oxleyana In North-Eastern New South Wales"

This study aimed to determine the distribution and habitat preferences of the endangered Oxleyan pygmy perch *Nannoperca oxleyana* in north-eastern New South Wales. Sampling involved broad-scale surveys to determine the species' limits of distribution within the State, coupled with intensive surveys of subcatchments located within these distributional limits. *Nannoperca oxleyana* was recorded from a total of 44 waterbodies within 100 kilometres of sandy coastal lowlands situated between the townships of Rileys Hill, near Ballina and Red Rock, which is north of Coffs Harbour. Within its distributional range, the species typically inhabits coastal wallum creeks and lakes characterised by tannin-stained, acidic freshwaters, where it frequents low flow environments in moderate water depths. Higher abundances of *N. oxleyana* were caught near steep/undercut banks rather than amongst aquatic vegetation, and also within these two microhabitats rather than in open water. Catches of this species also increased as habitats became shallower, substrates were composed of more sand, and contained more leaf litter, snags, steep/undercut banks and aquatic vegetation. However, *N. oxleyana* was also found in several waterbodies with quite distinct variations to these habitat and water quality features. The species was not recorded from waterbodies which were degraded by urban and rural development. While sand mining during the 1900s has probably reduced available remnant habitat for the species, it also appears to have created suitable habitats in some flood prone areas in the form of artificial lakes. This study has provided important baseline data which are being used by NSW Fisheries to inform the recovery planning process for the species.



GUNTHER SCHMIDA

About Gunther:

Gunther has been into wildlife for as long as he can remember, leaning toward fish, frogs and reptiles right from the start. At age 12, some 48 years ago, he swapped some foreign postal stamps for his first exotic fish-Guppies what else? In the following 8 years he kept over 70 tropical species, even his first rainbowfish and bred a number of them, including Harlequin Rasboras. By the age of 18 he had also taken up photography and scuba diving and had almost frozen his butt off on several occasions when diving under ice during German winters. After arriving in Australia in 1965 he travelled far and wide around the country for the first 7 years, working and spending some time in every state and territory. Initially only photographing frogs and reptiles he soon also took tanks along on his travels to start photographing freshwater fish. Proper fish keeping, however, only started again after settling down in Sydney in 1972 and had it's peak there with 46 tanks set up keeping only native fish. In all there was about 8 000 litres of water at one stage.

It was also at a time when world wide interest in rainbowfish was at the beginning. Photographing these and other native freshwater fish became a priority culminating in the publication of the "blue bible" with John Merrick, "The Cold-blooded Australians" and more recently "Rainbowfish", originally published in German but since also in English and Dutch. When last checked, his articles about Australian cold-blooded critters had appeared in 5 languages and his pictures in almost 500 publications with just over 200 cover-shots world wide.

For the past 16 years he has been living in south-east Queensland and has been a member of ANGFA Qld. ever since.

He's still quite mad about Australian native freshwater fish and especially so about rainbows.

Gunther's Presentation:

"How to take a "pretty" picture of aquatic life forms in an aquarium"



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ANDREW LO

About Andrew:

Andrew is an economist by profession and a passionate native fish lover and landscape painter by avocation.

He completed his B.A. (Hons) at the University of Melbourne in 1968 and M.A.(Hons) at the University of New South Wales in 1971, where he recently retired after 30 yrs of teaching and research in the School of Economics. Andrew joined ANGFA after attending the first ANGFA Convention held in Sydney in 1987. When ANGFA NSW was formed, Andrew was Secretary from 1997 to Y2K. As an economist, Andrew's teaching and research interests are in the area of nature conservation. An area close to Andrew's heart is the conservation of fish habitats in remnant bushland around Sydney. He attributes this to his Chinese upbringing and the Daoist paradigm of man's relationship to nature.

In recent years, he has acted as "expert witness" on conservation issues for environmental groups in the NSW Land and Environment Court. Andrew is frequently in demand as a "team leader" in the aquatic section of biodiversity surveys conducted by the National Parks Association. He is currently involved in a Foreign Affairs and Trade sponsored project to introduce green technology to China's 2008 Olympics.

Andrew's Presentation:

*"Fish Lover's Guide To The Galaxias of NSW:
An Ecological Perspective"*

General Introduction

Part 1 Galaxias in remnant urban bushland habitats.

Part 2 The newly discovered Northern-most NSW galaxiids.

Part 3 Discussion and summing up.

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JAMES SAKKER

About James Sakker:

James has been with NSW Fisheries since 1995. He has worked as a Fisheries Officer and Conservation Officer. Until recently, James was the Fisheries Action Program Coordinator in NSW for the Natural Heritage Trust. He is currently a project officer in the Threatened Species Unit at Port Stephens, implementing the sightings sheet program.

James' Presentation: "NSW Fisheries Projects"

James will discuss the former project - Protected species sighting sheet program and its results. He will then talk about the current projects and its aims and how ANGFA members can play a role in it. He will discuss the NSW Fisheries FishFile database and the benefits for ANGFA members and how they can access it. This should be a valuable resource for ANGFA members.



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EFFIE HOWE

About Effie:

After migrating from Northern Ireland (a long time ago) Effie's parents rented a flat next door to Dr Ian Munro (a CSIRO freshwater fish scientist). As a child, Effie was in awe of the little fish room that Dr Munro kept at the back of his house and she was very excited when asked to feed his fish wrigglers when he and his family were on holidays. Some years later Effie developed a keen interest in native fish, and has now kept them (and performed the odd bit of research) for around 25 years in her own fishroom.

Effie's Presentation:

"12 months with Dragon Search NSW"

Effie has also been interested in the local marine fish, in particular, seahorses. Hence, when a position came up to work with the Marine and Coastal Community Network on Dragon Search NSW, she was keen to apply. Effie's talk will cover some of the different facets of work with Dragon Search NSW over the last 12 months.

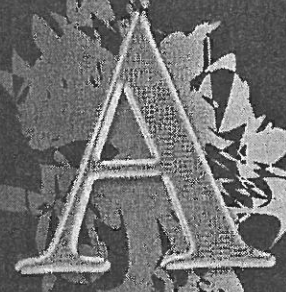
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ADRIAN DAWSON

About Adrian Dawson:

Adrian has kept fish for about forty years and has done a lot of native fish collecting in the last twelve years. He has been employed in the Oil Industry as a Laboratory Technician involved in quality control of fuels and bitumen for the last 32 years.

Adrian's Presentation:

"The Best Across the Top"

Adrian's talk will cover the pick of the more commercial varieties of Rainbow fish found from Cape York across to the Kimberleys, including two new sites not covered before at a National Convention, Yirrakala & Habgood River.



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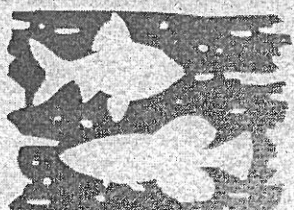
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WALTER IVANTSOFF

About Walter Ivantsoff:

Walter Ivantsoff completed his tertiary education at Sydney University (B.Sc.) and Macquarie University (Ph.D), specializing in the study of fish evolution and classification. His first job after graduation was at Sydney Technical College where he taught zoology and other subjects which have nothing to do with fish. After his transfer to Macquarie University in 1968, Walter began studying hardyheads, only because the then director of The Australian Museum, Dr. Frank Talbot (who became his Ph.D. supervisor) brought in a fish (a hardyhead) which no one could identify. The study of the hardyhead family became somewhat of a passion which resulted in 55 publications, many with his students who were also "recruited" into studying this group of fish.

Over the years Walter's interests extended to the study of blue-eyes which resulted in a review of the entire family Pseudomugilidae (mainly Basim Saeed's work). Walter's students (Aarn, Lucy Crowley) also worked on sailfin silversides of Sulawesi which are equal in their beauty to the rainbow fishes. Occasional forays into the study of rainbowfish have also been made which resulted in a resurrection of *M. duboulayi* and a thorough investigation of *Rhadinocentrus ornatus* and *Cairnsichthys rhomboides*. There has also been a review of relationships of the family Melanotaeniidae. Presently there is a paper about to be published on Australian mullets as well as descriptions of about 4 new hardyheads (mostly from Irian Jaya).

Walter is presently the scientific editor of Heiko Bleher's AQUA, a job which has slowed down his research. He is hoping to become more efficient and do a lot more research in the near future especially since he is now a Senior Research Fellow at Macquarie, a post retirement position which does not require him to teach.

Walter's Presentation:

"Dalhousie Springs revisited"

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FRANZ-PETER MULLENHOLZ

About Franz-Peter:

Profession: EDP Project Manager
 Age: 50 years
 Fishkeeper: about 36 years
 Fishes: Rainbows & Guppies
 Water-Plants: Cryptocorynes and Aponogetons
 Tanks: about 20 tanks at his flat on the 3rd floor
 Tropics-Trips: about 30 trips around the world; 9 trips to Australia
 Specials: producer of multivision shows about fishes, fishtrips and nature with up to sixteen projectors
 ANGFA: his third presentation at an ANGFA convention
 Franz-Peter's normal problem: talk, read & write in English
 His biggest problem: Franz-Peter uses NIKON cameras- not CANON (special information for Neil Armstrong)
 His dream: Fishtrip to Irian Jaya or New Guinea with ANGFA members

Franz-Peter's Presentation: "Good Australian Mates"

Up to now all ANGFA members at conventions have followed at least ten times the Old Telegraph Road via slides or videos to Bamaga and to the Top End. Or 3 to 5 times the Gidd River Road in the Kimberleys with different drivers and have seen the beautiful Mitchell Falls. What else is there for Franz-Peter to show you? This is Franz-Peter and his wife Ulli's tenth visit to Australia, and his third presentation. Within this 10 years, he has come to know and love many friends in and around ANGFA. Franz-Peter and Ulli would like to thank their friends and companions for their support and friendship- their *Good Australian Mates*.

A personality show of over more than 20 lovely people of ANGFA around the topic- "I still call Australia home"

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GREG HOWE

About Greg Howe:

Greg Howe is currently starting his Higher School Certificate year at Fort Street High School in Sydney. Greg has developed an interest in biology generally and native fish conservation in particular, through growing up around his parents, with many fish tanks and a variety of other animals.

Greg's Presentation:

"Feral Fish: Is the Plague Minnow in the Myall River System?"

Greg has gone on a number of ANGFA field trips, as well as conducting some studies of his own, on the interactions between *Gambusia holbrooki* and smaller native species. He has recently completed a survey of the distribution of *G. holbrooki* in the Myall River catchment on the NSW mid north coast, in relation to water conditions and the native fish fauna, which he will discuss at the conference.

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SCOTT HUNT

About Scott Hunt

Scott Hunt has been keeping fish for 20 of his 30 years and specialising in the "Fishes of Sahul" for the last 8. Prior to developing an interest in native species he kept and bred Central and South American cichlids. He was introduced into the hobby at the age of 10 through common livebearer species. His first batch of guppy fry saw him hooked on the hobby for life.

Scott is interested in all native species but has a particular affection for the Galaxiids. His passion for native's has seen him collect in most States and Territories of Australia. He has yet to make it across the Torres Strait, but that is only a matter of time.

Scott is currently maintaining a modest fish room in Canberra where he actively, keeps, breeds and photographs his fish.

Scott is an Information Technology consultant based in Canberra. Given a chance he would prefer to retire, play with his fish and work on his golf handicap.

Scott's Presentation:

"The long way round to ANGFA Convention 2001, Adelaide"

When you are planning a trip between Canberra and Adelaide there are many ways to get there. Scott's presentation will be about the way he, his wife Ginny and fellow fish-nut (or just nut if you prefer) Andy Wattam took in September/October 2001. The route took in Far North Queensland, Cape York, the Gulf Country, the Northern Territory, Central and South Australia. Seven weeks and over 20,000 kms later they were in Adelaide at the 2001 convention.

Fish were surveyed from as diverse habitats as Burster Creek on Cape York to Coward Springs on the Oodnadatta track in South Australia. It would be fair to say if there was a river, creek or mud puddle on the route it was looked at, photographed, sampled or just enjoyed.

ANDY WATTAM

About Andy Wattam:

Andy became interested in 1980, when he was keeping killies. A friend in Sydney had a wide range of killies, and New Guinea and Australian native fishes, including some of Gunther Schmida's fish. From that time he became interested in native fishes. He saw some pictures of Neil Armstrong's from Melbourne, and just got the telephone book and started phoning until he finally contacted the Silver Budgie. A trip to Melbourne shortly afterwards got Andy hooked. He met the likes of Ron Bowman, Ron and

BARRY MEIKLEJOHN

About Barry:

The early aquaristic "seeds" were sown in childhood with an 18 inch tank full of guppies, gouramis and goldfish. Posted to Mount Isa many years later, the "seed" re-germinated with a four foot tank stocked with many fine fishes from that far western outpost of Queensland. The semi arid region abounded in desert rainbows, hardyhead, sleepy cod, banded grunter, spangled perch, longtoms, catfish, bony bream and archerfish.

Moving back to Brisbane in '91 Barry attended the annual "Pet & Hobby Expo" where he saw a tank containing rainbowfish of such vibrant hues and colours that he just stood in amazement. A show steward told him about this group of people that were mad keen on native fish and from that day on Barry has been a member of ANGFA.

Barry has served on the ANGFA National Committee and for many years held positions on the committee of ANGFA Queensland ranging from auctioneer to President. He has served on the committee of the Queensland Federation of Aquarium Societies as Treasurer and later as Vice-President. He was editor of the ANGFA Queensland newsletter from 1991 till 2000 when he handed the editorial reigns to Adrian Tappin whilst he was sent to Melbourne for a year by his employer.

Barry's Presentation:

"Fish of Central Australia"

For many years the centre of Australia had been calling. The fish fauna of this region has been relatively well documented but it still holds an attraction strong enough to drag Barry Meiklejohn and Bruce Hansen away from the east coast. Drawing them to discover for themselves this remote and arid environment, breathtaking in its beauty and devastating in its isolation. Much of the area is steeped in history and rugged natural beauty but what of the fish that live in this place. The harsh centre of Australia is a place that can hold and withhold many secrets.

Elaine Turner, Alex and June Caughey, and numerous others. Andy has always tried to promote ANGFA and came up with the idea of the predecessor of the Bulletin. With Alex Caughey's help he got this up and running. Andy also came up with the idea of having conventions to help raise money for ANGFA, and organised a number of conventions.

Andy's Presentation:

"Collecting Expeditions- The Truth Uncovered"

Andy has now participated in a few collecting excursions, and would like to tell what really happens on these trips.



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