

AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

CONVENTION 2015 PORT MACQUARIE





CONVENTION PROGRAMME



FRIDAY

6:30 - 8:00pm Registration
8:00 - 9:00pm ANGFA Inc AGM
9:00 - 10:00pm Happy Hour

SATURDAY

8:00 - 8:50am Registration

8:50 - 9:00 Convention Opening
Ian Baddock and Sue Carson

SESSION 1: Chaired by Bruce Hansen

9:05 - 9:25 Helen Larson
Gobioides of the World

9:30 - 10:00 Leo O'Reilly
Rhadical Rhads

10:05 - 10:20 Species Maintenance

10:20 - 10:30 Gunther Smitha E-Books

10:30 - 11:00 Morning Tea

SESSION 2: Chaired by Anthony Gill

11:00 - 11:45 Peter Unmack
Evolutionary patterns within
Blue-eyes

11:50 - 12:30 Mark Abell
Australian Aquatic Flora

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch

SESSION 3: Chaired by Ian Baddock

1:30 - 2:30 Johannes Graf
Blue with red stripes- Collecting
the red laser rainbowfish

2:30 - 3:00 Afternoon Tea

3:00 - 6:00 Auction

7:00 - 9:00 Convention Dinner

SUNDAY

8:00 - 8:50 Registrations

SESSION 4: Chaired by Stephen Baines

9:00 - 9:35 Culum Brown
Fish Pain Perception

9:40 - 10:15 Franz-Peter
Touring Australia with Gunther

10:15 - 10:45 Morning Tea

SESSION 5: Chaired By Kwai Changkum

10:50 - 11:20 Adrian Dawson
Waterfall Wonderland

11:25 - 12:30 Mike Hammer
Species discovery in the Northern
Territory.

12:30-1:30 Lunch

SESSION 6: Chaired By John Buckley

1:30 - 2:15 Keith Martin
Fish Stories from the Wet Tropics

2:20 - 2:55 Gary Dunnett
Underwater photography

2:55-3:25 Afternoon Tea

SESSION 7: Chaired By Ian Baddock

3:30 - 3:50 Dr Basim M Alazzawi
Blind Fishes

3:50 - 4:50 Johannes Graf
Collecting *Chilatherina alleni* at
the type location

4:50-5:00 Close of Convention - Ian Baddock

Councils/Committees



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Convention info



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CONVENTION ORGANISERS:

The 2015 ANGFA National Convention has been organised by the ANGFA NSW Organising Committee: Mark Abell, Ian Baddock, John Buckley, Derek and Lorraine Girkin, Lyn King, David Matheson, Jennifer Palmer, Don Peddie, Ross Salvato, Peter Surmon. Special mention to Glenn Briggs for his assistance with 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. Thank you to Rachelle Dufty (Conference and Events Coordinator) and the staff at The Sails Resort for their assistance with the convention.

This publication has been designed and produced by Ross Salvato. Special mention and thanks to Gunther Schmida for allowing us to use his image for the cover and throughout this publication.

Printed and Bound by:
Gallop Press
Kirrawee NSW.

All Members and visitors to this convention are requested to ensure that mobile phones are switched off during presentations

WELCOME

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

Use the page at the back of this convention 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.

"Wow!"



AMAZONAS
Volume 2, Number 1
January/February 2013

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Dr Helen K. Larson



BIOGRAPHY:

Dr Helen K. Larson is Emeritus Curator of Fishes, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin. She is also a Research Associate, Museum of Tropical Queensland, Townsville and Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Marine and Tropical Biology, James Cook University, Townsville. Helen is known to some as the Goby Queen or Gobywan Kenobi, and reckons that gobies are the most fascinating fishes in the world. She first recognised gobies while snorkelling in the Cocos (Keeling) Atoll lagoon when she was 12, and fell in love with them. A fish that will willingly perch on one's feet deserves special consideration.

Her research interests are the taxonomy, systematics, ecology and behaviour of Indo-Pacific mangrove and coral reef fishes, especially gobioid fishes (gobies, gudgeons, mudskippers). Much of her work is on the taxonomy of estuarine and coral reef gobioid fishes, preferably by means of generic revisions. The goby subfamily Gobionellinae is of particular fascination – especially

as most other people dislike getting very muddy. She has been actively publishing since 1975.

Helen retired from the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory in late 2009 and moved to north Queensland where she works on gobies in association with the Museum of Tropical Queensland. Her expertise as a taxonomist/systematist is regularly sought from around the world, whether as a reviewer of manuscripts or identifier of unknown fish species, and is on the editorial boards of several scientific journals. Helen is Co-Chair (with Jim Van Tassell) of the Goby Group of the Marine Fishes Red List Authority of the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature). She has the honour of being the recipient of 13 eponyms to date (not all fish – also a skink, a parasitic copepod and a soft coral).

When not looking at gobies, Helen watches birds wherever she is and is a 'cassowary warrior' (Vice-President) for the Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation at Mission Beach and is a member of Birdlife Australia.



TALK ABSTRACT:

Gobioid fishes of the world – a photo-guide.



Hoese D.F. 1, H.K. Larson² and H. Bleher³

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3. aquapress, Miradolo Terme, Pavia, Italy (email: aquapress@aquapress-bleher.it)

After many years of two of us holding knowledge of gobioid species in a large database as well as in our heads, notes and filing cabinets, we have joined with the third author to produce a summary of what we know of gobioid fishes to date. The intention is to produce a photo-guide to all described gobioid species, within a classification. Sections will include history, taxonomy, discussion of various classifications, species lists, distribution, habitat information and conservation. Key features will be described and illustrated. Most of the book will be devoted to photographs, maps and brief information for each species. It is hoped that most species will be illustrated in colour.



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Leo O'Reilly

BIOGRAPHY:

Leo O'Reilly is a retired Australian Army Officer, having spent 25 years in the Australian Defence Force as a helicopter pilot, flying instructor, strategic planner, capability developer, project manager, and commanding officer. He retired from the Defence Force in 2005 and has become one of the top Management Consultants in Queensland since then.

Leo has been a keen fisherman for many years. He began as a sport fisherman, targeting fish such as trout, barramundi, saratoga, bass, and bream. He has fished competitively for trout, bass and bream. He discovered native aquarium fish during a visit to the Northern Territory in the late 1990's when he paid a visit to Dave Wilson at Aquagreen. And the rest is history. While he will still throw a lure for the big ones at every opportunity, his main interest these days is the smaller natives.

Leo has been a member of ANGFA for many years. Living in Queensland and travelling regularly to the Northern Territory and northern Queensland has given him the opportunity to see some

fabulous country and to find some

wonderful fish. During his time with ANGFA he has held the positions of Field Trip Coordinator for ANGFA Queensland, President of ANGFA QLD, Vice President of ANGFA Inc and President of ANGFA Inc. While he has kept and bred a large range of native fish

(at one time he had an entire room of his house devoted to fish – much to the disgust of his long suffering wife) his real passion is on exploring remote areas, spending time in the bush, and seeing areas that many others don't.

Leo is a sucker for any fish classified as threatened or endangered, and has long maintained colonies

of Honey Blue-eyes and Oxleyan



Pygmy Perch. But he is best known for his experience with the Ornate Rainbowfish, *Rhadinocentrus ornatus*. Commonly known as the "King of Rhads" Leo has collected a large number of rhads in a range of colours, from a variety of locations. And he breeds many of the hard-to-get varieties such as Searys Creek.

TALK ABSTRACT:

Rhactical Rhads.

The ornate rainbowfish, *Rhadinocentrus ornatus*, (also known as the soft-spined sunfish) is a unique and beautiful native freshwater fish found in only a few locations in the Greater Brisbane/Redlands region including the larger sand islands of Moreton Bay, and with a patchy distribution through coastal creeks from Byfield, Queensland to Nambucca, New South Wales.

Its distribution has contracted as a consequence of urban and rural development and exacerbated by altered hydrology and water quality. Habitat alteration and urban development are still having negative impacts in several areas. Extensive sampling in rivers and streams of the south-east Queensland mainland over the last few years has yielded relatively few individuals.

The sad tale is that every time we lose a population of ornate rainbowfish from a creek system we are effectively losing a very unique group of fish forever.





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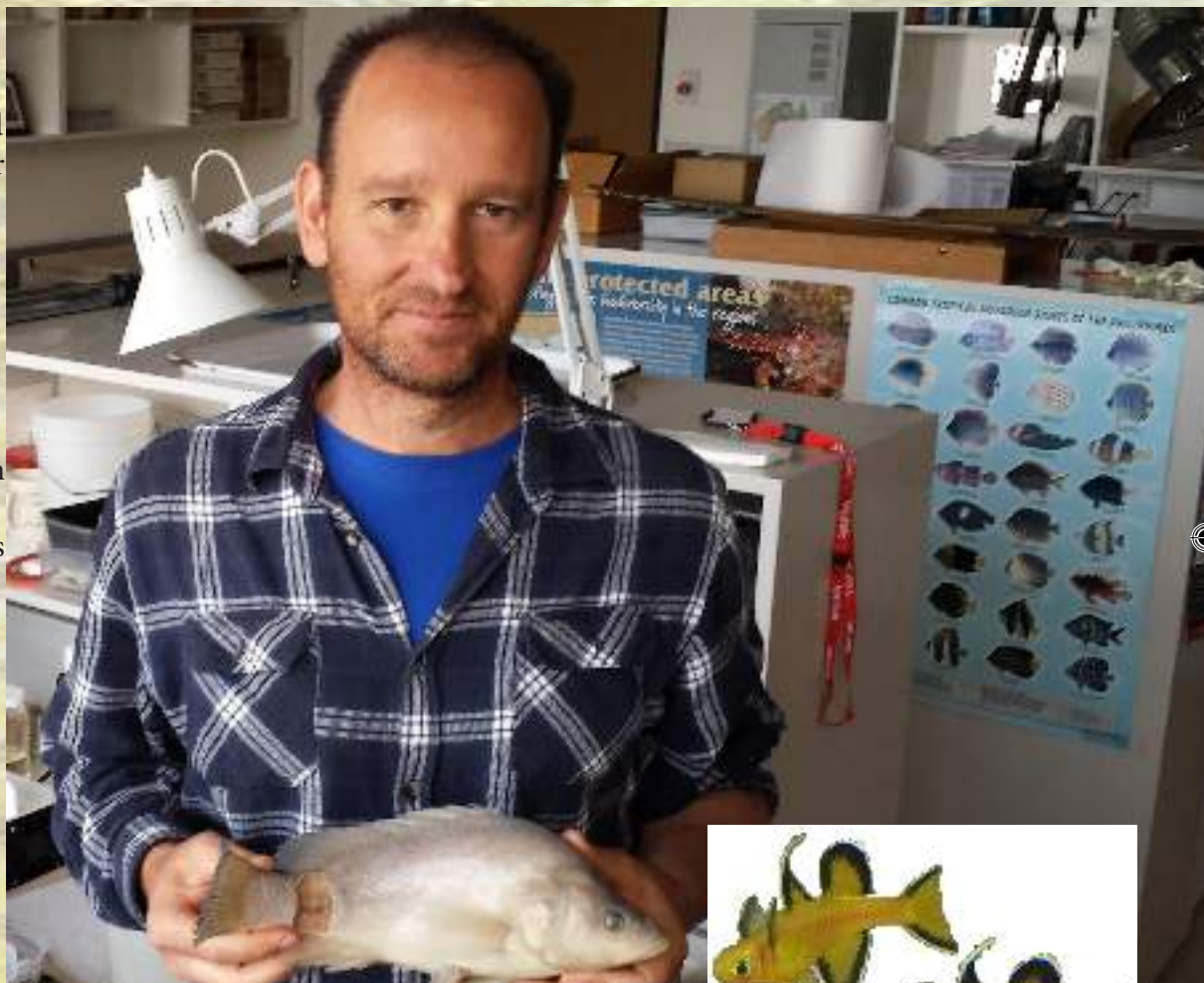


BIOGRAPHY:

Peter's fascination with fishes began with the purchase of his first fish tank in 1979. He soon obtained additional aquariums until he filled two sheds and the backyard with fish tanks and tubs of water. Since 1985, Peter has kept various Australian native freshwater fishes ranging from the smallest to the largest, most of which he collected from various travels. Peter has collected fishes extensively throughout much of mainland Australia as well as various parts of Papua New Guinea, North America and southern South America. Peter was fortunate to be able to turn his fish hobby into an academic career. His interests are broad and include just about anything to do with freshwater fishes, but especially biogeography, conservation and desert springs. He changed hemispheres in 1994 and moved to California, then on to Arizona to complete studies on the biogeogra-

phy of Australian freshwater fishes at Arizona State University. He went on to do research at Brigham Young University in Utah on the biogeography of fishes in southern South America and western North America, followed by another project at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Centre in North Carolina

working on developing GIS models to predict biogeographic patterns in freshwater organisms. In 2013 Peter moved back to Australia to the University of Canberra where he is examining biogeographic patterns in southeastern Australia and studying hemi-clonal unisexual carp gudgeons.



TALK ABSTRACT:

Evolutionary patterns within Blue-eyes:

Phylogenetics provides a means to determine species relationships which provides insight into how species have changed over time. Blue-eyes represent an especially interesting group with fairly broad morphological diversity, they inhabit a broad range of habitats from marine to freshwater and multiple genera have been recognised. As is the case with most Australian/New Guinea fish groups there remains several undescribed species and more are likely to be discovered as new areas are explored. In collaboration with Dr. Gerald Allen, and with tremendous help from people within the rainbowfish hobby, we have been building a clearer picture of Blue-eye evolution. Blue-eyes, are most closely related to the Sailfin Silversides which mostly occur in Sulawesi. Within Blue-eyes species can be separated into four principal lineages. Most species are separated by large genetic divergences (in stark contrast to related Rainbowfishes). It is unclear if this is due to faster rates of evolution, or whether they simply speciate at much slower rates to other fish groups.





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Mark Abell



BIOGRAPHY:

Aquatic plants represent an intersection between two of Marks interests - fish keeping and native plants.

Mark has had an interest with Australian Plants since childhood, tagging along on field trips with his father, who was actively involved with the Australian Plants Society (or the SGAP as it was known then). Since then he has been an active member in the Australian Plants Society, and is currently Vice President and Webmaster for the APS NSW region. He has also been a member of the Royal Horticultural Society for over 20 years.

Fish keeping also started at an early age, with a small tank in the

bedroom holding a small colony of Mountain Clouds. Mark discovered ANGFA and our native fish around 15 years ago and has been a member ever since. He has also been involved in the NSW and National committees for at least 10 years. He is currently the webmaster for ANGFA. Mark has a BSc from Sydney University with majors in Computer Science and Botany.

He currently is employed as an Oracle Database Administra-

tor at the Link Group.

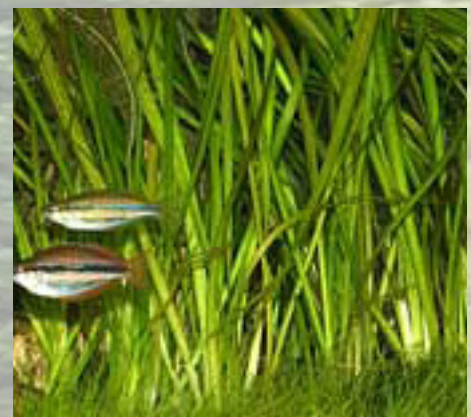


TALK ABSTRACT:

Australian Aquatic Flora - an Overview

Australia has one of the world's most diverse native flora, there are parts of the country that rank amongst the most biodiverse regions in the world. However, there is much less known about our aquatic flora. In spite of this being the driest continent on earth, we still have a rich and diverse aquatic flora to accompany our terrestrial flora.

This talk will attempt to provide an overview of the many and varied Australian aquatic plants. It will examine where the various plants fit into the plant kingdom, which ones might make good aquarium subjects, and provide an indication of the types of habitats where the plants can be found.



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Johannes Graf



BIOGRAPHY:

An aquarist from his childhood, Johannes Graf (51) has gone through the typical career of an aquarist, with keeping and breeding livebearers, dwarf cichlids and several other aquarium fishes. For nearly 20 years Johannes has specialized on rainbowfishes, keeping a wide variety of species in his home's tanks in Germany. With the growing interest in this fish group, the wish to visit the natural habitats increased and several trips to

New Guinea yielded a lot of stories to tell from all the places, the people, the country and of course: the rainbowfishes



TALK ABSTRACT #1:

Blue with red stripes – Collecting the Red Laser Rainbowfish at the Wapoga River

The Wapoga River region in the western part of New Guinea is one of the most remote places in New Guinea. No road, no airstrip, only pristine jungle and in its heart it hosts some of the most colourful Rainbowfishes ever. It is a long way to travel to the upper Wapoga River. Enjoy the story of travelling by boat along the coast and all the way up the Wapoga to the place where

the “praecox with red stripes” can be found.

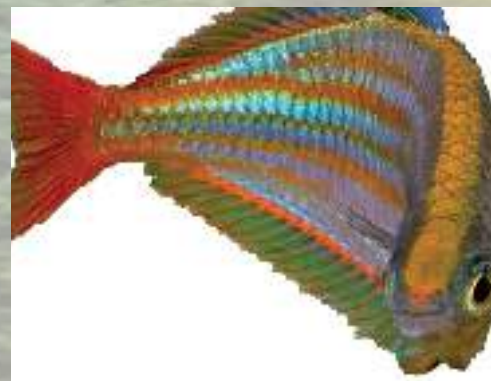
TALK ABSTRACT #2:

“Collecting Chilatherina at the type location.”

Chilatherina alleni was discovered in 1995 and described in 1997. To that date nothing was known of the natural habitat, because the sample fish were brought to Gerry Allen by a missionary who worked in the Siriwo River region. But what does it look like there?

We were the first who visited the

natural habitats of this already known species. On this expedition we discovered a different rainbowfish, a new *Melanotaenia* species. In addition to that, on the way back we discovered a third species in a different river system.



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Culum Brown



BIOGRAPHY:

I am primarily interested in fish biology with an emphasis on behavioural ecology. I frequently look to apply behavioural ecology research to fisheries or conservation management, including life-skills training for hatchery-reared fishes.

Broadly speaking, I'm interested in comparative cognition with interests in learning and memory, cerebral lateralization and personality. I have a particular fascination for Australian native fish.

I am Editor of "Fish Cognition and Behaviour" published in 2006 & 20011 by Blackwell Scientific and Assistant Editor of "The Journal of Fish Biology" and Editor of "Animal Behaviour".

TALK ABSTRACT:

Fish have long been a major source of protein for humans, but our demand for fishes has vastly outgrown their natural availability and there is increasing emphasis of farming fish for human consumption. Protein sourced from terrestrial ecosystems in contrast are overwhelmingly sourced from domesticated animals and there has been a corresponding shift in welfare legislation to protect them

from cruelty, particularly in industrialised settings. This shift has yet to occur for fishes.

Here I will discuss the link between cognition and welfare in fishes. I adopt an evolutionary and comparative approach to illustrate that there is no scientific justification for the perceived gap in cognitive abilities between fishes and terrestrial vertebrates. We will discuss the welfare implications for contemporary fisheries practices.





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Franz-Peter Müllenholz



BIOGRAPHY:

Franz-Peter Müllenholz, age 63, married, retired

Hobbies:

Fish keeping (Guppies, Rainbows and water plants), since age of 14 currently 3 aquariums (300l, 2 x 50 l)
Fishing-trips all over the world – but mostly in Australia

Photographing since the age of 21 – always with beloved Nikon-Cameras
Power-point and video presentations about our trips, fish and their habitats

his Nickname in Australia is “The European Boomerang” (created by Bruce Hansen) 21 trips to Australia in the past 26 years – most of them together with my wife Ulli and Hilda and Gilbert Maebe

Darwin along the Savanna Highway.

After that we went from Darwin to Gove (Arnhem land) and then wait and see.

I will show you habitats, fish and

reptiles and also give you a report about “little problems” during our trip.

TALK ABSTRACT:

Two old German (fishkeeper)

Socks

Travelling 20,000 km together on Australia's beautiful roads

Power-point and video presentations about our trips, fish and their habitats

The idea was to make the trip of my life: Going around Australia for around 6 months after my retirement.

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Adrian Dawson



BIOGRAPHY:

I have kept Australian Native fish for 25 years, having been a Member of ANGFA Qld Inc. since 1988. This included more than 10 years as President.

I have done extensive fish collecting and photography of habitats in the top half of Australia.

As well as giving three presentations at ANGFA Conferences in the past. I have travelled overseas to Europe, on 3 occasions, 2004 Austria, 2008 Belgium, and 2010 Austria, to give talks on Australian Native Fish at the IRG (International Rainbowfish Group) European Conferences. Also, while visiting Hawaii in 2007 I gave a presentation at the Honolulu Aquarium Society.

I still take an active interest in

ANGFA and have made many friends in this wonderful hobby of fish keeping. I still like to do trips to remote parts of Australia, surveying and I am always looking for something different in native fish.

TALK ABSTRACT:

“Waterfall Wonderland”

A video of the hinterland and coastal rivers of Northern New South Wales and the fish of that area.



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Michael Hammer



BIOGRAPHY:

Michael works as the curator of fishes at the Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory in Darwin. He moved up north with his young family in 2011, as the first new fish curator appointed at an Australian museum in over 30 years. Prior to this he was heavily involved with conservation efforts for threatened fish in South Australia, completing honours and PhD research at the South Australian Museum and University of Adelaide. His current work spans both freshwater and marine environments with a major task involving cataloguing and describing the Northern Territory fauna (some 1500 species and ever growing!). His role involves field biodiversity surveys across spectacular parts of northern Australia and New Guinea, with follow up taxonomy and reporting to improve conservation and management outcomes. He has a strong focus on publication, science communication and public programs including the project management of the NT Field Guide app.

TALK ABSTRACT:

Species discovery in the Northern Territory, Australia

Northern Australia remains a frontier for biodiversity exploration. New species await discovery in remote and rugged areas, but also lurk in the waters right on the doorstep of population centres like Darwin. This presentation will feature major surveys undertaken in

2014-15, including two Bush Blitz expeditions; from the flat moon-like landscape of the Barkly Tablelands, the spectacular sandstone country of the East Kimberley, through to the little known corners of the Judbarra / Gregory National Park. Details of new freshwater fish finds and ongoing taxonomic projects will be woven throughout the journey.



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Keith Martin

BIOGRAPHY:

Keith Martin is a retired Environmental Scientist, having spent most of his working life managing biodiversity and environmental assessments on a range of projects across tropical Australia and Indonesia. He has lived in the Queensland Wet Tropics for the past 20 years and has a passion for exploring the local waterways in search of unusual fishes. He is particularly interested in the rainbowfish group, an interest which has evolved into

a research project, trying to unlock some of the secrets of the Wet Tropics rainbowfishes.

TALK ABSTRACT:

Fish Stories from the Wet Tropics

The Queensland Wet Tropics is one of the most biologically diverse regions in Australia, and a real hotspot for groups such as

rainbowfishes. In this presentation, Keith will reveal some of his recent rainbowfish research and will also take us to some of the lesser known locations and habitats of the wet tropics, in search of unusual rainbowfish forms and other aquatic treasures.





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Gary Dunnett

BIOGRAPHY:

I have worked with conservation management for 25 years, the last 20 for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). My roles in NPWS started as an archaeologist, then environmental planner and for the last 15 years as a park manager. The parks for which I'm responsible are all around metropolitan Sydney and include Royal National Park and the water catchments in the southern Blue Mountains. One of the key characteristics of the parks I've managed is that they include internationally significant wetlands (for example Towra Point) and are often adjacent to aquatic reserves and intertidal protected areas. I am a strong advocate of integrated management across the tenure boundaries that sit between terrestrial and aquatic systems.

My personal interests revolve around diving, bush walking, bird watching and photography. I'm a keen underwater photographer who has always had as much interest in what lives in a rock pool

or the local creek as on a tropical reef. I'm particularly interested in the natural heritage of small urban reserves and habitats, taking a lot of comfort from the biodiversity that survives in highly impacted and fragmented landscapes. I enjoy structuring my photography around a specific theme or location. A couple of years ago I did several trips to a freshwater creek in Royal National Park with the aim of documenting the diversity of life within a single pool on the creek, which was then loaded onto the Office of Environment and Heritage flickr pages.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/48646673@N07/sets/72157629766046090/>

More recently I have set up my own flickr site www.flickr.com/photos/garydunnett/ and website www.sydneyweeklywildlife.com

TALK ABSTRACT:

My presentation is about the equipment and digital processing techniques I use for underwater

photography. I will use the images from the Karloo project to illustrate the differences between terrestrial, marine and freshwater photography and the differences in approach for shallow waters often a long way from the nearest road.



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Dr Basim M Alazzawi



BIOGRAPHY:

Dr Basim M Alazzawi BSc, DipEd, MSc, PhD

Born in Baghdad 1951 and graduated from Baghdad University in 1972. Worked at the Iraqi natural History Museum and collated, catalogued, classified fresh water fishes from all over Iraq and the Arabian Gulf. Other interests at the time were exploring caves and collecting blind fishes including new genus and species. In 1975 he worked as a field researcher with the Food & Agriculture Foundation/Fishers of the United Nations based at the British Museum of Natural History, London. In 1982 started his postgraduate studies at Macquarie University under the supervision of Dr Walter Ivantsoff. The research was a comprehensive revision of the order taxonomy of the order Atheriniformes in particular Blue Eyes and Rainbow fishes of Australia and New Guinea. As result of this study, new species, *Isonnesiotes* and new genus *Kalyptatherina* from Irian Jaya were described. Also contributed in the description of new redfinned Blue Eye with Drs Unmack and Ivantsoff.



TALK ABSTRACT:

Blind Fishes

Caves and other subterranean habitats represent one of the most challenging environments on the planet. Other than salamanders, over 300 bonv fishes are reported ts. Despite

being known to science for over 150 years, only recently have cave fishes become model systems for evolutionary and environmental studies. Two species of blind cave fish are known from Australia, the Blind Gudgeon, *Milyeringa veritas* and the Cave Eel, *Ophisternon candidum*. Fish breeders around the world are playing an important role in preserving these endangered animals.



Dr Tony Gill

BIOGRAPHY:

Dr Tony Gill's research is mostly on the taxonomy and classification of marine fishes, with a particular interest in spiny finned fishes. He is also an avid aquarist, with nearly 50 years experience keeping freshwater and marine fishes.

TALK ABSTRACT:

A pinch of salt: Australian brackish water fish for aquaria.

There are relatively few resources on brackish water fishes available to aquarists, as field guides and aquarium books tend to concentrate on either freshwater or coral-reef fishes. This is unfortunate, as estuaries harbour a huge diversity of fishes, many of which are of considerable potential as aquarium fishes. Tony Gill will provide an overview of the diversity of native Australian brackish water fishes, with an emphasis on NSW species.





Notes



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Melanotaenia duboulayi

Richmond River - NE-NSW

Photo: Gunther Schmida

