

ANGFA

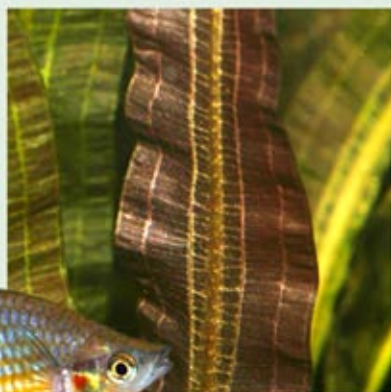
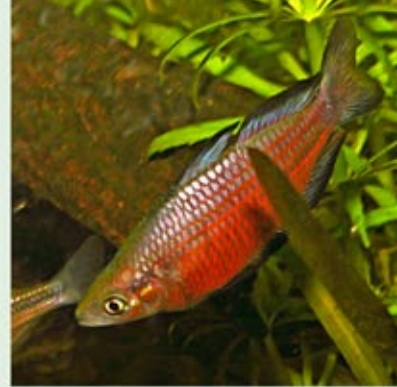


Scälz Nature Artist

Australia New Guinea Fishes Association
2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION
Celebrating 30 years of ANGFA Conventions



Currumbin
Queensland



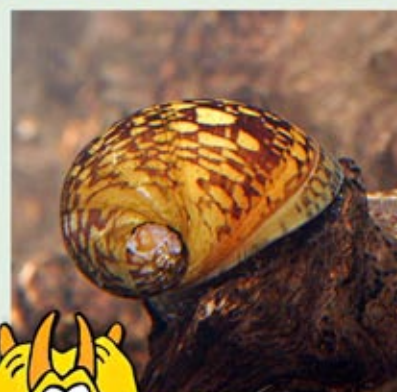
www.aquagreen.com.au

In 1995 Dave and Robyn Wilson started a small business called Aquagreen.

Today Aquagreen has grown into a fully licensed Aquaculture facility located at Howard Springs in the Northern Territory.

Aquagreen provides a diverse range of Australian Native plants and fish to aquarists and the Aquarium trade.

A full list of available plants and fish can be found in the online catalogue as well as guides to cultivation.



AQUAGREEN

Australian native water plants for aquariums

PO Box 756
Howard Springs NT 0835
Ph: 08 8983 1483 or 0427 212 782
aqua.green@bigpond.com





ANGFA QLD Organisers Statement

WELCOME

Welcome one and all to the 2017 ANGFA Convention proudly hosted by ANGFA Qld. The Gold Coast, and specifically this year's convention venue, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, is a wonderful place to be holding the Convention. We carefully chose this unique venue to provide regular convention goers a different experience and something that may inspire newcomers to make future conventions a 'must do' for all ANGFA members and their friends.

In an exciting first for ANGFA's long history of conventions, money spent by ANGFA Qld bringing this convention to you, contributes towards the conservation of Australian Wildlife. Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is a non-profit conservation organization that returns all of their profits back into conservation programs for Australian wildlife, including their wildlife hospital and education programs. The 2017 Convention really embraces ANGFA's objective of conservation.

Please use this weekend to exchange information and make new friends and contacts. This is a unique opportunity to increase your knowledge of our unique aquatic environments and some ANGFA unique presenters and members! Please join in and enjoy yourself.

ANGFA

Over the last 35 years, Australian New Guinea Fishes Association has brought together people with common interests in understanding more about the freshwater fishes and aquatic habitats of the Australian and New Guinea region.

ANGFA's objectives are to promote the conservation, study, keeping and propagation of native freshwater fish species from Australia and New Guinea, and to provide a forum for the exchange of information.

ANGFA members come from diverse backgrounds and walks of life. Members include people with a curiosity about what's in their local creek or lake, aquarists with a keen interest to maintain and culture fish, Non Government Organisations, volunteer conservation groups, through to university and government scientists, just to mention a few.

OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

2017 marks 30 years since the first ANGFA convention in Sydney, 1987. The first convention celebrated conservation by visiting Taronga Park Zoo. How fitting that 30 years on ANGFA continue to embrace the conservation ethos by holding this convention at the conservation focused Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. Let's celebrate and enjoy this 30 year anniversary as a momentous occasion in ANGFA's long and successful history, and all work together to keep ANGFA strong for another 30 years.

CONVENTION ORGANISERS

The 2017 ANGFA National Convention has been brought to you by ANGFA Qld with the assistance of ANGFA National. The organizing committee includes ANGFA Qld committee members Steve Baines, Graeme Finsen, Peter Johnson, Leo Lee, and members David Roberts, Greg Ure, and David Shoesmith. Greg Wallis and the ANGFA Publications Committee have assisted with the production of this year's convention booklet, while Glenn Briggs has assisted Steve Baines with organising sponsorship.

The support of all ANGFA clubs and their committees, our sponsors, and all attending or interested members deserves special mention. All of that put together is what makes a great ANGFA Convention.

Thank you also to Gina Figallo (Events Coordinator) and the staff at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary for their assistance with the convention. What a great place to have the 2017 ANGFA Convention, a great part of the wonderful Gold Coast.

PUBLICATION

Special mention and thanks to Sam Garcia (Scalz Nature Art), Gunther Schmida and acknowledged members for allowing us to use copies of their art works and photographs for the cover and throughout this publication. This publication has been designed by Greg Wallis from the ANGFA Publications Committee and printed and bound by Jossimo Print in Melbourne.



FRONT COVER IMAGE
BLUE STREAMGOBY
Sicyopterus lagocephalus
SCALZ NATURE ART

**THERE ARE FEW THINGS MORE SPECTACULAR IN A HOME
THAN A WELL-CARED FOR HOME AQUARIUM SETUP**

Whether you are just starting out with aquarium fish or have a lot of experience, we want to make owning a satisfying and beautiful home aquarium possible for you.

LIVEFISH.COM.AU ARE THE EXPERTS AT DELIVERING LIVE AQUARIUM FISH TO AUSTRALIAN HOMES

Drawing on over 30 years experience in shipping live fish, and backed up with our comprehensive 100% guarantee, you can be sure that our aquarium fish will delight you!

Livefish.com.au has a large aquarium fish facility near Bundaberg in Queensland. The temperature, climate and location here are ideal for raising and shipping aquarium fish. With easy access to air-freight terminals, we ship our fish to all parts of mainland Australia with care and professionalism.

www.livefish.com.au

Aquarium fish professionally home delivered for only \$18.50 – or free for orders over \$150.00!

FRESHWATER

DRIFTWOOD

MARINE

FOOD

JELLYFISH

ACCESSORIES

PLANTS AND ROCKS

AQUAPONICS



**Australia's
aquarium fish
home delivery
experts!**

www.livefish.com.au

**ANGFA INC. (NATIONAL)**

9 Moruya Circuit
Kaleen
ACT 2617
Australia

www.angfa.org.au
www.facebook.com/groups/5600808970

COMMITTEE

President	David Matheson	president@angfa.org.au
Vice President	Graeme Finsen	vp@angfa.org.au
Secretary	Peter Unmack	secretary@angfa.org.au
Treasurer	Ross Salvato	treasurer@angfa.org.au
Membership officer	David Shoesmith	membership@angfa.org.au
QLD	Leon Cummerford	NSW Peter Matheson
ACT	Michael Jones	(Facebook coordinator)
VIC	John Lenagan	WA Graham Thompson
NT	Dave Wilson	

PATRONS

Dr Gerald Allen
Rick Datodi

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Fishes of Sahul is produced by the Publications Committee

Greg Martin	layout/design
Glenn Briggs	committee chair
Peter Unmack	article & review coordinator
John Lenagan	Matthew Stanton
Leo O'Reilly	Derek Tustin
David Shoesmith	Greg Wallis
Contact the committee via: pub@angfa.org.au	

ANGFA Regional Groups**ANGFA QLD INC.**

President	Steve Baines
Vice President	Graeme Finsen finsen@optusnet.com.au
Secretary	Peter Johnson peterjohnson@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Andrew Reid ajreid@live.com.au
Membership	Leo Lee leolee1@bigpond.com

www.angfaqlld.org.au
www.facebook.com/angfaqlld

ANGFA NSW INC.

President	David Matheson dm.matheson66@gmail.com
Vice President	Ian Baddock angfa@optusnet.com.au
Secretary	Jesse De Vries Jesse.dv@gmail.com
Treasurer/editor	Ross Salvato ross.salvato@optusnet.com.au

www.angfa.org.au/new-south-wales
www.facebook.com/ANGFANSW

ANGFA VIC INC.

President	Greg Martin gregmartinfishman@gmail.com
Vice President and Membership Officer	Gary Moores
Secretary	Gerard Carmody gerard.carmody@gmail.com
Treasurer	John Lenagan johnlenagan@bigpond.com

www.angfavvic.org
www.facebook.com/ANGFA-VIC-1753678918277833

ANGFA NORTH AMERICA

Coordinator	Ken Boorman Chatham Ontario N7L 5S3 Canada lisas_lairbookstore@kent.net
--------------------	--

OTHER OVERSEAS GROUPS

Europe	International Rainbowfish Group (IRG)
---------------	---------------------------------------

www.irg-online.de

President	Harro Hieronimus Postfach 170209 D-42624 Solingen Germany hh@irg-online.de
Secretary	Andreas Deutrich Rather Str. 53 D-52353 Duren Germany



Nerang River, south east Queensland
Photo: Gunther Schmida



Please ensure that your mobile phones
are turned to silent or switched off
during all presentations

2017 ANGFA National Convention

Program

FRIDAY 27 October

19:00 – 21:30 **ANGFA Annual General Meeting**
Sir Walter Auditorium

SATURDAY 28 October

07:30 – 09:00 **Registration and storage of auction items**

09:00 – 09:20 **Steve Baines**
Welcome and program overview

SESSION 1 Chair Steve Baines

09:20 – 10:20 **International guest speaker #1**
Frans-Peter Müllenholz p 7
The best of the International Rainbowfish Group & my Australian experiences

10:20 – 10:50 *Morning tea* 30 minutes

SESSION 2 Chair David Roberts

10:50 – 11:30 **Keith Martin** p 8
The Utchee Rainbowfish

11:30 – 12:10 **Brendan Ebner** p 9
Secrets of the Freshwater Moray

12:10 – 12:50 **Karl Moy** p 10
Staving off extinction for the Running River Rainbowfish

12:50 – 13:50 *Lunch* 1 hour

SESSION 3 Chair Graeme Finsen

13:50 – 14:30 **John Lenagan** p 14
Batanta and Weigeo Islands: in search of *Melanotaenia synergos*

14:30 – 15:10 **Rob McCormack** p 15
The freshwater crayfish of South East Queensland.

15:10 – 15:50 **Gavin Brown** p 16
Threatened freshwater turtles of Queensland

15:50 – 16:20 *Afternoon tea* 30 minutes

SESSION 4 Chair Steve Baines

16:20 – 17:20 **International guest speaker #2**
Gary Lange p 19
Find it, describe it, then watch it go extinct – exploring and finding Rainbowfish in Papua before it's too late

17:30 – 18:00 **Species Maintenance Group meeting**

18:00 – 18:45 **Canapés & Wildlife Experience**
Sawrey Room – Dinner Guests only

18:45 – 21:00 **Dinner with presentation by Gary Lange**
Sawrey Room – Dinner Guests only

21:30 – Depart venue

SUNDAY 30 October

07:30 – 08:30 Arrival and auction fish water changes

SESSION 5 Chair David Roberts

08:30 – 09:10 **Leo Lee** p 20
Where do fish come from daddy?

09:10 – 09:50 **Tobias Bickel** p 21
Impacts of invasive aquatic plants on freshwater ecosystems

09:50 – 10:40 **Basim Al Azzawi** p 22
Garden of Eden

10:40 – 11:10 *Morning tea* 30 minutes

SESSION 6 Chair Peter Johnson

11:10 – 11:50 **David Roberts** p 24
Conserving the vulnerable Australian Lungfish

11:50 – 12:30 **Darren Knowles** p 25
Recovering the endangered Mary River Cod

12:30 – 13:10 **Rob Wager** p 26
Red-finned Blue-eyes: novel interpretations of 'captive breeding' to save the species

13:10 – 14:10 *Lunch* 1 hour

AUCTION 3 Hour Auction

14:10 – 14:20 **Auctioneers**
Auction preparation

14:20 – 15:20 **Auctioneers**
Auction start

15:20 – 15:50 *Afternoon tea* 30 minutes

15:50 – 17:10 **Auctioneers**
Auction finish

17:10 – 17:30 **Steve Baines**
Conclusion & announce location of next ANGFA convention

17:30 – **Depart venue**

17:30 – 19:30 Convention pack up
volunteers needed



AUSYFISH

Bulk native fingerling supplies and home of the Jade Perch



catfish

perch

saratoga

grunters

rainbowfish

feeder fish

coal grunter

freshwater shrimp

silver perch

jade perch

bass

live-bearers

barbs

danios

Ausyfish owner Bruce Sambell is an aquaculture consultant specialising in jade perch and silver perch. Bruce has also been commercially producing Australian and PNG rainbowfish for 30 years and has been an ANGFA sponsor for all those years! ANGFA members are welcome to visit Ausyfish, however please note farm gate sales are not permitted.



www.jadeperch.com

www.ausyfish.com

PO Box 324

Childers, QLD 4460, Australia



Ph (+61) (07) 412 62 226

Fax (+61) (07) 412 62 221

Trade enquiries only... ask for a current price list



Franz-Peter Müllenholz

The best of the International Rainbowfish Group and my Australian experiences

PHOTOS: FRANZ-PETER & ULLI MÜLLENHOLZ



My talk is a 60 minute presentation that includes HD video and sound. The presentation will be in two parts and narrated in my best German-Aussie-English.

Part 1–*The best of the International Rainbowfish Group (IRG)*: I'll show you the 'Top Ten Topics' within the IRG: the IRG is a little bit different to ANGFA. I'll take you along to our last IRG-Convention in the Netherlands (June 2017), our Exchange and more. We'll be taking a look at four beautiful fish rooms from IRG breeders and members – one from Austria (not Australia!) and three from Germany. They told me their secrets about Rainbows!

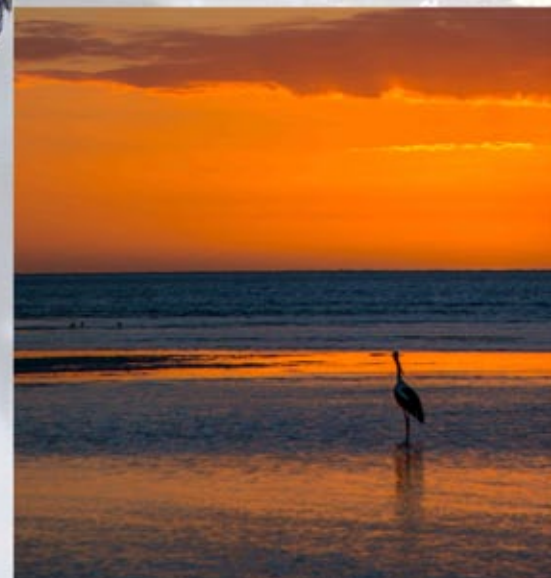
Part 2–*My Australian experiences*: This talk will cover 'ten short chapters' about my experiences in Australia over the last 28 years on tour with my good ANGFA friends from across the country. We will see some beauties – landscapes, habitats, animals and the 'small' problems along the way. ... at last a short homage to my Australian friends and ANGFA members.



Biography – age 65, married, retired

Hobbies:

- fishkeeping (Guppies, Rainbows and water plants), since the age of 14, currently 3 aquariums (300l, 2 x 50l)
- fish-trips all over the world – mostly in Australia
- photographing since the age of 21 – always with my beloved Nikon-Cameras ;-)
- PowerPoint and video presentations about our trips, fish, and their habitats
- my Nickname in Australia created by Bruce Hansen – 'The European Boomerang'
- now 23 trips to Australia in the past 28 years – most of them together with my wife Ulli

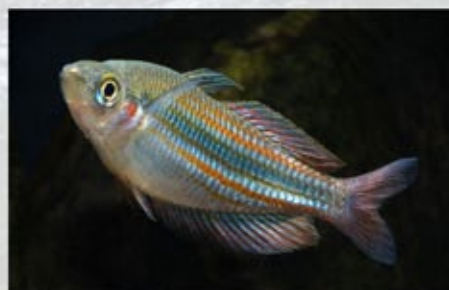


Keith Martin

The Utchee Rainbowfish

The Utchee Rainbowfish has always been something of an enigma. When first brought to the attention of aquarists and scientists, there was debate over whether it was a form of Eastern Rainbowfish, Banded Rainbowfish, or something different altogether. It was formally described as a new species in 2001, being the most recent Australian rainbowfish to be described. In this presentation, I will discuss the history of this fish and the unique area where it occurs. In researching this species we re-surveyed most known localities as well as many other

streams in the region. Various forms of rainbowfish were collected, photographed and forwarded for genetic research to get a better understanding of their identity. Distribution of the Utchee Rainbowfish was mapped and compared with landscape features to try and determine what factors might influence the species distribution.



PHOTOS: KEITH MARTIN

Biography Keith Martin is a retired Environmental Scientist who has lived in Cairns for the past 22 years and has a life-long fascination with all aspects of natural history. He is particularly interested in the rainbowfishes and spends much of his time with partner Sue exploring the backblocks of north Queensland, looking for unusual rainbowfish forms and trying to determine

their current distribution and habitat preferences. He is the author of numerous papers and consultancy reports on the freshwater ecology of northern Australian and Indonesia.

Brendan Ebner

Secrets of the freshwater moray

Brendan's presentation recounts experiences with the moray *Gymnothorax polyuranodon*. This includes encounters with this shy animal in streams of North Queensland and the Solomon Islands, long term aquarium care, and even hospital observations of this mysterious critter. The main focus will be on habitat use, feeding ecology and tips for bringing out the best in this species in aquaria.

PHOTOS: BRENDAN EBNER



Biography Ebb is a Sunshine Coast lad that grew up in a commercial fishing family and collected and kept smaller marines in tanks (mainly rock pool species). These days as a field naturalist and keen aquarist he's mostly interested in rare and unusual freshwater fishes. He has been an ANGFA member since 1998 and conducts research and field surveys of fishes in northern rivers for TropWATER, James Cook University (having been based on the Atherton Tablelands for the past decade).

His presentation recounts experiences with the moray *Gymnothorax polyuranodon*. This includes encounters with this shy animal in streams of North Queensland and the Solomon Islands, long term aquarium care, and even hospital observations of this mysterious critter. The main focus

will be on habitat use, feeding ecology and tips for bringing out the best in this species in aquaria.

Ebner, B. C., Kroll, R., Godfrey, P., Thuesen, P. A., Vallance, T., Pusey, B., Allen, G., Rayner, T. S., Perna, C. N. (2011). Is the elusive *Gymnothorax polyuranodon* really a freshwater moray? *Journal of Fish Biology* 79, 70–79.

Ebner, B. C., Donaldson, J. A., S. Fulton, C. & Schaffer J. (2016). Distinct habitat selection by freshwater morays in tropical rainforest streams. *Ecology of Freshwater Fish* 25, 329–335.

Ebner (2017). Growth, maximum daily ration and intraspecific cohabitation of the moray *Gymnothorax polyuranodon* (Pisces: Muraenidae) in a freshwater aquarium. *Cybiuim* 41, 93–99.



Karl Moy

Staving off extinction for the Running River Rainbowfish

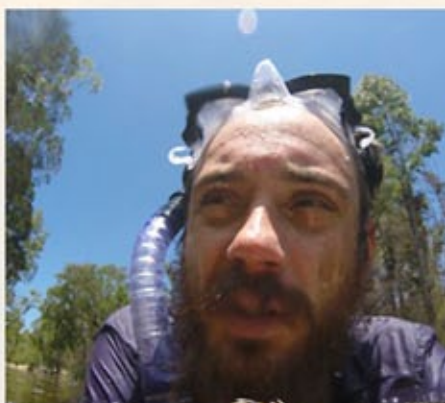
Invasive species can negatively impact native species through competition, predation, habitat degradation, disease transmission, and hybridisation. Traditionally, invasive species in Australia have been of European, Asian, or American origin, recently however, the negative impacts of translocated 'native' species are being realised. One such example of this is the eastern rainbowfish (*Melanotaenia splendida*), which is listed as a key threatening process for at least three species of fish listed as threatened or critically endangered by the Australian Society for Fish Biology. In all cases the main threat presented by *M. splendida* is introgressive hybridisation. A large part of my research focuses on the conservation



of one of the aforementioned species, the Running River rainbowfish (*M. sp.*). I will be talking about conservation efforts undertaken to save this species as part of my Masters as well as my research on the factors influencing invasion success in rainbowfishes.



Biography I'm an aquatic ecologist with a passion for studying Australian small-bodied freshwater fishes. My first foray into research was studying the basic biology of the Darling hardyhead (*Craterocephalus amniculus*) during my Honours at the University of New England. After finishing university I became a member of ANGFA Queensland and served a brief stint as the QLD field trip coordinator. Currently, I'm undertaking a Masters by research at the University of Canberra focusing on the factors influencing invasion success in rainbowfishes.



PHOTOS: KARL MOY, STEVE HUME



*Seachem's philosophy is simple:
the knowledgeable hobbyist makes the best customer*

This is reflected in our solid and reliable customer education and support as well as products proven in science and performance.

Seachem remains as one of the few surviving independent and privately owned pet care companies.



JURASSIPET

FurPets



Seachem is owned and operated by hobbyists.

All of our employees are hobbyists who maintain aquariums at home and at the office.

Aqua Hub is a wholesale only company providing the Seachem product range to the Australian market via your local Aquarium Shops



Ph: 07 3351 6437

PO Box 9
TAIGUM
QLD 4018

facebook.com/AquaHubSeachem
www.aqua-hub.com.au



Guyra Pty Ltd

Breeders, wholesalers and exporters
of premium quality
Australian and New Guinea Fishes

Ph:(07) 549 66761 Fax:(07) 542 98195

GUPPYS AQUARIUM PRODUCTS

Australia's largest range of aquarium products!

call us on 07 55201922

Where we have live fish, corals and all of
our aquarium products on display!

Post as well as Fastway couriers. Parcel satchels start at \$8.25 for Australia wide
delivery. Call us on 07 55201922 and we can work out the best rate over the phone

Guppy's has ONLY ONE retail website so there can be no confusion and we can concentrate on making our shop and our service as great as possible!
We are always adding new products and thinking up excellent specials that will be posted here or on our brand new app.
Links to download the app are on our home page www.guppysaquariumproducts.com.au

GUPPY'S AQUARIUM PRODUCTS ONLINE
www.guppysaquariumproducts.com.au
info@guppysaquariumproducts.com.au

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY 9.00 AM TO 4.00 PM

11 FLAGSTONE DRIVE, BURLEIGH, QLD



Rhads from Moreton Island, SE Qld, type locality
Photo: Gunther Schmida – fish supplied by David Roberts



Lamington spiny crayfish at Springbrook, SE Qld
Photo: Gunther Schmida



Crimson-spotted rainbows from Oyster Creek in the Baffle Creek catchment near 1770, Qld
Photo: Gunther Schmida – fish Supplied by Bruce Sambell, Ausyfish



Broad-shelled Turtles
Photo: Gunther Schmida – turtles supplied by Gavin Brown

John Lenagan

In search of *Melanotaenia synergos*



In search of *M. synergos* is a video from John's recent expedition to Batanta and Waigeo Islands with Heiko Bleher in 2016.

After sharing a canoe with Heiko Bleher for 3 weeks exploring tributaries of the Amazon in 2014, he was again invited on another expedition to West Papua in 2016.

The original Etna Bay trip was cut short due to mechanical problems with the boat the *Putiraja*, however with little delay an alternate destination was devised for an 8 day exploration of the Batanta and Waigeo Islands in the Raja Ampat District.

John's presentation is a video compilation that shows the pristine aquatic habitats of the four rivers surveyed on Batanta Island along with footage of the unique Blue-eye habitat of Lake Yenawyou on

Mansuar Island. The expedition party also ventured across to Waigeo Island and up into Malabyita Bay where they hoped to rediscover *M. catherinae* in the lush rainforest jungles of the Kali Biru. The presentation includes many of the freshwater fish seen (over 40 species) in their natural surrounds and a few of the other inhabitants found on and around these amazing islands.



Biography Originally from Trinidad Island in the West Indies, John is an Architect and Conservation Photographer who now resides in Melbourne, Australia. Since his childhood John has remained fascinated with the rich diversity of the worlds ever-reducing tropical rainforests and has continued to explore and photograph their rich and diverse habitats and the amazing animals within.

Over the last four years John has started to pull these adventures together into short videos to better portray the unique beauty of these places and their inhabitants.



PHOTOS: JOHN LENAGAN

Rob McCormack

The freshwater crayfish of south east Queensland

The freshwater crayfish of south east Queensland despite occurring in such a high population area remain for the most part, poorly understood. For most species their distributions and ecology remain unknown and several undescribed species occur in the area. We have giant, relatively common and widespread species like *Euastacus sulcatus* the Lamington Crayfish. Then we have dwarf crayfish species like *Euastacus madae* and *Euastacus binzayedii* which are cryptic, rare and endangered. Across most of the highest population areas along the coast you also have one of the world's smallest crayfish, the endangered *Tenuibranchiurus glypticus* occurring.

My presentation will discuss the eight species of freshwater crayfish that occur in the local area (South of Brisbane to the border), where they occur and how to find and identify the different species.



Biography Robert McCormack is the Research and Aquaculture Director for Australian Aquatic Biological P/L, an Australian company that conducts aquatic research with a priority on conservation, and provides aquaculture consultancy to the industry. Rob is a Research Associate with the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, USA; Honorary Research Fellow with the Queensland Museum; amateur Taxonomist; Secretary/Treasurer of the NSW Aquaculture Association Inc., plus team leader of the privately funded Australian Crayfish Project, which concentrates on the identification

and conservation of freshwater crayfish firstly and all crustaceans generally.

Robert has a passion for freshwater crayfish travelling across Australia to find and photograph them; he has published over 15 scientific papers describing new species or the conservation of species in peer reviewed international journals and is the author of 8 books on aquaculture and freshwater crayfish.



PHOTOS: ROB MCCORMACK



Gavin Brown

Threatened freshwater turtles of Queensland



Australia's freshwater turtle fauna are equally as threatened as our local frogs and fishes. Threatening factors include habitat loss and degradation, predation by feral animals, and water pollution. Gavin's talk will discuss the threatening processes that impact different turtle species here in Queensland. For instance, species that occur in National Parks see lower levels of impacts than ones in areas being developed or those in agricultural and residential areas. Gavin will also talk about the impacts of feral animals on turtle populations, particularly the effects of cane toads, foxes and pigs. The presentation will also cover the basic biology and ecology of Queensland's freshwater turtles and highlight some of the most fascinating aspects of their lives. The talk will be accompanied by beautiful photos of some of Queensland's most unique and amazing wild places.



PHOTOS: GAVIN BROWN



Biography Gavin has been keeping turtles since he was 5 years old. He has had a life-long interest in freshwater systems and has travelled extensively in Australia surveying freshwater turtles and fishes. These travels have taken him from Far North Queensland and the Gulf Country to the Northern Rivers of NSW in search of gaining a better understanding of turtle ecology and biology. Gavin has also spent time surveying the locally endemic threatened species of the Mary, Fitzroy and Burnett catchments, working on projects in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP). Most recently, Gavin has worked on a conservation project netting Freshwater Sawfish in the Gulf of Carpentaria.





Painted Turtle
Photo: Gunther Schmida – turtle supplied by Gavin Brown

watercolour

gouache

acrylic on canvas or board

pen and ink

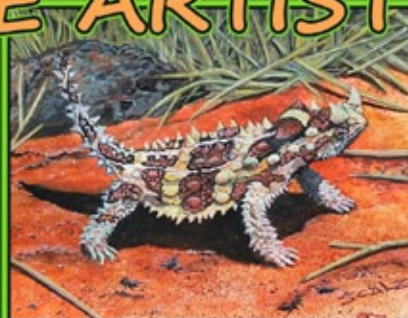
pencil



Scalz NATURE ARTIST

- Fine Art
- Illustrations
- Commissions

Sam "Scalz" Garcia Jr.



www.scalz.com

 scalz@scalz.com



Scalz Nature Artist



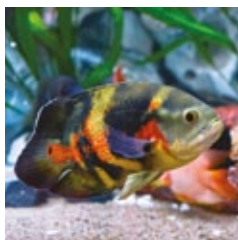
@samscalz



Aquarium Industries

WE LOVE FISH... YOU CAN TOO!

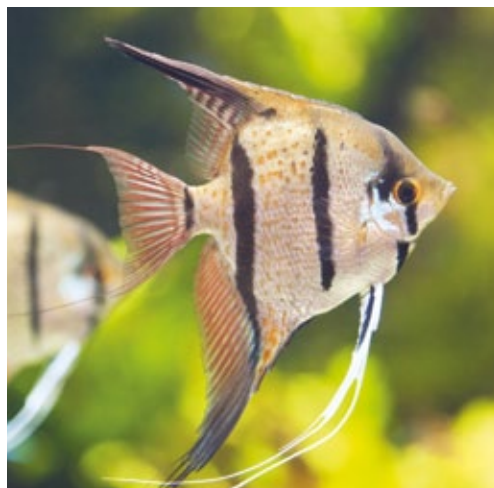
Buy From Your Trusted Local Aquarium Industries Retailer



Online
Training with
'Fish School'



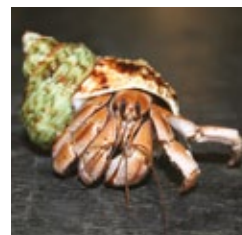
Follow us
for more
Hints & Tips



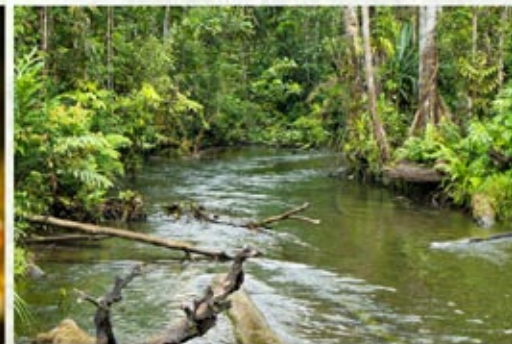
Stock List
Updated
Online Daily



Educational
Posters &
Care Sheets



Australia's Largest & Most Experienced Live Fish Supplier
www.aquariumindustries.com.au



From 2005 to 2015, in the span of five trips that the speaker has made to Papua, the environment has changed for the worse. During our adventures we've brought back dozens of rainbowfish species and probably at least a dozen or more unknown or fish that are now new species to the hobby. Some species like *Glossolepis dorityi*, known only from small spring fed lakes appears to be headed for extinction. Other stream-living fish like *Chilatherina sentaniensis* may already be extinct based on some extensive searching around Lake Sentani. Still other places that we've explored are being heavily exploited by the gold mining industry and the fishes there may soon be extinguished.

According to Evers, species that we had easily found in 2012 had vanished by the next year. Other streams on the edges of

palm oil plantations were like a watery desert, totally devoid of any fish, most likely victims of pesticide run-off. Every year there are more exciting roads to explore but every year this means that man is tearing down more of the delicate rainforest and establishing villages in areas that really can't support large populations. It doesn't take long for these new areas to be exploited and their waters sullied.

After dinner talk

Just one darn lucky Bowhead!

Or how serendipity helped in the discovery of more than 15 new rainbowfish

This is just a quick tale on how one nerdy scientist's hobby eventually became an obsession with rainbowfish. It's also a tip of the hat to all of the other fish fanatics that helped along the way to help fuel this wonderful habit and how that eventually led to the discovery of more than 15 new rainbowfish. But mainly it's for fun and to show off some of the wonderful rainbowfish that we've managed to find and bring back during the last 12 years of exploring in Papua.



PHOTOS: GARY LANGE

Biography Gary has been keeping fish since he was 10 and has been associated with the organized hobby for the last 35 years. He is a member of the Missouri Aquarium Society (MASI) and has held various positions in the club. He is a grand master breeder in MASI, and has won 'Best Fish In Show' on four different occasions, twice with rainbowfish.

In the fall of 1987 he started the Rainbowfish Study Group of North America (RSG). He got into fish photography mainly because there weren't many quality pictures of rainbowfish. He has had his photos published in FAMA, TFH and AFM and has published several articles for the Aquarium Fish Magazine and TFH.

In 2002 he was the first to import eight new rainbowfish into North America from the world explorer, Heiko Bleher, including the Millennium rainbow, the Zigzag (*Glossolepis dorityi*) and the dwarf parva

rainbowfish. In 2003 he made his second trip to Australia and did some more collecting while there. In 2005 he took the rainbowfish collectors dream trip – collecting in West Papua (formerly Irian Jaya), the western portion of New Guinea. He's also made trips in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2015. He brought back rainbowfish that have never been seen in the hobby including *Chilatherina alleni* and *Melanotaenia vanheurni*. With these trips he's collected and brought back at least a dozen different undescribed species of rainbowfish. Along with his collecting partner, Johannes Graf, they are currently working on naming them. He is currently running over 85 aquariums (9,500 litres ~2,500 gallons) and keeping over 65 species and locations of rainbowfish and blue-eyes.

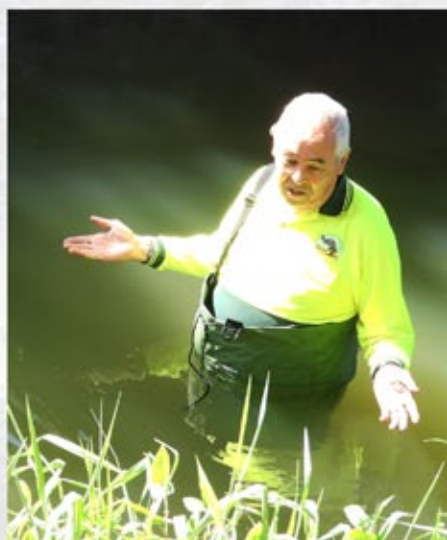
Leo Lee

Where do fish come from daddy?

Since my childhood I have seen the number of native fish in my local creek drop by my estimate between 85 and 95% of my first recollections. Continuous population of fish that occupied the entire length of the creek have been reduced to isolated schools of fish at discrete locations. When I was recently asked to discuss my activities relating to rare and endangered fish in the Enoggera catchment I realise most of my work was to ensure the survival of the common fish species in urban environments. Some time ago I decided that the best way to help preserve native fish in my favourite locations was to restore the environment. So, I join a local bush care group. At one of their AGMs they said they had a job for me!!!



PHOTOS: LEO LEE



Biography Suffered from fish keepers disease from the age of 3, resulted in incoherent babblings about the future well-being of native species. This has been a chronic condition, involving numerous interventions from institutes of higher yearnings including, University of Queensland (mostly treatment for marine disorders) Griffith University (attempts to cure obsession with freshwater and associated genetic afflictions.) Currently attempting a bush care remedy to Save Our Waterways Now.



The accidental release of aquarium specimens, or the culture of aquatic plants for the trade, are the starting point of a worldwide invasion process that has the potential to completely change the ecological integrity of our freshwater ecosystems. While some aquatic plants are difficult to cultivate in the confines of a home aquarium, these plants can flourish when released into the wild, resulting in unforeseen consequences. For example, the exotic *Cabomba caroliniana* (fanwort), originating from South America, escaped into lakes in Queensland and has subsequently drastically reduced the diversity of native aquatic plants. Freshwater lakes that once boasted a rich aquatic plant community are now dominated by a monoculture of this plant.

Once these exotic plants are established in the wild they are difficult to manage as there are few cost effective options to

control infestations and the plants readily spread between water bodies through accidental transport with boating equipment. Therefore, we can only try to stop further spread, but there is little scope to restore affected lakes to their former state. Thus, harmless looking aquarium plants are a major factor of the loss of biodiversity in freshwater systems worldwide.

Apart from displacing native aquatic plants, these invasive plants have the potential to completely change the way our freshwater systems work. For example, floating aquatic plants such as salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) can cover the entire water surface of lakes which leads to a light deprived ecosystem that is deoxygenated and is unsuitable for most animals and plants. As it is difficult to restore affected ecosystems, prevention is one of the most important management options. Therefore,

education of aquarium and water users is paramount to stop further spread of these harmful plants to protect and maintain at least some of our precious water bodies in their natural state.



Biography I am an aquatic plant scientist working for the Queensland Government, with the Invasive Plant Science Group, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). My career as a freshwater biologist began with my PhD research (University of Otago, New Zealand) to investigate the ecological impacts of exotic aquarium plants (*Lagarosiphon major*, curly waterweed) released into NZ freshwater systems. This project kindled my passion for aquatic plants and was the starting point for my career in invasive aquatic plant science. By now, I have in excess of 15 years of research experience in freshwater ecology as a university researcher, private consultant and Queensland Government scientist.

My past research covered many aspects of freshwater ecology, such as the functioning of aquatic ecosystems, aquatic plant ecology and freshwater fish ecology. My current research focus is the ecology of invasive aquatic plants, their impacts on aquatic ecosystems, and their management.

Basim Al Azzawi

Garden of Eden

The Iraqi southern marshes cover 20,000 square kilometres of open water. The area has played a prominent part in the history of mankind and was inhabited since the dawn of civilization. Also, this large wetland plays a vital role in the maintenance of biodiversity in the Middle East, primarily because of its large size and the richness of its aquatic vegetation. Severe draining programs during the late 1980's and early 2000's turned vast areas into desert. After 2003, the process of restoration and rehabilitation of the Iraqi marshes started and life came back to 70–75% of the original areas. Most recently the marshes have been placed on the World Heritage list.



Biography Dr Basim M Al Azzawi BSc, DipEd, MSc, PhD. Born in Baghdad 1951 and graduated from Baghdad University in 1972. Worked at the Iraqi Natural History Museum, University of Baghdad and collated, catalogued, classified freshwater fishes from all over Iraq and the Arabian Gulf. Other interests at the time were exploring caves and collecting blind fishes including a 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 Atheriniformes, in particular the Blue-eyes and Rainbow fishes of Australia and New Guinea. As result of this study, new species, *Iso nessiotes* and new genus *Kalyptatherina* from Irian Jaya were described. Also has contributed in the description of the new



Red-finned Blue-eye with Drs Unmack and Ivantsoff. At present started a research project of revising subterranean fishes of

the World. Now at retirement, if not fishes, fighting bush fires with New South Wales Rural Fire Service.

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY BASIM AL AZZAWI



Ph: 07 5432 3260

We bring the latest and greatest items and products to you fast. As soon as they are released in Australia you will find them in our shop as well as available in our online store.

Mon-Fri: 10 am-5 pm
Sat: 9 am-4 pm
Sun: 10 am-2 pm
Closed Public Holidays

2/28 Piper St
Caboolture
Qld 4510



View all of our stock online or instore

www.smithsaquarium.com.au

Ph: (07) 3865 1133

2421 Sandgate Rd, Boondall, QLD, 4034

Mon: CLOSED

Tue: CLOSED

Wed: 9 am-5 pm

Thu: 9 am-6 pm

Fri: 9 am-5 pm

Sat: 9 am-5 pm

Sun: 9 am-5 pm

Shop Direct

info@smithsaquarium.com

Owner Operator Mark

mark@smithsaquarium.com

Store Manager Andrew

info@smithsaquarium.com



www.aquariumshop.com.au

07 3800 5592

sales@aquariumproducts.com.au

Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm Unit 2, 10-12 Webber Drive
Saturday 9am-5:00pm Browns Plains
Sunday 9am-4:00pm Qld 4118



**The Queensland Federation
of Aquarium Societies**

www.qfas.org

QFAS has as its members Queensland Aquarium Societies

- AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION QLD
- BETTA AUSTRALIS
- AQUARIUM & TERRARIUM SOCIETY OF QLD
- QUEENSLAND AQUARIUM HOBBYISTS
- THE QUEENSLAND CICHLID GROUP

Each member club has three delegates which along with any other interested parties come to QFAS meetings. These discussions are held at the Bar Jai Hall, Alexandra Rd, Clayfield every few months. Here we discuss items of aquarium interest including government legislation, fish judging, QFAS auction rules and other guidelines.

DOWNSTREAM AQUATICS

(07) 3848 9585

We are an independent aquarium store that caters for all fish lovers

We love our fish!

Between Steve and Edwin we have over 80 years of experience in fishkeeping

www.facebook.com/downstreamaquatics

edwin@downstreamaquatics.com.au

17/478 Ipswich Rd
Annerley
Brisbane
Queensland

David Roberts

Conserving the vulnerable Australian Lungfish



The Australian Lungfish has been an enigma ever since its discovery in 1870. It was first thought to be an amphibian. It buries itself in mud like its African counterpart and at one stage it was even thought to crawl onto land to graze on grass along the river edges. So just why has one fish been so difficult to understand. Well its biological secrets have been hard to reveal being one of the most ancient living vertebrates on earth, pre-dating all land dwelling animals. Yes, they were around well before dinosaurs, crocodiles and every other land dwelling vertebrate. They possess many unique features that we don't see in modern fishes, some of which I will cover in this talk. With new advancements in research, we now have a better handle on lungfish biology and ecology to better protect this species into the future.



Biography I am currently employed at Seqwater as a Senior Scientist and hold an Adjunct Research Fellow at the Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University. I have a PhD from Griffith University in Aquatic Ecology having investigated the trophic dynamics of a sub-tropical reservoir ecosystem. My research career has focused on freshwater ecosystems including fish ecology, limnology and water quality processes. Recent research includes investigating catadromous fish migration needs, fishway performance assessments, and Australian Lungfish ecology. I am currently part of a large research project titled, 'Have we already lost the Australian Lungfish?' investigating the population dynamics and vulnerability of this unique Australian fish.



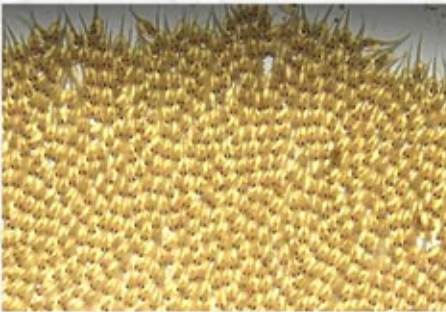
PHOTOS: DAVID ROBERTS

Roberts, D.T., Udyawer, V., Franklin, C., Dwyer, R.G., and Campbell, H.A. (2017) Using an acoustic telemetry array to assess fish volumetric space use: a case study on impoundments, hypoxia and an air-breathing species (*Neoceratodus forsteri*). *Marine and Freshwater Research*, 68(8).

Roberts, D.T., Mallett, S., Kruck, N.C., Loh, W., and Tibbetts, I. (2014) Spawning activity of the Australian lungfish *Neoceratodus forsteri* in an impoundment. *Journal of Fish Biology* 84(1), 163–177.

Darren Knowles

Recovering the endangered Mary River Cod



The Mary River Cod (*Maccullochella mariensis*) is one of Australia's most endangered freshwater fish. Cod now occupy less than 30% of their former range and in 1996 the population was estimated to be only 600. In 2001, the Commonwealth Government adopted the Mary River Cod Research & Recovery Plan which detailed a suite of actions to restore cod populations including community involvement and education programs, developing improved hatchery techniques, restocking them throughout their current and former range, and research on aspects of cod ecology. The first attempt to breed Cod in 1983 produced a paltry 45 fry. Early attempts to replicate the successful formula for other natives by injecting hormones to induce egg development, stripping the eggs and milt and pond rearing fry often failed. Production methods have changed significantly since. The 2016 season producing ~35,000 cod fingerlings, the best year on record was ~80,000 fingerlings and to date over 500,000 fingerling have been restocked. Under the new management of the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) and expert hatchery production skills of Darren Knowles, the Gerry Cook Cod Hatchery, there is the real possibility that Cod can be brought back from the brink of extinction through dedicated efforts of volunteers and meagre cash donations from the public, including ANGFA in the past.



This presentation will cover some key research findings and describe the production process for Mary River Cod from broodstock through to fingerling release.



Biography Darren has worked with fish all his life, being a keen angler and completing formal training in aquaculture at University. Darren has worked with Mary River Cod helping develop the current hatchery production process for over 20 years, having first-hand experience in the trials and tribulations of working with an endangered species and working out how best to breed and raise Cod. Darren recently established his own commercial fish hatchery, Hinternoosa Hatchery, in Cooroy and intends to breed a range of native fish including the Australian Lungfish.



Rob Wager

Red-finned Blue-eye: novel interpretations of 'captive breeding' to save the species

In an attempt to save the planet's only population of critically endangered Red-finned Blue-eye, Rob Wager has guided Bush Heritage Australia to develop artificial habitat in world-first replica Artesian springs on Edgbaston Reserve in the arid, northern reaches of the Lake Eyre catchment of central-west Queensland. The new habitats will be fed by bore water and planted with spring vegetation, and together with a few small artesian-fed natural springs that Bush Heritage 'renovated', will hopefully increase refuge at Edgbaston Reserve for the tiny rare fish.

By using replica habitats Bush Heritage hopes to help Red-finned Blue-eye breed in bigger numbers out of reach of feral *Gambusia* (Mosquito Fish), an invasive species that has infiltrated most of the fragile spring habitat at Edgbaston Reserve and poses the biggest threat to the Red-finned Blue-eye survival.

But the endeavour has been fraught and survival of Red-finned Blue-eye remains remarkably tenuous. They could disappear within a year or two without continuous efforts to create *Gambusia*-free habitat to shelter the Red-finned Blue-eye from interaction with the feral invader.

Fortunately Rob Wager has established an offsite breeding program away from Edgbaston Reserve under an agreement with BHA and the Queensland Government. Rob drew on decades of breeding threatened species to recreate suitable conditions for spawning and nursery areas. Despite two years of successful breeding and increasing



the captive population to several hundreds, it is probably too early to call it a success. However, the population could possibly be the last hope to save the Red-finned Blue-eye from adverse events at Edgbaston such

as mass-flooding and continued *Gambusia* invasion. The captive breeding program urgently needs to be expanded to other sites, and ANGFA can help



Peter Unmack had this to say about Rob Wager

Biography Rob has been involved with fish since his parents took him fishing and camping in the Tennessee Valley, USA, at the age of just six weeks old. I have known Rob since before I discovered the Red-finned Blue-eye in the early 1990's and I have interacted closely with him ever since including collaborating on two papers on Red-finned Blue-eye and Elizabeth Springs Goby and a substantial influential field guide on central Australian fishes. Rob has one of the best fishy brains in Australia. I have always been massively impressed with Rob's ability to think outside of the box to overcome problems and to approach things differently with positive outcomes. He also has the fairly unique combination

of being a hard core fish biologist as well as a hard core fish keeper and breeder (so hard core he ran his own fish farm until drought ended that venture). This rare combination allows him to easily bridge the gap between management, the scientific community and the aquarium hobby, as well as bringing different insights and ways of solving problems. It is notable that his efforts to bring Red-finned Blue-eye into captivity in the nineties allowed the longest running captive maintenance of Red-finned Blue-eye by Adrian Tappin and Steven Brooks.

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY ROB WAGER



Spotted Blue-eyes from Moa Island, Torres Strait, Cape York
Photo: Gunther Schmida – fish supplied by Aimee and Steve Brooks

We have a range of unique and limited edition merchandise available only at the convention, featuring some of Gunther's personal favourite images, to celebrate his support and photographic talents



Aquarium-raised 20 cm long and 9 month old lungfish
Photo: Gunther Schmida



'Cairns' Blue-eyes from the Little Mulgrave River
Photo: Gunther Schmida – fish supplied by Bruce Hansen and Jason Sulda



Eastern Rainbows from Poverty Creek, Annan River catchment
Photo: Gunther Schmida – fish supplied by Bruce Hansen





Male Blue Streamgoby *Sicyopterus lagocephalus*
 Goodenough Island, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea
 Photo: Gerald R. Allen

Celebrating 30 years of ANGFA: first ANGFA convention
 18–19 July 1987 Sydney
 NSW Aquarium Society Building
 Sydney Showgrounds

