



ANGFA ACT



Sept 1995

Volume 2 Issue 5

ANGFA NATIONAL CONVENTION NEXT MONTH!

There are a lot of great speakers giving us the benefit of their time at the Convention. **Helko Bleher's** name will be familiar to all fishkeepers, we hope to see him again this year! **Dr Gerry Allen** is one of the world authorities on Rainbowfish and is fresh back from a trip to Irian Jaya with several new species discovered and some old ones found again. His new Rainbow poster and calendar will hopefully be available at the Conference, and there is talk of another fine book. The best news is that Gerry has agreed to give us two talks this year. **Dr Arthur Georges** has agreed to talk to us about Turtles. **Dr John Kalish** will talk about two of our local fishes, the Mountain Galaxid and the Two Spined Blackfish. **Aarn Whitehouse** from Macquarie University will be discussing the future of genus *Melanotaenia*: he promises some explosive new revelations.

This year's Auction promises to be the best ever. Anyone who has been to an ANGFA Auction will know how good they really are: you will see fish and plants that do not exist outside ANGFA circles. Attendance is permitted for non-Conference attendees, but a fee of \$20.00 is payable. This is one more reason to attend the full Conference - you get into the Auction for free which by the way, already looks promising.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1995 Annual General Meeting of ANGFA will be held on Friday 20th October 1995 in the Osprey Room, Eagle Hawk Convention Centre, Federal Highway, Sutton, NSW at 7.30pm.

The change of time has been occasioned as a result of a special request by Dr Gerry Allen, for a special session to make an additional presentation at the conference.

ANGFA (ACT) MEETINGS

Thursday 7th September 1995

General Meeting 7.30pm

NAAWS

Speaker: Andy Wattam on Cape York

Thursday 14th September 1995

Executive Committee 7.30pm

Ring Alan Ford for venue.

Convention planning continues.

All Welcome!

Thursday 28th September 1995

Executive Committee 7.30pm

Ring Alan Ford for venue.

Convention planning continues.

All Welcome!

Thursday 5th October 1995

Committee Meeting 7.30pm

Ring Alan Ford for venue.

Thursday 12th October 1995

Executive Committee 7.30pm

Ring Alan Ford for venue.

Convention planning continues.

All Welcome!

Friday 20th October 1995

All Day: Convention Setup

Eagle Hawk Convention Centre

Helpers needed all day.

Friday 20th October 1995

ANGFA Annual General Meeting

Osprey Room 8.30pm

Eagle Hawk Convention Centre

Sat. 21 - Sun. 22 October 1995

ANGFA Conference

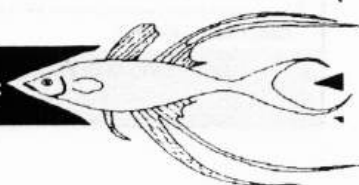
Eagle Hawk Convention Centre

Monday 23 October 1995

National Aquarium Tour & Barbeque

Confirmation of details at Convention

AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION Inc



Minutes of Annual General Meeting-July 6th 1995

Venue: NAAWS

Present: 23 people

Apologies: Nil

Visitors: Several visitors, including members of ANGFA in Queensland and the Sydney group.

Meeting Opened: 8.00pm

Office Bearers Reports:

President: Andy discussed his time as President and commented on how our membership has grown. Attendance at general meetings was continuing to improve. The forthcoming National Convention was a big drain on our human resources and more attention to the fine detail for ANGFA (ACT) will be implemented after October 23. A general discussion ensued regarding the NWA proposals. He thanked the outgoing committee for their efforts.

Vice President: David thought ANGFA (ACT) was a great success with memberships and exchanges now over 60. He also thanked the outgoing committee for their efforts.

Secretary: Gave a brief overview of the status of the Convention. Alan hoped the outgoing Committee would be returned for the sake of continuity. He too, thanked them for their efforts.

Treasurer: Hans submitted the following financial statements.

ANGFA (ACT) Funds

CREDIT	\$	DEBIT	\$
M/ship fees 94/95	\$175.00	M/ship to CPS Credit Union	\$10.00
M/ship fees 95/96	\$155.00	Stationery & Stamps	\$85.15
Auctions/Raffles	\$398.45	Address Labels	\$13.50
Interest	\$1.66	Miscellaneous	59.32
TOTAL	\$730.11	TOTAL	\$167.97

Balance: \$562.14

CREDIT	\$	DEBIT	\$
Start-up fund	\$200.00	Deposit for Venue	\$200.00
Reg fees	\$3510.00	SANFA M-DBC Submission	\$11.00
Dinner	\$625.00	ntrad Logo	\$125.00
Sponsor-ship /Intrest	\$1000.00	Stationery	\$14.95
	\$3.46	/Taxes	\$1.03
TOTAL	\$5338.46	TOTAL	\$351.98

Balance: \$4986.48

Hans was pleased that we now had 59 members, including 1 overseas and 30 interstate.

He has received 40 Conference registrations and 25 had booked in for the official ANGFA Dinner.

31 of the current membership had renewed and more were expected.

MEMBERSHIP, PUBLICITY & PR: Andrew stated that the strong point of his position had been the publicity side of things. He was happy with our progress and thought we would continue to grow steadily with time.

SPECIES MAINTENANCE REGISTRAR: Rick had been busy compiling a spreadsheet of species kept by our members (thus he was advancing his computer skills). He thanked those members that had completed their initial maintenance forms and reminded all that an update was now due. He still requires some members to partake of this important task and offered forms to all who had not taken one before.

ELECTIONS: The meeting was handed over to Alan Salmon (a visitor) who declared all positions vacant and conducted the elections. The new committee was elected with each member being unopposed. See list on page 8.

SPECIAL BUSINESS: Alan Salmon offered to take over the role of Editor to free Alan Ford to concentrate on his secretarial duties. The offer was accepted by the members and Alan was duly co-opted to the Committee.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Andy Wattam gave an overview of the Convention speakers and left early due to illness. David Manby made some general announcements. Alan Ford introduced Graeme Finsen from ANGFA National. The meeting closed at 10.00pm

DO IT YOURSELF CO₂ FOR AQUATIC PLANTS

by Dave Wilson

Inject HCL into CaCO₃ here. A 60ml syringe is ideal for the task.

CO₂ is generated and flows into upturned container

5 litre plastic bottle with holes drilled for silicon air tube.

CO₂ in this bell dissolves into water and water level rises in bell.

5cm of shell grit or coral rubble

If you have fish but experience difficulty in keeping your plants growing and looking healthy, try adding a little CO₂ to the water and watch the growth explosion.

Hydrochloric acid is available from swimming pool supply shops or larger hardware stores. 50 or 60 millilitre syringe can be obtained from a Veterinarian. Silicon air tube, coral rubble or shell grit are available from your local aquarium shop. The method of providing extra CO₂ for your Australian Native Aquarium Plants will not interfere with the pH to any large degree. The surface area of the bell should be 10% or less of the total

surface area of the aquarium. The upturned container in the aquarium can be a clear Tupperware container, plastic softdrink bottle or specially built glass or acrylic.

References:

The Journal of the Aquatic Gardeners Association

Eddie Tootle in Melbourne for a demonstration of the CO₂ bell.

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The Dumb Blondes of Sahul

The ancient continent of Sahul covered what is now Australia and New Guinea. The area hosts many of the most interesting fish on the face of the earth - the grey-green, sluggish, ancient (Lungfish *Ceratodus*), the lovable hopping clown (Desert Goby *Chlamydogobius* sp.), and the mysterious bigmouth forehead spawner (Nurseryfish *Kurtus gulliveri*).

Most people know the fishes of Sahul by their gregarious ambassadors, the Rainbowfish (Genus *Melanotaenia* and relatives). These, in my humble opinion, lack the behavioural quirks of the others, but they make up for it with their sheer colour. They may be a

bit short on brains, swimming endlessly backwards and forwards like Tetras, but like their human counterpart - the Dumb Blonde of urban myth - who cares when they look like they do?

They are aptly called the Rainbows: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet are found aplenty among them. For the red one need not go past a good Salmon Red Rainbowfish, *Glossolepis incisus*, or *Melanotaenia splendida rubrostriata* from New Guinea, as well as in the ear-spots of many Australian 'bows, or over the whole body in great stripes of the *Melanotaenia trifasciata* (Goyder River). I would not expect to see a more orange fish than *Melanotaenia parkinsoni* (other than some strains of Goldfish! But even they don't seem to have the fluorescent brilliance of the parki). The Yellow is divided amongst two closely related species; *Melanotaenia herbertaxelrodi* and *M. goldei*. Green is found in many different shades, from the emerald green of the Lake Wannam Rainbowfish *Glossolepis wanamensis* to the more subtle colouration of *Melanotaenia fluviatilis*. Blues are legion, from *Melanotaenia lacustris* and the bluest of all, *Melanotaenia praecox* from New Guinea to the *Melanotaenia trifasciata* (Cape Arnhem) and our own local *Melanotaenia splendida splendida*. Indigo and Violet are there as well, in the front half of the male *Melanotaenia boesemani*.

But unlike their human counterparts (although some may disagree) the Rainbows need to be in the right mood to look good. Other authors from time immemorial have harped on the need for the right lights, well planted tank, the odd beam of sunlight, etc, enough to fill whole books. Suffice to say that these learned folk are right, they do need the right conditions to really dazzle. But when the male 'bow flashes madly displaying first thing in the morning in the light of the sun - BANG! - for just one half second he is the most beautiful fish on the face of the earth, and a joy to own.

Some species seem to keep their every-day colour a bit better than others. Parkinson's Rainbow and the Lake Tebera Rainbow being two good examples.

So there you have them, the Dumb Blondes of Sahul. While I love to watch the mock territorial antics of the Desert Goby, or the sheer magnificence of the Saratoga, I'm sure you will agree that it is good to take time out to watch a Dumb Blonde every now and then!

Andrew Boyd



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ANGFA NATIONAL CONVENTION—OCTOBER 21-22 1995 REGISTRATION FORM

Please register me for the '95 ANGFA National convention

Name: _____

Address: _____ Post code _____

I enclose \$110.00 (full registration). I am a member of ANGFA (ACT) ☐

I enclose \$120.00 (full registration) I am not a member of ANGFA (ACT) ☐

I enclose \$60.00 (1day registration) please state day preferred ☐

I would like to attend the official dinner, and enclose a further \$25.00 ☐

All monies payable to the Treasurer ANGFA (ACT),
Hans de Vries, 11 Stevenson Street Torrens ACT 2607. Tel: 06 286 1811

Total amount sent \$ _____

I will/will not be accompanied by my spouse/partner, I will bring (# _____) children.

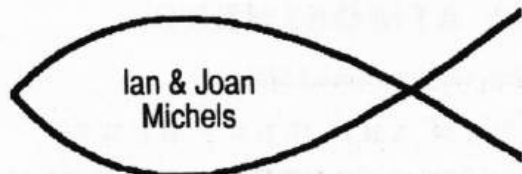
Accommodation should be made by contacting the Eagle Hawk Hill Resort direct on
Tel: (06) 241 6033, Fax: (06) 241 3691 or Toll Free (008) 651 543. Please mention ANGFA

Accommodation;	a normal room will cost	\$64.00 per day (1dbl & 1 single bed)
	a multi room will cost	\$90.00 per day (6 bunk beds)
	an exec-spa room will cost	\$130.00 per day.

Eagle Hawk is situated just 10 min from the city centre and will provide a courtesy bus to and from the airport.

Should you have any special needs please contact a committee member.

To avoid disappointment REGISTER NOW!



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AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION Inc

PERSONALITY PROFILE NUMBER 5

NAME	ALAN FORD
HOBBIES	RAINBOWFISH, MOTOR SPORTS & RUGBY LEAGUE
OCCUPATION	ALL OF THE ABOVE
FAVOURITE FISH	MELANOTAENIA AFFINIS (var. Pagwi)
FAVOURITE FISH OF SAHUL	AS ABOVE
FAVOURITE PLANT	BOLBITIS
HARDEST FISH	PAGWI (trying to improve our current stocks)
MAIN SPECIES INTEREST	MELANOTAENIIDAE

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BREEDING PEACOCK GUDGEONS

by Alan Ford

After trying and failing to breed this wonderful little fish (*Tateumndina ocellicauda*) I just about gave up.

I have an adult trio, two female and one male.

My initial attempts ended in disaster. I had eggs fungus, problems with snails snacking, health problems with the parents (possible gill flukes.)

What did I do wrong? I kept them in a bare bottomed tank with other fish, (*young rainbows*) and they had no other shelter apart from the spawning tubes (electrical conduit 13mm round cut into approximately 100mm lengths.) An abundance of Ramshorn cleaner snails were already in existence. Dad never had a chance to hatch their eggs as he couldn't defend the spawn from the snails. The few surviving hatchlings were greedily devoured by the rainbows.

What worked for me? I literally threw them into another tank (in disgust.) However this approach appears to be just what the Doctor ordered. Their new tank holds about 30 gallons and is the old 30 inch measurement. The tank is a jumble of gravel, assorted rocks, plants and Mallee driftwood, providing a variety of suitable hiding/spawning sites. Shortly after placing the fish into this mess the male went into hiding. I was hopeful he was nursing a batch of eggs and had not gone to God. By the way I treated the gill flukes with salt and a brand of Multi-Cure.

Now I am pleased to report that the fish have spawned successfully. There are about 30 - 40 fry swimming happily in their new home - so far unmolested by the adult females.

The male has re-disappeared and is hopefully tending more eggs.

Your Committee

PRESIDENT:

Andy Wattam Ph (06) 254 3273

VICE PRESIDENT:

David Manby Ph (06) 242 8205

SECRETARY:

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Fax (06) 291 0305

E-mail aford@pcug.org.au

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Peter Hughes Ph (06) 249 7902

E-mail peterh@pican.pi.csiro.au

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Any member of ANGFA (ACT) who wishes to be a part of our hard working Sub-Committee should contact Alan Ford (Secretary.) Alan will be able to give you the venues and times of all meetings. It's not too late as we still have plenty of jobs to be shared around. The work is not hard or overly time consuming and plenty of volunteers will be needed for the Conference weekend. Our Sub-Committee meetings are basically informal where we throw around all sorts of ideas. We believe it is better to air all thoughts whether they are used or not.



CONVENTION '95 A BRIEF PROGRESS REPORT

Well the time is nearly here when the hard miles put in by ANGFA (ACT) will come to fruition. Andy Wattam and the crew are now putting the finishing touches into place.

ANGFA (ACT) have engaged 22 speakers, probably too many you might say. And we agree, the simple fact is a couple have yet to get back to us with their final details, and thus there is some doubt about them actually making it, that would leave us a nice round figure of 20. Of the speakers selected we have tried to make them as diverse as possible. Some who gave excellent talks at Brisbane '94 have not been invited to talk again for that very reason and we sincerely hope that we have not offended. The fact of the matter is Melbourne will be the final benefactor, as they can invite some that we would have liked to. This years auction is showing great promise. Some fish that are rarely seen in the hobby will be on offer (*better bring along a bit of extra cash.*) As usual we expect some great if not rare books as well as a heap of drygoods. Sponsors both major and minor are sending in their products. This issue of our newsletter will give some insight into the many that proudly support ANGFA. Hans de Vries has looked after the menus and will combine with Rene Jez to handle the underwater gardening of the many displays. Hugh Hutchinson and good wife will be making everything shipshape for the Fish Widows on Tour.

ANGFA (ACT) - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

ANGFA (ACT) meets on the first Thursday of every second month at **8.00pm** (Jan, March, May, July, Sept & Nov).

Venue: The National Aquarium Australian Wildlife Sanctuary, Lady Denman Drive at Scrivener Dam.

Membership fees of \$5.00 (\$A) per annum fall due on the first of July.

Please note it is compulsory for all ACT members to be a member of ANGFA National, additional fees of \$25.00 (\$A) per annum are applicable.

Yes! Please register me as a member of ANGFA (ACT).

Name: _____

Address: _____ post code _____

Telephone number: (bus) _____

(home) _____

Forward this application with the relevant fees to,

The Treasurer ANGFA (ACT), Hans de Vries, 11 Stevenson Street, Torrens, ACT 2607. Tel: (06) 286 1811