



ANGFA ACT

NEWSLETTER

January 1996

Volume 3 Issue 1

Vice President's Report

Hello, fellow ANGFA members. You're probably wondering what's happened to the President's report. Andy and I have decided to take it in turns to write the report for the ANGFA ACT newsletter in order to have different points of view (and to take a load of Andy!)

I would like to start off the final report for '95 by saying what a fantastic year it has been for ANGFA ACT and for ANGFA in general. Of course we've all heard about the conference and what a great success it was. On a recent trip to Sydney I was overwhelmed by the number of people in shops and aquariums who recognised and approached me with nothing but praise for a most enjoyable and informative weekend. They regularly commented that they were impressed at the wide array of topics that were presented by our guest speakers.

While in Sydney I had the opportunity to visit the Darling Harbour Aquarium. David Crass, the Curator of Displays and member of ANGFA NSW, was kind enough to show us through the amazing array of displays even though I never had the chance to meet David at the conference. This goes to show how an organisation like ANGFA draws people of similar interests together. We had so much to talk about it was like we had known each other for years.

It was great to see such a wide range of Australian native fish displayed in such a fantastic and creative manner. The aquarium really does Australia proud in displaying to our international visitors what a unique and diverse aqua-fauna we have. It is a pity the National Aquarium in Canberra has not taken note of what can be achieved. Especially seeing as there are only 12 staff maintaining the huge number of displays at Darling Harbour.

But not to worry. It has come to our attention that a certain Curator of NAAWS is leaving. Oh dear, what a pity! Maybe things will start to improve there from now on. We'll have to wait and find out.

It was good to see ANGFA getting a plug on national television on the show Totally Wild! Cameron Bee, the secretary of ANGFA NSW, spoke about the role ANGFA is playing in maintaining rare and endangered species such as *M. eachamensis*. This is something I believe

ANGFA really needs to push: increasing public awareness and education of our native fish.

Recently ANGFA ACT held its first Christmas party on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin at Weston Park. After a week of torrential rain it was wonderful to see the sky clear, and wind ease for our evening BBQ. Close to thirty people attended and it was great to see everyone having such a wonderful time. ANGFA supplied the food, Clint supplied the bocci and Rick supplied the music.

I hope that in future a lot more people will attend our social functions, because it's a great chance for all ANGFA members and their families to let their hair down and have a fun time. Which we all certainly did at the Christmas party. Your next opportunity to do so will be in early February as we will be holding a BYO BBQ and going fishing at the Cotter. Let's see how many non-native species we can get out of our waterways.

Finally I'd like to thank all the ANGFA ACT members, especially those who helped this year with all their time and energy. If 1996 is half as good as 1995 for ANGFA ACT then I look forward to it with anticipation. I hope that all of our local members will get 100 per cent behind their club and join in all the activities and meetings that we provide. To our interstate members I look forward to seeing you all at the next National Conference in Melbourne in October 1996.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and bye for now.

David Manby
Vice President
ANGFA ACT

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4th January 1996 at the downstairs meeting room at the Canberra Workers Club at 8.00pm.

The main topic will be Rene and Hans speaking on aquarium plants. A raffle will be drawn at the completion of the meeting.

ANGFA ACT OFFICE BEARERS

TRADING POST

President	Andy Wattam	254 3273
Vice-President	David Manby	242 8205
Secretary	Alan Ford	292 4210
	Fax:	291 0305
	email:	aford@pcug.org.au
Treasurer	Hans de Vries	286 1811
Membership	Andrew Boyd	291 6086
	email:	andrew@pcug.org.au
Species Maintenance	Rick Wareing	291 9486
Editor	Alan Salmon	258 9081
	email:	asalmon@pcug.org.au
Librarian	Peter Hughes	241 7521
	email:	phughes@pican.pi.csiro.au

For Sale

Melanotaenia eachamensis
Melanotaenia fluviatilis
Melanotaenia eachamensis (Lake Euramoo)

Contact Alan Ford (06) 292 4210

E-mail: aford@pcug.org.au

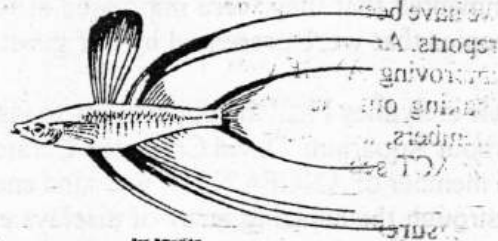
Your advertisements are welcomed for this area. Please ensure that details are received by the Editor at least two weeks prior to the next meeting to ensure that they appear in the issue posted just prior to each meeting.

Submissions may be emailed to asalmon@pcug.org.au, posted to the Secretary, or telephoned to the Editor on (06) 258 9081 (ah).

COMING EVENTS

ANGFA NSW are arranging a trip to Dingo Creek (near Taree, NSW) on the first weekend in January 1996. They will be seeking species such as Bullrouts, Tandanus catfish, climbing gudgeons, etc. Contact Barry Hollingsworth (043) 52 1149 for further details.

Jean Joss is running an Australian Lungfish breeding programme in Sydney and has indicated that a visit to inspect her laboratory is possible. Please notify Andy Wattam (254 3273) if you are interested in attending. Sufficient numbers will make it a goer.



ANGFA ACT FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 1 DECEMBER 1995

CREDIT

Membership Fees 94/95	\$175.00
Membership Fees 95/96	\$345.00
Auctions/Raffles	\$500.95
Coast Trip	\$70.00
Interest	\$2.24

Total 1093.19

Balance \$308.48

DEBIT

Membership CSPSCU	\$10.00
Address Labels	\$13.50
Printing	\$90.00
Stationery/Stamps	\$125.35
Neptunes Haven/Dalbarb	\$70.00
Coast Trip	\$277.00
Xmas Barbeque	\$100.00
Repair Sheet Nat. Aquarium	\$27.00
Hire Meeting Room	\$15.00
Miscellaneous	\$55.25
Credit Tax	\$1.61

Total \$784.71

The ANGFA Convention financial statement is yet to be finalised as some accounts are still to be settled. The indications are that a profit of at least \$4000.00 can be anticipated.

COMMITTEE MINUTES 7th December 1995

Venue: Canberra Workers Club, 8.00pm
Present: Andy Wattam, Hans de Vries, David Manby, Alan Salmon, Alan Ford
Apologies: Peter Hughes, Andrew Boyd

Presidents' Report: Andy reported on how good the trip to Sanctuary Point was, although the turnout was a little disappointing with 13 attending which included some family members. He has spoken to Jean Joss of Macquarie University with a view to a guided tour of their Lungfish setup, more on this as details come to hand. ANGFA NSW has invited members to join them on a field trip to Dingo Creek to be held in early January. If people are interested they should contact David Crass at Darling Harbour. Finally the planned Xmas BBQ will go ahead on Friday 8th December. The weather has improved and it should be a very good day.

Vice President: David and Leon have recently returned from a trip to Sydney where people who attended the National Convention surprisingly recognised them. The comments they received were highly congratulatory of a great job. It appears we have been rather hard on ourselves in the post Convention reports. An emphasis should now be placed on expanding and improving ANGFA ACT - this could be accomplished by making our meetings more beneficial and interesting to members, also we look forward to an education programme for ACT schools.

Treasurer: Hans, as expected was still waiting for a few outstanding accounts before he could finalise the Convention reporting. However, he was pleased to announce that Rydges Resort - Eagle Hawk Hill had finally produced a detailed account which has now been paid. We have received in excess of \$18000 and paid out over \$13000 so far. It should be noted that we are still owed some money and that we still have a few accounts to receive. A final and detailed account will be made available ASAP, in the meantime Hans will supply some figures to Alan S. for publication in the January newsletter.

Secretary: Alan passed for circulation, correspondence he had recently received, (newsletters & minutes from ANGFA QLD Inc., minutes and correspondence from ANGFA National). Outgoing correspondence was also tabled. Alan had produced a number of 1996 calendars which were passed to members present. The committee were also given the latest membership listing - as usual.

Editor: Alan Salmon stated he was having some difficulties with his computer hardware but he had secured the loan of a computer from work. He was aware that he had only 3 weeks to produce and post the January newsletter. Articles have been supplied or promised and Alan will chase these up as a matter of urgency.

Breeders Maintenance: Absent

Librarian: Absent, apologies received.

Membership, etc: Absent, apologies received.

General Business: Xmas BBQ was decided to go rather than a spit roast as it was less costly. Alan Salmon was to purchase the necessary meat, etc. Hans will give Alan S. a cheque for the purchases. We decided to cater for 30.

We still have a number of small raffle prizes and we will raffle one per meeting, commencing January.

Display tank may not sell - Hans to contact EHHR next week and request a definite answer. Raffling the tank will be considered as an option, a permit will then be sought.

Guest speakers, we will try and arrange guest speakers of quality for future meetings. The turnout for January is not expected to be great as many will be away. Hans and Rene (who has yet to be asked) will talk on plants.

A field trip? some social event is being planned for February. We will have a fishing and social BYO BBQ at the Cotter River at 6.00pm on Saturday 3rd Feb. 1996. Members to be notified via the Jan. newsletter. We will try and hold one event on each of the months between meetings. David pointed out that we must take into consideration the remaining warm months for future trips. We may be able to hold indoor workshops during winter.

The Rare and Threatened Species programme (RATS) will be discussed at the Jan. general meeting.

Editorial duties were discussed and the following items are to be included in all future newsletters: minutes of all general meetings, financial statements, either a President's or Vice President's report, a listing of a committee members, details of next meeting, topics of said meeting, all necessary dates, personality profile, plant corner and trading post. The newsletter will also contain other articles as supplied and as room allows. Finally, the last newsletter contained some erroneous information which was unfortunately not picked up by us, but was reproduced in the new look National Bulletin. To overcome this problem, all future newsletters must be proofread and spell checked, the editor will arrange this with a member of his choosing.

Andy has received a copy of the current ANGFA constitution which will be photocopied by Alan Salmon. Our library and Secretary will soon have this available for future reference. (Thanks ANGFA National)

The last item discussed was that of Public Liability Insurance. It was unanimously agreed that we should take out a policy before the Jan. 1996 meeting. Alan S. and Hans will obtain the best quote from a broker. Hans was given to go ahead to pay any reasonable premium which was expected to run to several hundred dollars.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm

PLANT CORNER

Hans de Vries

Ottelia alismoides (L.) Pers.

It is appropriate to commence this series of short presentations on aquatic plants with, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful of all water plants.

It is widely distributed through north-eastern Africa, Asia and New Guinea and also occurs in the Northern tropical areas of Australia and the sub tropics of Queensland as far south as Ipswich.

Delegates to the ANGFA 1995 Convention would have noticed a specimen of this plant in the display aquarium located in the venue's foyer. David Wilson had promised Rene Jez and I that he would collect a few plants of this species for us. Well, not only did Dave bring the large specimen plant, but he also gave us a number of young (10cm high) plants and some seed pods. All are doing well. Thanks David!

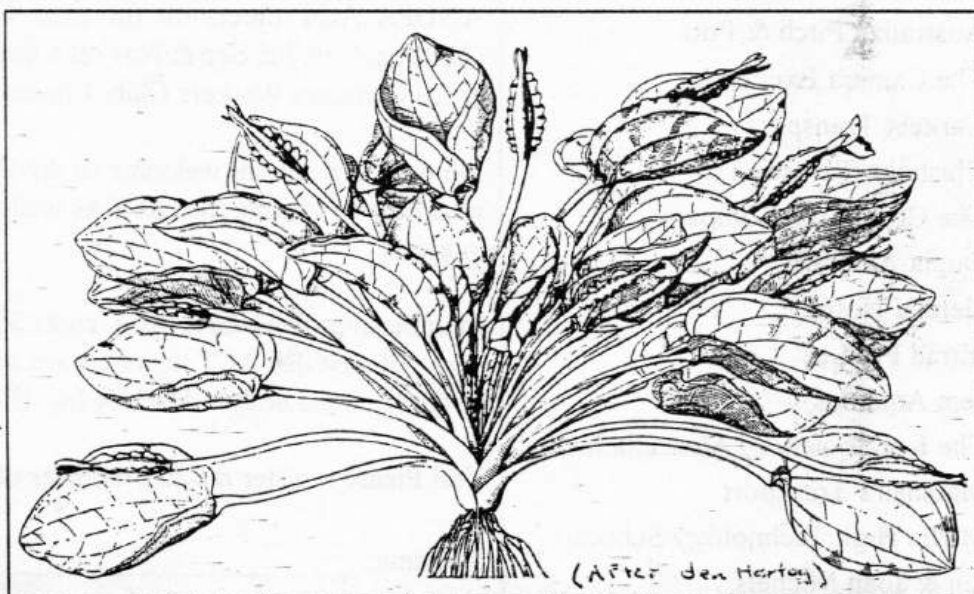
To grow plants from seed, Rene used small plastic containers filled with a 3-5 cm layer of fine sand topped with 1-2 cm of water. The containers were placed in his fishroom where the temperature is maintained in the high 20's. After the seed had germinated and small plants had formed, they were transferred to a similar setup with the fine sand replaced by aquarium gravel topped with at least 5 cm of water. A few of the young plants grew faster than others, but some of these died-back and were overtaken by the 'weaker', smaller plants. Some seeds were accidentally transferred to Rene's outdoor (but fully insulated) aquatic plant frames. Without any special care, the seed had germinated with plants showing stronger growth. I guess that they had received stronger light.

Juvenile plants look similar to juvenile broad-leaved vallisneria species. Mature plants have perioles up to 50cm long which carry the broad, ovate, translucent leaves up to 20cm wide and long. Because of the 7 to 11 parallel veins connected to cross veins of each leaf, the leaves show a crinkled appearance.

The species is perennial, is mostly totally submerged in water up to 1.5m deep. However in shallow water leaves grow partly emerged.

Its growth habit shows that high tanks or tanks without lids are required to grow this plant to maturity. A substrate of laterite under the gravel is recommended for good growth. The temperature range recommended by Oriental Aquariums of Singapore is in the range of 20-28C with medium light requirements. David Wilson recommends strong light for the Australian race of this species. *O. alismoides* usually flowers on the water surface but the flowers may self-fertilise in the closed, submerged position when growing in water too deep to allow the flowers to reach the surface (Ernst-Schwartzenbach, 1956).

I highly recommend this aquatic plant as a centre piece specimen plant for an aquarium and hope that it becomes more widely available to aquarists.



SOCIAL OUTING

Following the success of the Christmas Party, it has been decided to hold a barbeque at the Cotter Reserve to commence at 6.00pm on Saturday, 3rd February, 1996. *Bring your own everything!*

Take the first turnoff to the left AFTER you pass the Casuarina Sands turnoff. This takes you to the barbeque area before the bridge at the Cotter Pub which is situated at the junction of the Cotter and Paddy's Rivers.

Don't forget your fishing rod!

Thankyou...

The Committee and Members of ANGFA ACT would like to extend their thanks to the following companies and individuals who, by their generous support, enabled us to present the 1995 ANGFA National Conference and make it a spectacular success, enjoyed by all.

All Aquarium & Pet Supplies Pty Ltd
Aqualab Pty Ltd

Aquarium Fish Farms of Australia

Aquariums Plus (Vic) Pty Ltd

Aquasonic

Aquatic Art Aquarium

Aquatic Diagnostic Services

International Pty Ltd

Australia Post

Australian Pet Supplies Pty Ltd

Australian Pitch & Putt

The Camera Exchange

Carkeet Transport

Chisholm Tavern

The Coca-Cola Company

Dupla Australia

Gemini Hotel

Intrad Pty Ltd

Jem Aquatics

The Koi Society of Australia Inc.

Marshall's Transport

Melba High Technology School

Ian & Joan Michels

Neptune's Haven

Pet & Aquarium Industries Pty Ltd

Pet Pacific Pty Ltd

Pet Warehouse

Pilkingtons

Pisces Enterprises

Red Sword

RENA

Rods 'n' Tackle

Skyline Buildings, Canberra

Tower Photographics

Mrs Wareing

PERSONALITY PROFILE No. 6

Name:	Adrian Tappin
Hobbies:	Fishkeeping and computers
Occupation:	Administrator (& Editor of the ANGFA Bulletin)
Favourite Fish:	Goyder River Rainbowfish
Favourite Fish of Sahul:	As above
Favourite Plant:	Madagascar Lace Plant (if only I could keep them alive!)
Hardest Fish:	Red-finned Blue-eye (I've had some trouble with them...)
Main Species Interest:	Rainbowfishes and Blue-eyes

ANGFA ACT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ANGFA ACT meets on the first Thursday of every second month (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov) at 8.00pm in the downstairs meeting rooms at the Canberra Workers Club, Childers Street, Canberra City.

We extend a special welcome to ANGFA members (or foreign affiliates) who may be visiting the ACT as well as any other visitors who share our interests.

Membership of ANGFA ACT costs \$5.00 per annum due on July 1 each year. All ANGFA ACT members are required to hold current membership of the National body - ANGFA Inc. (Fees are \$25.00 pa).

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

Surname: _____ Title: _____

Given Names: _____

Address: _____

Suburb/Town: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone _____ (home)

_____ (work)

Forward this application with the relevant fees to:

The Treasurer,
ANGFA ACT
Hans de Vries
11 Stevenson Street
Torrens ACT 2607