



ANGFA ACT

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1996

Volume 3 Issue 2

President's Report

Some news from around the place.

There have been reports that two Sydney shopkeepers have been charged with offences regarding the importation of fish and having illegal fish in their possession. Also, there have been reports that Lungfish (*Neoceratodus fosteri*) have been offered for sale through aquarium shops in Sydney and Melbourne that I am aware of. These fish are listed in the CITES appendix that states that to have lungfish in your possession is illegal unless you have permits to do so. Please do not purchase these beautiful creatures. I believe that ANGFA should be making stands on issues such as this and report offenders if they become known to us. We respect the laws as they stand but encourage a regular review be undertaken to ensure that laws are current and appropriate.

I attended the February meeting of the Victorian Cichlid Society which was very entertaining. The Silver Budgie (aka Neil Armstrong) gave a splendid talk, with his usual quality terrible slides of his trip to Pepperminardi (I hope I spelt that right!). As visitors, both the budgie and I participated in a game called "fish heads" run similar to Celebrity Head. A fish name is placed onto a card on your head and you have to be the first to get the name correct. Ernie Hicks of the Cichlid Society got the Dwarf Gourami in about 4 questions. To encourage greater participation in the hobby, the budgie volunteered us both. Thanks!! I think we would have been alright with general fish or natives, but we were given Cichlids to identify. Budgie was given the Blue Acara, and I was given the Blue Afra (which I still believe to be a haircut!). Needless to say, the budgie won after a lot of free tips. Great game and more fish clubs should try this as it raises awareness among the newer members and participation from the club. Apart from that it is also good fun.

Next night I attended the Victorian ANGFA meeting. Two talks were given by Alex Caughey who talked about collecting fish on stamps. They are easy to keep and don't die! The next talk was given by Ron Lewis on the captive

breeding program of the Trout Cod, our emblem here in the ACT. Both talks were excellent. They appeared to get good attendance for the meeting (around 35). I also offered the services of the committee to Vic. ANGFA regarding questions and help for the '96 Convention to be held in Victoria. We came up with the date of 16/17 March, to meet in Albury to swap ideas.

Locally, we are organising speakers for the next few meetings. Also, Ron Green has left the National Aquarium and Wildlife Sanctuary with some other members of his team. The new curator is Ulrich Erich Friese, who has previously worked at Taronga Park Zoo (where he was the first person to spawn the Clown Knifefish) and also during the initial stages at Darling Harbour Aquarium. Welcome to Canberra.

The barbeque at the Cotter was poorly attended. Luckily, it was Alan Salmon's birthday and he had friends attend. I believe that by the time the fish were ready to bite, most people had consumed too many beverages.

That's about it from me, so I hope to see you next meeting.

Andy Wattam
President, ANGFA ACT

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7th March 1996 at the downstairs meeting room at the Canberra Workers Club at 8.00pm.

Dick Barwick will speak on Australian Lungfish. This will continue along the vein of his very interesting presentation at the ANGFA Convention last October.

Raffle prizes this month are a quality fish rod and \$25 Pitch & Putt vouchers.

MARCH 1996

AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION

PLANT CORNER

Hans de Vries

Barclaya longifolia (Wallich)

This is another of my favourite aquatic plants belonging to the family Nymphaeaceae (aquatic lilies). Its habitat is rainforest streams of tropical Asia (Burma, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Andaman Islands).

The leaves are elongate up to 30cm long and 3 to 4cm wide, each carried on a short petiole. The leaf base is cordate, its tip rounded and the leaf edges are wavy. The lateral veins on each side of the mid rib are very conspicuous. The upper side of the leaf is pale green and its underside is reddish to pale violet. Another variety of this species has beautiful reddish brown leaves.

The leaves and petioles are very soft and fragile. This plant flowers easily in a tank, its flowers seldom reaching the water surface and submerged self-fertilisation occurs. The flowers are carried on short stalks. The flower petals are 2-3cm long, green on the outside and purple to red on the inside. The fruit capsule opens underwater releasing many little baby seeds.

I have grown this plant successfully for many years. Only once a flower reached the water surface. I used to collect the seeds by loosely tying a piece of stocking around the flower, securing it particularly well top and bottom. After the ripened capsule has opened you can feel the seeds in the stocking. I then removed the seeds from the stocking, sowing them directly in a small tank containing gravel and peat mixture and up to 10cm of water. After the seed has germinated and the plantlets grown in height to about 5cm, they were transferred to their permanent positions in other tanks. However, I found that often during collection of the seed, some must have escaped as after a few months small plantlets of this species appeared in the tank. Now I let nature take its course and only transplant the seedlings when growing in an undesirable position in the tank.

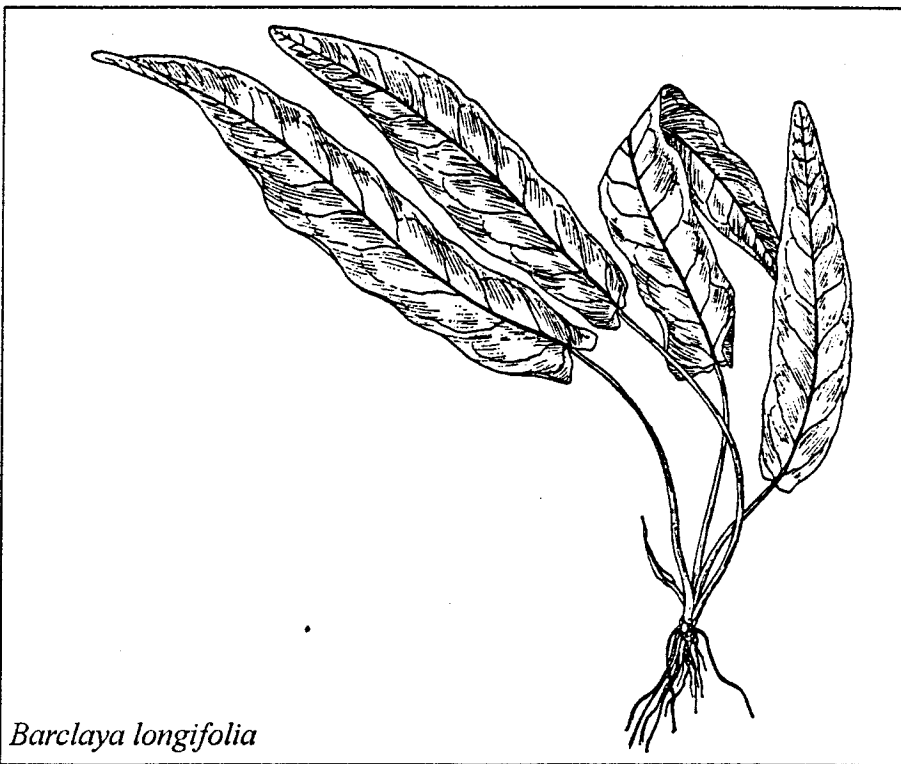
This species prefers slightly acid water, temperatures between 24 - 30 C and strong light.

A word of warning! Some snail species love this plant and lay their eggs on the leaves and the adult snails eat the petioles. This results in detached leaves floating on the surface. Also be aware that although this plant is a

perennial, at least in my tanks, the leaves die out and the plant disappears.

If you see the small tuber appear above the gravel, place it back again just under the surface of the gravel. After a few months leaves appear again and the plant is fully grown in 4 to 6 weeks.

This plant is seldom available in aquarium shops, but it is worthwhile to obtain a specimen. I highly recommend this plant to the aquarium plant enthusiast.



Barclaya longifolia

SOCIAL OUTING

Fish collecting trip has been organised for Sunday 14th April to Cabbage Tree Creek.

You should meet at 4pm at the pub at Nelligan.

Enjoy a BBQ dinner at venue to be decided before setting off on a piscatorial pursuit.

Bring a torch and something to collect fish with and of course, somewhere to put them.

Bring your own everything.

MEETING MINUTES 4th January 1996

Commenced 8.00pm at Canberra Workers Club

Visitor

We welcomed Ms. Anne Price as a visitor who joined up at the end of the meeting.

Present

Rene Jez, Hans de Vries, John Fleuren, Henry Nix, Paul Hailes, Leon Buker, Jann Aiton and Alan Ford.

Apologies

Peter Hughes, Andrew Boyd, Craig Bryant, David Manby, Andy Wattam, Clint Dixon & Alan Salmon.

Office bearers reports

President - Absent, apologies

Vice President - Absent, apologies

Secretary (Meeting chaired by Alan Ford)

Correspondence Received: Various minutes from ANGFA sub branches and ANGFA National etc.

Outgoing: Notification of Xmas party to all members, newsletters and letter of complaint to ANGFA National re treatment of A. Caughey.

Alan mentioned the outstanding success of the Xmas BBQ.

Treasurer

We have around \$300 in the bank. The Convention accounts have still not been finalised, Rena is a major one along with a couple of others. Hans finds this very annoying as he would like to close his books on the matter.

The committee will take positive action to remedy this!

Hans has a few copies of an Australian native plant book for sale at the cost price of \$18.70. This is a new edition of "Waterplants in Australia".

A second order will be placed if members request a copy.

Editor Absent, apologies

Species Maintenance Absent.

Librarian - Absent, apologies

Membership - Absent, apologies

General Business

Raffle Prizes

Due to the poor attendance no raffles were held. Some prizes will be combined for our March meeting. This is to be heavily advertised in the next newsletter. The prizes we have are:

Tiny's fishing Rod	Garden shed
Weekend for two at Gemini Hotel	Pitch n Putt.

Removal of Tank from Rydges Resort

The removal of the display aquarium from EHHR is now a matter of urgency.

Members are invited to attend EHHR at 1.00pm Saturday 13th Jan. Transport to enable the removal will be arranged. Our next newsletter will request interested members to make an offer for the purchase of the tank, bearing in mind that Hans has one offer of \$800.00. The tank will be sold to the highest bidder. Leon mentioned the fact that we could use the tank for display purposes. A matter of maintenance etc. discounted this idea.

Feb. BBQ and fishing trip.

Interest was shown. Members were reminded of the time and date for this event.

Guest Speaker for March General Meeting

The committee are to arrange a guest speaker for the March meeting. Prof H. Nix offered his services for the future, he has at least a couple of topics in mind.

Is it desirable to hold tank tours or other events Additionally do the members want breeders awards/trophies, article awards best display aquarium etc.etc.

Prof. Nix thought the implementation of an award for best article would encourage members to submit articles suitable for the newsletter.

Additionally tours of members displays and fish rooms were requested. The tours could be a combined social event culminating in a BBQ. The committee will begin to make the necessary arrangements

ANGFA Constitution

We now have a copy - Alan Salmon to supply President, Secretary, Library and others with a photocopy!

Insurance

Alan Salmon did not have the time to arrange public liability insurance in time for this meeting. Alan Ford and Hans de Vries will now take on this task. Rene mentioned that Alan S. should be informed of this decision.

Secretary to notify Alan S.

Editor

Wrong minutes were printed in newsletter! Should have been General Meeting minutes!!! The committee will discuss what action, if any, needs to be taken re the distribution of the November minutes.

Guest Speakers for the evening

Hans and Rene gave an informative talk on aquariums and aquarium plants.

Their talk will be continued when we hold our first tank tour as practical demonstrations and examples can then be given. The members heartily thanked Rene and Hans.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

A VISIT TO SANCTUARY POINT by Alan Ford

Saturday the 2nd. of December started for me at 6.00am. By 7.15am. I was picking up the small 12 seater mini-bus we had hired for the day. We were off to visit Frank and Alison Copperfield.

The ANGFA (ACT) members who took part on the trip were as keen as mustard and ready at the collection points well before pick-up time. All up 7 adults and 2 fry poured onto the bus, we soon left the ACT border in the distance. Andrew Boyd acted as a much needed navigator, as I can get lost just going round the block!

The trip down was uneventful with a small comfort stop taken at McDonalds along the Hume Highway. Once we left the Hume Highway the twisting downhill run to the coast was very lush and green and quite scenic. The stop at McDonalds cost us a bit of time and thus we were late arriving at the Copperfield's home. Alison in her usual straightforward way let us know in no uncertain manner that she was disappointed with us being late, we pointed out the fact that we had stopped at McD's but that only made things worse.

We accepted our mild scolding with grace (we really had no choice). Alison had gone to a lot of trouble in preparing morning tea which consisted of as much home made scones, tea and coffee as we could consume.

After leaving us alone for about 20 minutes Alison then started our guided visit to her home and Koi ponds. She explained the many hidden and secret sections of her Japanese style garden, which in true Japanese tradition all had a reason and meaning. Hans after touching a beautiful Bonsai tree received a special lecture on how to handle house plants, especially Bonsai!

The Dixon family joined us shortly after the tour began (they had driven down themselves) and Margaret was treated to the same lecture as Hans' had received earlier and for the very same reason...Needless to say we didn't touch anything after that.

The tour of the garden included a privileged look at the entire Koi breeding set-up which included a few well kept secrets, we were indeed honoured. We were amazed at just how few of the new Koi Alison and Frank kept for themselves. Out of literally thousands of fry most were culled in the most severe manner - some killed, some better quality ones sold and about 10 of the very best were kept as future breeding stock. The lesson we all learnt here was cull, cull and then cull some more. Peter and Hans were happily taking an assortment of slides/photos which we may all view one day soon.

After entering the main gate, alongside the path planted with Sacred Japanese Bamboo we came to the traditional "pausing bridge" which in turn led us to the verandah (I unfortunately can't remember the Japanese term for this) and more wonderful views were pointed out.

We were now at the front door of the home, upon entering

we were greeted by a very specific and special welcoming foyer which was decorated in our honour. Alison explained the meaning of this and every other feature of her magnificent home.

Jann Aiten asked all the right questions which must have pleased Alison no end.

I have never seen so many trophies in all my life, I swear they had more than a trophy shop, well almost... The tour and detailed explanation continued until we were back at the original starting point, Alison had obviously done this more than once. It was now time for lunch!

Alison once again left us to our own devices as she prepared things. After a very short while lunch was announced and we were all instructed to help ourselves. The first course consisted of melon and mint, which was deliciously refreshing.

Second course was roasted leg ham (Alison's own way) and an assortment of fresh salads. Next we were presented with a table loaded with fresh fruits, finally the table was cleared and a selection of cheese and biscuits rounded off the meal. This was all health food and quite frankly I never realised that healthy food can actually be delicious. Alison knows how to entertain and the lunch she provided was appreciated by all present, there was something for everybody.

After lunch Clint purchased a number of Koi for his shop and a couple of specially selected potential breeders for his home pond. Clint also snapped up the bargain of the day and purchased a magnificent Bonsai that Alison and Frank had so carefully grown and tended. Not only are they Koi specialists they are also accomplished Bonsai growers. It all made me wish that I had a cheque book, but alas I have no money to put in one - such is life!

Hugh was truly impressed with the views in the garden, especially those pointed out to us by Alison. Andy appeared to just sit back and watch his members take in the knowledge and surroundings, as he had visited the Copperfield's on a prior occasion.

The trip home was mostly uneventful even with Andy driving. The highlight being Andy playing chicken with a driver that momentarily traversed onto our side of the road. And then dragging off a Ford Fairlane whose driver must have been ropeable whilst he had to follow us back up the mountain. In fairness Andy gave him the opportunity to pass us but somehow the nervous driver could not muster the courage. After dropping off the others at their vehicles I arrived home at 7.00pm. Somewhat tired but looking forward to our next visit to the home of these truly brilliant and hospitable people.

Finally the members that did not take part in this excursion missed a really fascinating trip. Oh well if they have read this we might need 2 or more buses next time, as we have been invited back!

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	

We currently have some stock left over from the Convention that we would like to sell:

Bottles of ANGFA Port at \$10.00 each.
Convention shirts, ANGFA ACT logo \$25.00 each
Convention caps ANGFA ACT logo at \$15.00 each.

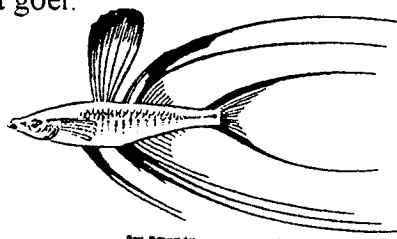
If interested check with Hans de Vries.

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

Jean Joss is running an Australian Lungfish breeding programme at Macquarie University 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.



SPECIAL THANKS

Our special thanks go this month to Clint Dixon of Neptune's Haven for providing storage facilities for the ANGFA display tank, stand and accessories and ultimately for introducing a buyer to us. Thank you Clint!

ANGFA ACT FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 1 FEBRUARY 1996

CREDIT

Membership Fees 94/95	\$175.00
Membership Fees 95/96	\$360.00
Auctions/Raffles	\$500.95
Coast Trip	\$70.00
Interest	\$1.69
Sale of Books (Water Plants)	\$149.60
Total	1093.19

DEBIT

Membership CSPSCU	\$10.00
Address Labels	\$13.50
Printing	\$90.00
Stationery/Stamps	\$140.00
Neptunes Haven/Dalbarb	\$70.00
Coast Trip	\$277.00
Xmas Barbeque	\$84.75
Timer Switches (x2)	\$30.32
Repair Sheet Nat. Aquarium	\$27.00
Hire Meeting Room	\$30.00
Purchase of Books (Water Plants)	149.40
Miscellaneous	\$55.25
Credit Tax	\$2.44

Balance \$308.48

Total \$979.66

Note: The interest and credit tax has been adjusted to appropriately represent the amounts payable by ANGFA ACT and the ANGFA Convention.

PERSONALITY PROFILE No. 7

Name:	Barry Meiklejohn
Hobbies:	Fish, Computers, Stamps & Shooting
Occupation:	Air Traffic Controller
Favourite Fish:	Pappin Creek Trifasciata - Large deep bodied Rainbow full of subtle colours, looks great under proper lighting and with good aquarium management. Honey Blue-eye - schools of liquid gold, males have such fantastic finnage, classified vulnerable right on our back doorstep here in Brisbane.
Favourite Fish of Sahul:	As above
Favourite Plant:	Eriocaulon - I saw this plant growing naturally in Arnhem Land and fell in love with its spiralling branches. I don't know if anyone has grown it successfully in the aquarium yet, I think it is seasonal and requires a lot of light? Ambulia - I always get confused between Ambulia and Cabomba, but Bruce (Hansen) showed me how to identify the difference yesterday. What I thought was Cabomba in my aquarium is actually a native species of Limnophylla or common name ambulia.
Hardest Fish:	Goyder River Tri's. I think my water may be too soft for them but they typically last a year then succumb to all manner of deadly dark & dire diseases.
Main Species Interest:	Fishes of the family Melanotaeniidae

SPECIES MAINTENANCE LISTS

At the last committee meeting, Rick Wareing handed out some new species maintenance sheets to those present.

It is likely that they will also be available at the coming General Meeting.

If you are keeping native fish it is important that you complete one of these forms and return it to Rick for registration, as it is all too easy for a species to disappear from the hobby because every one thought everyone else was breeding them.

Apart from an indication of what species you are maintaining, the forms also supply vital information about bloodlines, enabling us to ensure that we keep the gene pool as diverse as possible.

So please take the time to complete a form as soon as possible.

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 urged 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