



ANGFA ACT

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1996

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 5

ANGFA COMMITTEE 1996-97

The elections for office bearers of ANGFA ACT were held at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 4th July 1996. All positions were declared vacant and Mr Clint Dixon acted in the capacity of Returning Officer for the elections.

The new Committee is as follows:

President	Mr Andy Wattam	(06) 254 3273
Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Mr Alan Ford	(06) 292 4210 (06) 291 0305 (fax) email: aford@pcug.org.au
Treasurer	Mr Leon Buker	(06) 297 8564
Editor	Mr Alan Salmon	(06) 258 9081 email: asalmon@pcug.org.au
Librarian	Mr Peter Hughes	(06) 241 7521 email: peterh@pican.pi.csiro.au
Species Maint.	Mr Rick Wareing	(06) 291 9486

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Don't forget that ANGFA ACT has now moved to monthly meetings to be held on the first Thursday of each month.

The venue is currently the ACT Workers Club in the City, in the down-stairs meeting room.

This is likely to change when a new (less noisy) venue is arranged. If you have any suggestions on a new venue, please contact one of the Committee members.

We have some great speakers lined up for coming months.

Please note that there will be no January meeting, and the December meeting will be some sort of activity night, probably with a barbeque.

NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY AUGUST 1st

This meeting will be at the Canberra Workers' Club, commencing at 8.00pm.

This month's speaker is ANGFA ACT's own **Mr. Peter Hughes** who will be addressing us on "**The Planted Tank**". This topic deals with the setup and maintenance of the well planted, well lit tank, using such techniques as CO₂ injection, laterite substrate and fertilizer supplementation feeding. Peter will provide details of "Do it yourself" projects in this field.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 1996 NEWS

The ANGFA National Conference for 1996 is to be held in Melbourne at the Irico Hotel on 19-20th October. The ANGFA National AGM will be held at the same venue on Friday 18th October, at 8.00pm.

The organisers have provided the following information:

Saturday 8.30am - 5.30pm will be filled with many varied topics from our list of talented speakers backed up with slides and other visual aids.

Saturday evening - Annual Convention Dinner (optional) followed by the legendary ANGFA auction where members have the opportunity to purchase rare and valued specimens of fish, plants and other items. (*Perhaps a few CD players for certain members, eh? - Ed.*)

Sunday 8.30am - 5.30pm will be convention, convention, convention!

Monday will include a trip to Royal Melbourne Zoo - with special behind the scenes guided tours... but only for the first 50 booking in for same.

Other tours will include fish room and aquarium shop tours on Tuesday and on Wednesday, tours to Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary and Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery if people so desire.

Further details can be obtained from:

June Caughey 057 742 330 014 808 638
Ken Smales 03 9391 5225

Copies of fee schedules and registration forms will be available from the Editor at the next ANGFA ACT meeting.

ANGFA ACT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please check your mailing label to see if you have forgotten to renew your membership. If the figures "95/96" appear on the top right hand corner of your mailing label then your membership has already expired and you need to renew NOW. No further notices, reminders or newsletters will be sent, so don't delay.

Don't forget that the membership fee is now \$10 per annum, due and payable no later than the AGM (held in July each year). All members are urged to join the National body. Complete the form below and forward it, together with the appropriate fee to the address shown at right.

ANGFA ACT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mr/Mrs/Ms: _____ Surname: _____

Given Names: _____

Address: _____

Suburb/Town: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ (home)

_____ (work)

email address: _____

Please forward to: Mr Leon Buker
Treasurer, ANGFA ACT
12 Woodman Place
Greenleigh NSW 2620

ANGFA ON THE INTERNET

As mentioned last month, ANGFA ACT has its own homepage on the Internet, as do many of our affiliated groups. These are accessible to anyone with a web-browser and a modem, or via your LAN if you are lucky enough to have Internet access from work!

Our page is maintained by Alan Ford, with input from various other members of the Group. The page is evolving slowly - the techniques and software need to be mastered - as well as having time to experiment with an aesthetically pleasing design and layout. Alan has resisted the temptation to go to the extremes displayed on some web sites where you are presented with an intimidating array of boxes, icons, graphics, scroll bars, etc - and the subsequent L-O-N-G delay while the page loads. Suggestions (and contributions!) are most welcome, but please allow time for them to be included.

Another of Alan Ford's innovations (ably assisted by Andrew Boyd) has been the implementation of the Rainbow Fish mailing list. This is an electronic forum for the discussion of all things related to Rainbow Fish - and they certainly have talked about all things! The contributors to this mailing list are well known to most of us - particularly those of us who were present at the last ANGFA National Conference that was held in Canberra in October 1995. It is also pleasing to see our American brethren putting their dimes' worth in (that's two cents worth accounting for inflation and the exchange rate). Suffice it to say that there has been spirited discussion, many laughs, a few bruised egos, but mostly the exchange of some valuable and interesting material on issues from water quality to the role of ANGFA vs the role of the scientific community.

If you have the wherewithall to connect to the conference, I recommend it most heartily. I also hope that some of our other overseas members in Belgium, Germany and Russia can join in as well.

To access the list send a message to: Majordomo@auug.org.au
with the body of the message containing: `subscribe rainbowfish`

That's all there is to it. You should start receiving the first messages very quickly (in my case - less than 30 minutes after I sent the request to subscribe), but certainly within 24 hours.

Please note that the list is monitored (rather than moderated). Please read the rules that are sent automatically upon subscribing, and abide by them - particularly the parts about observing PCUG/auug rules. They are generously supplying the facilities for the mailing list free of charge - it is up to us not to abuse their trust.

Following is a list of ANGFA-related home pages:

ANGFA ACT Home Page	http://www.pcug.org.au/~aford/angfa.htm
Rainbow Study Group of North America	http://home.earthlink.net/~sbuckel/index.html
ANGFA National Home Page	http://www.ozemail.com.au/~fisher/angfa.htm
Australian Desert Fishes Home Page	http://www.utexas.edu/depts/tnhcl/www/fish/dfc/australi/index.html
Adrian Tappins' Home Page	http://www.ecn.net.au/~atappin/home.htm
ANGFA (WA) Home Page	http://student.curtin.edu.au/~ebloch/ANGFA.HTML

If you find any more good sites with themes along the lines of those above, let me know and I'll publish them here so that as many members as possible can enjoy them.

FISH COCKTAILS

The raffle at the Annual General Meeting had prizes including a Garden Shed and vouchers for Pitch 'n' Putt golf. The first and second prizes were won by Peter Hughes who then donated the latter back again and redrawn.

Tea, Coffee and biscuits, as well as the usual soft drinks are now available at our meetings. A gold coin donation is sought.

The ANGFA ACT Library has a range of book and magazines, as well as newsletters from other affiliated groups from across Australia and around the world. Peter Hughes, our Librarian, usually has the Library at meetings, but if you are after something specific, it wouldn't hurt to give him a call a few days before the meeting.

Members are encouraged to bring items, fish, plants, etc., for the Auction held at the end of each meeting. The Club retains a commission of 20% on each lot sold.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

To give the new Treasurer time to catch his breath, we present an abbreviated financial statement this month:

Carried Forward: \$5141.01

Receipts:

Membership Fees	245.00
Auctions/raffles	182.50
Sales	36.35
Interest/Misc	91.03
Total	554.88

Expenditure:

Stationery	23.17
Stamps/postage	294.45
Freight	124.99
Travel/Fares	229.00
Debit Tax	39.00
Hall Hire	52.50
Membership (National)	25.00
Misc. expenses	105.62
Total	893.73

Balance Forward: \$4802.16



ALOE VERA

Finally.... a treatment for ulcers in Rainbowfish?

Robert McLean



I may be writing this a little prematurely and at risk of being called a goose, (*I've been called worse!*), but I got a little excited when it actually worked, so here we go. Just for the record, I'd like to share a little idea I had about the treatment of ulcers on Rainbowfish. I got a bit sick of destroying fish because of ulcers, so I'd been trying a few different methods of treatment without much success. Then I thought about when I was a young bloke and I would put *Aloe Vera* on cuts and scratches to stop infection, so I tried it on the fish...

I have now treated three fish with excellent results. (*one of which I borrowed to continue the experiment as I'd fixed mine.*) This is how it goes, I cut a small piece of Aloe Vera plant, squeezed the sap and applied it directly to the affected areas, then I kept the fish out of the Water for a minute or so before releasing it back into the tank. It seems that because the sap is so thick it coats the fish for a while after it goes back into the water. I repeated this process every day for a week with noticeable results after the first couple of days and then every second day for a week dropping the remainder of the cut section into the tank itself. I feel that for the above method to be most effective the treatment should be started at the first signs of the ulcer appearing. The first fish I treated which was a *M. boesemani* has had no signs of the ulcer recurring for about a month at this stage.

I'm not saying that this is the end of the problem, the fish still have small scars where the ulcer first appeared, it remains to be seen whether the ulcers will recur, only time will tell. But for now I still have some of my favourite fish... I hope it works for you as it did for me. By the way if you can't get a piece of Aloe Vera from a friend like I did (*thanks Tim*) you can buy it from your local nursery fairly cheaply. Meanwhile I'll continue along these lines, if you try it yourself please let me know how you go.

(1) Robert can be contacted by mail at:

2/62 Tharwa Rd. Queanbeyan NSW 2620

(2) I have since provided Robert with two fish in the latter stages of ulceration. One (a Kangaroo Creek *M. dubolayi*) died the following morning - the ulcer having burst when the Aloe was applied. The second, (a Davis Creek *M. splendida*), was severely ulcerated about the gill area on one side of the body. A similar ulcer on the fishes' other side had spontaneously cleared itself some months earlier, leaving only a small mark. I am still waiting for a report...

