

MARCH 1987.

# NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION

North West Tasmania Regional Group.

Promoting the keeping and propagation of the native fish species of Australia and New Guinea



## CLUB NEWS

### NEW MEMBER.

Welcome to our new member, Peter Tonelly and Family Merry, Jillian and Pamela. Pamela in future will be referred to as "lucky" for reasons you will read elsewhere in this letter!!!.

The next meeting will be an important one for all members due to an address by our Patron Mr Wayne Fulton also Wayne has promised to bring some slides and identify the species we have caught.

I advise all members to be there as we have many questions for Wayne.

### HABITAT SURVEYS.

Do not forget to complete your Survey Forms whenever you go collecting.

Blank forms are available from the Executive Officer.

### BLACKBOARD SALES.

Each meeting a blackboard sale will be commenced at next meeting for members wishing to sell/swap fish or other items are invited to write up articles before meeting starts. We will discuss club commission or a small fee set.

### FISHES OF SANUL.

Vol4 No 1 is in circulation. subscription forms available from your executive officer.

### BADGES.

Our editor is the man to ask about badges these are available at \$1-25c each.

### EXCURSION REPORT.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March, our very first excursion four members and families, meet at Forth Hotel car park, then travelled to Wilmot River, at bottom of Gentle Annie Hill, the picnic ground is an ideal spot for all the family to enjoy an outing, the water varies from 12cm to about 3 metres with rocks and stones for everyone to look under and find worms, shrimps, water spiders and other freshwater life. Also lots of shallows to wade in, which we all took to like a lot of small kids let loose and everyone enjoyed themselves. We started off in search of fish, plants and other freshwater life.

Blair found a water spider, Peter took some photo's of it, then we cornered some Galaxias which played dead, but Pamela got into a net, this was our first Galaxias, As we worked about came across some

SPAWNING THE MELONOTAENIA TRIFASCIATAS. Spawning the Melonotaenia Trifasciata is relatively simple I obtained the fish when they were only small and put them in my 5 foot tank with African Cichlids as I had read they liked alkaline water of 7.2.

They were fed on a variety of frozen foods and flake foods.

They are not fussy eaters but they are a heavy feeder, it did not take them long to grow to adult size.

I noticed one night that the pair were behaving strangely and all the other fish were following them around.

On closer observation I found they were spawning.

The colour of the male was a brilliant orange with a thick black line down his middle.

I immediately did a P.H. test and a Hardness test, the P.H. was 6.9, it had dropped from 7.2 to 6.9 over a period of time as more fish were added, also use an undergravel filter which I find turns the water slightly acid. The hardness was 210 ppm and the temperature 24c.

That night I stayed up late preparing a separate tank for the pair, it was a 45 litre with gravel, I adjusted the P.H. to 6.9 and the hardness and temperature to the same as their permanent tank.

The next night I transferred them to the breeding tank, also put in a few plants for the female to rest in as the male is quite an aggressive breeder.

On the second day the eggs were visible on the plants, I left the fish in the tank for a further three days during which time they continued to spawn.

They did not eat the eggs nor did they eat any food, for the three days. I only removed them after the three days as the female was starting to look quite haggard.

The eggs started hatching after seven days, then started to feeding them solely on liquid fry for the first week, then I put them on microworms, they grew quickly with no noticeable losses.

There was about 150 to 200 baby fish.

After 1½ months they were a reasonable size at which time I gave them away to anyone who showed the slightest interest in them as I did not have the room to grow them to full size.

-Ross Bebbington.

### E.R.A.T.A.

Those of us that have the fish can attest to their health and growth.

Excellent article Ross well done.

-Two Finger Mac.

## FEEDING NATIVES

### WHITE WORMS.

This is how I have my culture of white worms going a polystyrene fish box with lid on, potting mix plus a large handful of shellgrit mixed thoroughly together, dampen down with water until moist but not wet.

Place culture of white worms on top of this then feed with white bread soaked in milk, then place a piece of glass on the bread, now you have your white worms on the way. When feeding to fish only every third day or twice a week at the most as the white worms are a fatty food and too much will harm your fish.

-Kathy Butler.

## C.N. CONT.

water plants which Kathy collected, by this time Alan and Blair had cornered some more Galaxias and were calling for some smaller nets, we all converged on them, here again Pamela was lucky this was two Pamela and nil everyone else.

Now we adjourned for our picnic, the area has lots of parking and tables all around, is a good place to watch the birds and other life in their own environment as there is lots of trees around this area.

While eating also decided to change our collecting area, this time we made our way to River Deen, here we got permission from the Landowner to net a dam at River Deen, is about 60 metres above the Forth Wier, not sure of water depth in the dam, there was a lot mud in water, as the owner had been doing some work further up the creek, otherwise the sides are quite steep, everyone has to be careful around the sides as they are soft where cattle have used this area for drinking, as well lots of plants grow around it. This area has not a lot of parking to be found only suitable for about two or three cars, also only suitable as a stop off on way home after a trip else where. Here everyone's luck changed we just kept on getting some in the nets each time we cast.

Our final total was around 30 fish 3 Spotted Galaxias, the rest Common Jolly-tail.

This was a successful days outing and enjoyed by everyone that participated, so next time we hope to have a larger group of members to take part in the trip, so please get making your nets and get other items together to make a great trip for all to enjoy as much as

## LAST MEETING

The last meeting was put back from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> February to coincide with the arrival from Queensland of our fish.

Item

1. Treasurers report \$22-39c bank balance and new member \$10-00 Total \$32-39c.
2. Club Officers to stay as is for 1987.
3. Articles for next newsletter by Ross Bebbington and Blair Agar.
4. First collecting trip organised for 2<sup>nd</sup> March, long weekend.
4. New member Peter Tonnelly gave us some valuable information on Taspa, National Parks and Wildlife Service. Then we all took part in raising money to cover freight for Queensland shipment of fish.

In other words we bought and sold the fish, a small profit was realised for our club of \$10-25c.

### NEXT MEETING.

When: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April  
1987 7.30 for 8 pm.

Where: Kathy Butlers  
64 Tasman st,  
Devonport.

What: Slide and talk evening  
By Wayne Fulton.

"ALL VISITORS WELCOME"

Executive Officer:- Kathy Butler  
64 Tasman st, D/port.  
Phone 246670.

Editor:- Alan McColl  
P.O. Box 111 Penguin.  
Phone 252035.

## GOOD NEWS

"Fish sent by our South-East Queensland Compatriots".

As promised a shipment of fish was sent to our club by our Queensland brothers and what a shipment! it was, there were more than 12 different varieties of fish in the shipment, comprising some 130 odd fish all enjoyed their trip, (no losses).

All fish were distributed among club members with everyone happy with the results and after all expense's were met the club funds showed a small but good profit.

On behalf of our Tasmanian Members we would like to thank the following South-East Queensland Club Members.

In particular our thanks to Glen Leiper for organising and sending the fish "W done Glen", and the donors of fish:- Des Hill, Mark Lynch, Monty (Graham Heidke), Jon and Chris Marshal, Bruce Hansen, and last but by no means least Glen Leiper himself.

The above people are responsible for making our club a true "A.N.G.F.A." club, and I am sure we are all looking forward to the day we can reciprocate and send them a shipment of Galaxias and Paragalaxias to widen their range.

## BOOK REVIEW

T WILD BLOODED AUSTRALIANS.

BY Gunther Schmda.

208 pp, Published by Double Day  
Sydney and Auckland, 1985.

This book cover's three animal groups. Reptiles, Amphibians and Fish, shows a good selection of each three.

Both common and latin names are used and are up to date.

The book cover's every Australian State and is divided up into eight sections. The North-East, The Gulf of Carpentaria, The Timor Sea, The Pilbara, The South-West, The South-East, The Murray-Darling, and Central Australia, and covers each section extremely well.

Besides showing Photo's of Australian natives and the Rivers in which they live, they also show Photo's of the other Reptiles and Amphibians that live in the same rivers and streams.

The book also cover things like Evolution of certain fishes for example the blind gudgeon which they think evolved over 5000 years ago and is now living in subterranean water course of the coastal plains.

This book shows several births, one being of the Long fish from egg to larviform then fish, also shows the birth of a Short-tailed Goanna.

It has a very good article on the Saratoga (Scleropages Jardini) which grows to about 90cm and is very territorial fish and much aggression. So in conclusion I would recommend this book for people who like interesting reading at a cost of \$29 to \$30 or can be bought through a book club for \$5 it is well worth the money.

- Blair Agar.

E.R.A.T.A.

The member doing this revue I don't think was aware that Gunther is an ANGFA member of our sister club in Queensland and as some of us already have this book we fully concur with the above statements. 1<sup>st</sup> class effort Blair.

- Two Finger Mac.