



VICTORIA Inc. Regional Group VIC NEWS

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The wonderful world of waterbugs. Priya Crawford-Wilson on Macroinvertebrates



Above: Priya samples the upper Werribee River, a field trip run earlier this year as part of the Melbourne Water Waterwatch Waterbug Weekend. **Below right:** Priya identifies macroinvertebrates using a hand lens. **Photo lower left:** a Damselfly larvae. *Photos: G. Martin*

Meet Priya Crawford-Wilson, Waterwatch Co-ordinator, Customer and Strategy Group from Melbourne Water and our December 2015 presenter.

Priya has experience in environmental education and research across a range of areas and has been involved in promoting Raingardens as part of the Melbourne Water healthy waterways initiative for Darebin. Kwai, John Lenagan, Graham Sexton and I have been in the field with Priya and she knows her stuff!

At our December meeting Priya will present a talk on water bugs, covering some common different groups that one is likely to find and the significance of why some species occur in places where others do not and how this can be used to indicate water quality.



Contents

Page 1	Priya Crawford-Wilson on macroinvertebrates
Page 2	Letter from the editor
Page 2	President's report
Pages 3-9	The Field Trip Files - Upper Diamond Creek, St Andrews.
Pages 10-14	Reflections on the National Convention.
Page 14	Cling Gobies
Pages 15-17	The Field Trip Files - Pappinbarra River, NSW
Page 18	Club Meeting details and key contacts
Page 19	Join ANGFA now and Businesses that support ANGFA VIC

Letter from the editor



November was a big month for field trips! In fact, there were a lot of field trips this year if you include the national convention in October. There will be no field trip over the summer break, hence no advertisement in this edition.

Between the 19th and the 22nd November 2015 Phil Littlejohn and I went to Tasmania, representing ANGFA VIC to volunteer with aquatic fishes and other fauna sampling in the Bob Brown Foundation Tarkine Bioblitz. This was a fantastic trip and I look forward to writing an article to share with you what we saw and found. I didn't have time to get anything finished for this edition.

In regards to networking with Melbourne Water as mentioned by Kwai, we have been making good progress and there looks like being an opportunity for ANGFA VIC to help them with some aquatic site monitoring over the next 12 or so months. We will tell you more when we know more about it.

The upper Diamond Creek was a lovely site to visit. The creek looks to be in good health at that location and the day was very worthwhile.

Glenn Briggs has put together a good wrap of the national convention and there is (effectively) a list of all the speakers with a little blurb about each one.

Lastly, there is a little article about the post convention field trip to the Pappinbarra River, a beautiful river in the dry hinterland to the west of Port Macquarie.

Greg

President's Report December 2015



ANGFA VIC has had another good year in 2015!

Some goals/aims for ANGFA Victoria that were discussed by our committee during the year were:

1. to have a good lineup of speakers organised well in advance; this included being able to afford to fly in a couple of interstate speakers per year if required.
2. to explore the possibility of networking with Melbourne Water and other like-minded organisations, and
3. to begin "giving back" to conservation in some way.

Looking back on the last 12 months, I think we have achieved a lot of the above.

1. Our speakers have been of a high standard during the year and organised (on the whole) well in advance.
2. We have been a part of the Melbourne Water Citizen Science day at the Melbourne Museum. We ran a field trip which was attended by ANGFA and Melbourne water folk (two if you include the one Greg and I attended after our Melbourne Water Waterwatch Waterbug Weekend course) *and*
3. We have contributed some funds to a conservation cause- the plight of the Running River Rainbowfish. Read about it in your December edition of Fishes of Sahul. We plan to contribute smallish amounts to various conservation efforts, carefully chosen by the committee, in the future.

A big thanks to our sponsors this year for donating a major prize to our bi-monthly club raffle. Funds from this and our mini auction enables us to plow money back into our club by bringing you interstate speakers and contributing to worthy conservation causes.

The job of running our club requires a lot of time for the various individuals who are on the committee. As it is all voluntary work and nothing would be done if it weren't for our passion for nature, for fish and for the great group that is ANGFA Victoria, I remind everyone that if you have some spare energy or time and would like to be involved in helping to run our club, speak to myself, Gary, Greg or John Lenagan at a meeting and we'll gladly bring you on board.

Lastly, thank you all ANGFA VIC members for attending our meetings, our field trips where possible and for just being part of our club. Stay safe over the holiday period and have a happy Christmas!

See you at the next meeting Friday 4th December!

Kwai

The Field Trip Files: Upper Diamond Creek St Andrews/Kinglake 14th November 2015



The upper Diamond Creek at Ninks Road is quite small and flows through a valley dominated by tall Manna Gums *Eucalyptus viminalis* with an understory of wattles and tree ferns. Some parts of this valley, the wettest areas, provided a refuge for Lyrebirds during the Black Saturday firestorms. *Photo: Greg Martin*

By Greg Martin

When John Cousins, Kwai and I represented ANGFA VIC at the Melbourne Water Citizen Science Day at Melbourne Museum on 30th August 2015 we met a lovely lady called Carol who invited us to hold an ANGFA VIC field trip up her way in St Andrews, adjacent to the Kinglake National Park, at the headwaters of the Diamond Creek, a tributary of the Yarra River.

Kinglake National Park protect the headwaters of the Diamond Creek. This area was so devastated by the Black Saturday fires that one finds it hard to imagine that anything survived, but I had heard from John Coates, who surveyed the same creek about 9 months ago, that there were Galaxias present in this creek but that they carried a heavy Trematode load; possibly indicating some sort of environmental stress. A follow-up visit to check on the condition of these Galaxias was reason enough to check out the area, so we keenly accepted Carol's invitation.

Carol invited Melbourne Water Waterwatch folk to join us on the day to look for macroinvertebrates while we looking for fishes. This valley is very picturesque: tall



An enthusiastic group of fish and Melbourne Water macroinvertebrate people, including Nick Bean, Greg Martin, Christy Bryar, Graham Sexton, Priya Crawford-Wilson and Carol Jadraque. Also present was John Lenagan. *Photo: John Lenagan*



Graham Sexton and Greg check their dip-nets for anything of interest. There were many *Galaxias ornatus* present.

Photo: John Lenagan



Manna Gums are the dominant species of Eucalypt and some bare the scars of recent fire. Many have holes in the trunk which provide excellent habitat for birds; we saw nesting Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Galahs in the trees right above us. Other birds seen and heard

on the day were Gang Gang Cockatoos, Crimson Rosellas, a pair of Spotted Pardalotes, Currawongs and a Whipbird from memory.

The evening prior to the field trip I had driven up to check out the location and to set some baited traps that we would check on the day. I only tried dry cat food as bait but the resulting number of Galaxias found in the traps



This Sulphur-crested Cockatoo was nesting in this hole in a mature Manna Gum adjacent to where we were sampling. There were Galahs nesting in another tree not far from this one.

Photo: John Lenagan

on Saturday indicated that this type of bait works well enough. I also wanted to make sure access to the creek and parking were going to be okay.

The next morning the weather was perfect and a good number of people turned up for our 10am start at the

Continued on page 8...



A panorama shot of the creek showing blackened fallen tree trunks; a reminder of the Black Saturday fires. *Photo: John Lenagan*



Juvenile Ornate Galaxias *Galaxias ornatus*. The large number of juvenile Galaxias caught on the day indicate that there is good recruitment in this creek. *Photo: John Lenagan*



Some of the many *Galaxias ornatus* caught on the day. We didn't observe any fish with signs of Trematodes this time. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Clockwise from top left: Priya sorts macroinvertebrates into ice cube trays as Graham Sexton looks on. Nick Bean photographs macroinvertebrates with an impressive looking camera rig. Carol Jadrque and Graham listen to Priya's explanation of what we found in the creek. John lenagan photographs a Dragonfly larvae which was clearing the area around it by squirting water like a "little jet engine".
Photos: Greg Martin



Portrait of a juvenile *Galaxias ornatus*. Photo: John Lenagan

Photos on this page: different Dragonfly, Damselfly and Stonefly larvae found in the creek on the day.
Photos: John Lenagan



Photo above: a curious looking thing (possibly an egg cluster)





Graham and Greg check the baited trap.

Photo: J. Lenagan.

(inset): This concrete pipe creates an effective barrier to any fish passage upstream, except in a heavy rain event.

Photo: Greg Martin

creek. There is something so rewarding about getting out into the bush: the smells, the sounds and all the wildlife; and this morning was no exception.



Graham, sporting an enormous net, wonders if his net will actually fit in the pool below the "waterfall". Photo: Greg Martin

The first order of the day, after all the introductions, was to check the traps. As hoped for the bait had worked and we had a good number of Galaxias without even getting a dipnet wet. All the Galaxias in the traps were adults up to about 100mm long but when we started dipnetting we discovered that there were also lots of juveniles. This was a good sign as it showed us that the *Galaxias ornatus* are recruiting well at that location.

As Graham and I worked our way upstream Priya raced ahead of us to take her samples from an area as yet undisturbed by our dipnetting activities. When we had collected a good number of Galaxias we stopped to set up the field tank so that everyone could see our catch. Priya set about sorting her catch of macroinvertebrates into like groups to be identified and then logged. Interestingly all the Galaxias we had found were *G. ornatus* and there was no sign of freshwater crayfish or blackfish as I had expected. Maybe a nocturnal survey would turn up Blackfish at this site?



John Lenagan photographs the *Galaxias brevipinnis*.

Photo: Greg Martin

After the photos were taken and the fish returned to the creek and the macroinverts were sorted and logged it was time to check the trap left in a deep hole a km further downstream, so we packed up and relocated.

This second location was just down stream from a bridge where a private road crosses the creek. A concrete pipe carries the creek under the road and there is a pool below the downstream side of the pipe. As there is effectively a waterfall barrier created by the location of the concrete pipe, the adjacent pool held promise as a good collecting spot for fishes trying to get upstream.

As I began to lift the trap out of the water two large fish were immediately seen (and felt) flapping around within the trap. My excitement was palpable as we carefully extracted the fish into a (covered) bucket to be hoisted up to the waiting group standing on the bridge. There was a little confusion amongst the onlookers as to what we had caught; someone said they looked like Trout (!!!!) but it became clear once they were in the field tank (one at a time mind you due to their size) that they *were* in fact, Galaxias.



The biggest of the two *Galaxias brevipinnis*, caught in a baited trap below a “waterfall”. Photo: Greg Martin

As we looked at these fish as we photographed them it became very clear that they weren’t the same species as what we had caught upstream. Tarmo Raadik confirmed that these two were in fact the Broadfinned *Galaxias Galaxias brevipinnis* and a new record for this system.

Finding *Galaxias brevipinnis* in this creek was a good reminder that it is very important to “get out there” as

much as possible to sample our creeks and waterways and log what you find, and thereby contribute to science. What an excellent note to end on after a great day having so much fun! Carol was very happy to hear that the fish she dubbed *Galaxias ninksroadiensis* was a good find and made the day very exciting for everyone.

Thank you Carol for the invite.



The other enormous *Galaxias brevipinnis*, caught in a baited trap below a “waterfall”. Photo: Greg Martin

Reflections on the 2015 ANGFA Convention

Glenn Briggs and Greg Martin



Some of the ANGFA National Convention attendees bidding at the Mega Auction on the Saturday afternoon. *Photo: Greg Martin*

The 2015 ANGFA convention was held over the October 24 -25 weekend at Port Macquarie. For those lucky enough to attend, it was a very enjoyable weekend, both for the array of interesting presentations, and for the opportunity to catch up with old (and new) friends from all over Australia and overseas. A number of ANGFA Victoria members drove or flew to the event, and the overall attendance for the convention was about 85 people, a healthy result considering the event was not held in a capital city.

The convention program followed what is now a fairly standard format: Friday evening was devoted to ANGFA AGM “business” with speeches and updates provided by the ANGFA National Committee, (Ian Baddock president, our own John Lenagan who also doubles as the ANGFA National treasurer), and reports from each of the ANGFA state groups. A brief election was chaired with flair by Bruce Hansen, with the new ANGFA National office bearers being elected/re-elected as follows: Ian Baddock president, John Lenagan treasurer, Michael Jones secretary, Ross Salvato vice-president (the best job according to Bruce as you never have to do anything!)

A highlight of the night was the appointment of ANGFA life memberships to Gunther Schmida and Adrian Tappin for their outstanding contribution to ANGFA over many years. Unfortunately Adrian’s poor health prevented him from being present, but his good mate Adrian Dawson accepted the honour on his behalf.

Franz-Peter Mullenholz (from Germany) had made a special audio-visual presentation for the convention, so eagerly went to show it to us all. He was hoping for better success than the last time a convention was held in Port Macquarie, where he also had prepared a presentation only to be plagued with technical difficulties. Poor Franz-Peter – this time the sound system was not seemingly compatible with his presentation and glitches started to appear! We all felt sorry for him, but he managed to sort out the issues overnight, and successfully

showed his wonderful creation the next day. Happy hour soon followed the AGM and a chance to have a good yak to other attendees.

Saturday:

After the welcoming address from Sue Carson (from Aquasonic - a long standing ANGFA supporter), the convention proper kicked off with Helen Larson talking about a new book she is co-authoring with Doug Hoes and Heiko Bleher: *Goboid Fishes of the World*. This will be a huge identification guide to gobies and gudgeons, and considering Helen’s fantastic knowledge of Gobies, a fantastic book for anyone interested in these fishes. Helen is a great speaker and had plenty of entertaining anecdotes about her life with gobies.

Next speaker was Leo O’Reilly from Queensland, on collecting, keeping and breeding Rhads (Ornate Rainbowfish). Leo has had many years of experience with these lovely fish, and showed many beautiful colour forms that he has come across, as well as some very unusual habitats Wallum Swamp, found on and near Fraser Island, being an example. One of the strangest colour forms was an island population where all the fish have a red scissor-tail pattern in the caudal fin – hopefully one day this fish will be allowed to be collected (it was found during a survey of a national park).

After an update on the Species Maintenance program by Glenn Briggs and Gunther Schmida on his range of photographic books, it was time for a well-earned refreshment break, before Peter Unmack resumed proceedings. Peter will be familiar to many ANGFA Vic members as he has given several presentations at our meetings. Peter’s main interest is biogeography of Australian and NG freshwater fishes, his convention topic was Evolutionary patterns within Blue-eyes. It might sound dull to some, but Peter has become adept at explaining fish genetics overviews in an entertaining and interesting fashion. His talk on the inter-relationships of the various Blue-eyes generated plenty of interest – I’m still coming to grips with his statement “that *Pseudomugil gertrudae* is



This magnificent banner welcomed everyone to the convention room. *Photo: Greg Martin*

probably actually *P. paskai*! Peter also gave an update on the fieldwork he and Mike Hammer had done at the Running River, and how the Burdekin Rainbow is now under threat from translocated Eastern Rainbows.

The next presentation was by Mark Abell from NSW on an overview of Australian Aquatic Flora. Mark showed examples of the wide range of habitats aquatic plants can be found in, and how those habitats often have great seasonal variation. He went through all the plant families with aquatic representation, and showed the many native plants we have that are suitable for aquaria.

After an hour long lunch break (plenty of time to catch up with other attendees!), the final presentation of the day was by Johannes Graf from Germany. Readers of *Fishes of Sahul* will recall a recent article on the collection of the Laser Red Rainbowfish (*Melanotaenia rubrivittata*). Johannes detailed his experiences of travelling to North West Papua with Gary Lange and Dan Dorrity to collect this red-striped “praecox-like” fish. Johannes had used a go-pro camera for most of the trip, so he had extensive video footage of all aspects of the trip: meeting the local people, travelling conditions, the fish collecting and the trials and tribulations of the return trip. Due to

falling river level, they found no waiting boat when they returned to the rendezvous point (it had to move downstream to avoid being beached). So they had to make their way through dense jungle for 5 hours before they finally found the boat! With his relaxed persona, Johannes let the video do much of the “talking”, complemented with his insightful and often quietly amusing commentary. Someone asked him how much the trip would have cost him as \$ per fish – he replied he never wants to think about that (too horrific to consider!), and he tries not to tell his wife!

With Saturdays’ presentations now completed, it was time for the Convention auction. Many items had been donated by ANGFA supporters such as Aqua-One (Kongs), Aquagreen, Aquarium Industries, Aquasonic and Steve Brooks, plus there were many individual members donating items such as aquarium fish, books, and aquatic plants. With about 460 lots to be sold within about 3 hours, Steve Baines and yours truly (GB) had plenty of auctioneer work ahead of us, but we managed to get it all done before the 7pm dinner. Lyn and Lorraine who were recording all the sales did a great job as it was pretty hectic over almost 4 hours! A wide array of fish were auctioned, mostly Blue-eyes and Rainbowfish species. The most frenzied bidding was for NG Blue-eyes, I think the highest sale was 6 *Pseudomugil furcata* (\$135). Our esteemed editor Greg also got into a bidding frenzy for a 950+ page book by the late Bob McDowell on Maori Fishing Techniques. This huge work was completed just before his death, the book was kindly donated by NZ based member Dave Cooper from the Mahurangi Technical Institute. Many other interesting books were also auctioned, including mint condition “blue books” (*Aust Freshwater Fishes* by McDowell & Schmida).

The first day drew to a close with the convention dinner, another great chance to socialise with other native fish aficionados.



Eastern Water Dragons were a constant presence in and around the venue. There was a population living inside the building around the Koi pond and also several living at the marina along the waters edge. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Port Macquarie was a good choice for the convention and for those staying in accommodation along the Hastings River every evening provided an ever-changing picture postcard panorama of life along this beautiful stretch of the river. *Photo: Greg Martin*

Sunday:

Sunday got underway with Culum Brown presenting on “Fish Pain Perception”. Culum has spent the last 20 or so years presenting a good case for fish being “much more intelligent than we give them credit for” – his own words, and in this presentation he asked the question “Do fish feel pain? Culum began by explaining that if one was to lay out the nervous system of a fish and of a human being side by side, it would be hard to tell them apart. Secondly, he told us that measuring pain is very difficult as pain is experienced differently by every single human being and is therefore very hard to quantify. We can observe various signs that indicate if pain is being perceived: recoiling away from a hot object is one example, learning to avoid pain inducing situations is another. Long story short - all the behaviour that humans exhibit in relation to pain fish exhibit also. Conclusion: they most certainly do feel pain. Culum ended with the inferred question “should we therefore modify our behaviour in relation to fish?”

Next we had Franz-Peter Mullenholz speaking about his experiences of travelling Australia with Gunther Schmida. It seems like Franz-Peter almost spends more time in outback Australia than Germany! As always, his travelogue presentation was very professional, with many great or amusing images and interesting stories. Unfortunately on this trip he and Gunther had some major car troubles, but that just added to a good story!

After another delightful morning tea, it was Adrian Dawson’s turn to speak which took the form of a video that he and his wife shot featuring various places of interest around the Coffs Harbour hinterland and coastal streams of Northern NSW and the fishes to be found

there. There were some very funny moments like some footage showing Adrian nearly losing a hand whilst feeding Dave Wilson’s croc, filmed whilst they looked after the Aquagreen concern whilst Dave was away.

Mike Hammer (Curator of Fishes NT Museum) then gave a talk on what is happening in the NT with species discoveries. Mike did a great job giving us an insight into what happens on Bush Blitz field surveys, and showed many interesting discoveries (not just fish – some pretty impressive spiders!), and he gets to go to some very impressive country – lucky fellow!

After another enjoyable lunch, Keith Martin from Cairns gave a very informative talk about various fishes from the wet tropics. Keith covered several different topics: trifasciata rainbows from the Daintree-Cooktown region; the discovery of a new Cairnsichthys from the



The Hastings River looking upstream towards the convention venue Sails. The weather was often unsettled and here you can see a storm rolling in from the south west.

Photo: Greg Martin



Glenn Briggs works his magic selling lots at the Convention Mega Auction, whilst Derrick Gerkin looks on.

Daintree region; Malanda Mayhem – Rainbowfish variation in the Atherton Tablelands, particularly near Malanda; and finally he also spoke about so called cling-gobies in the wet tropics (eg *Stiphodon spp*)

Dr Tony Gill replaced Gary Dunnett who had to pull out of the speaker list. Tony presented on an interesting talk on brackish water fish for the aquarium, a topic not comprehensively covered in mainstream books.

After another enjoyable tea break (need to have some exercise after this weekend!) Dr Basim Alazzawi's presentation was on blind fishes - a little-understood group of nearly 200 species world wide. This was a most interesting and strangely captivating presentation. Amongst many points of interest Basim 'took us to' some extraordinary sites in the Middle East where blind fish have been found; mere holes in the ground, some below sacred Muslim sites that may have already been, or probably will be shortly, destroyed by Isis. His passion and clear-headed story telling made for a riveting presentation as he told us of his adventures finding these fish around the world and his desire to go back to and explore those fast disappearing and most unusual habitats that blind fish inhabit in Iran and Turkey.

The final presentation for the convention was by Johannes Graf. Johannes had explained in his first talk that they had to wait 2 days while their hired boat owner accumulated enough fuel for the 5 hour boat ride to where they would collect the Laser Rainbowfish. (The locals are not allowed to fill up Gerry cans when buying fuel, so they fill up their car, then siphon the fuel out, and go back to refill again and repeat the process until they have enough for their needs!)



Steve Brooks bid for some rare Blue-eyes and set a record for the convention auction: \$135 for 6 *Pseudomugil furcata*.

While waiting for the two days, Johannes and his friends hired a taxi and went to try and collect *Chilatherina alleni* at the type locality. Again Johannes had plenty of go-pro footage during his presentation, so that you got a real feel for the trip. With balding tyres and many other faults, their taxi had seen better days! But they managed to get to their destination, and with the help of some friendly locals, they managed to find the fish they were after. Again not without some mishap – during the fish collecting the taxi driver managed to slip over while holding a machete by the blade, resulting in deep cuts to his fingers out in the middle of the jungle. But it all worked out, and they got the fish back and paid the driver some extra \$ for his misfortune, plus the one day trip ended up turning into an overnight trip. I (GB) have known Johannes for many years via e-mail, so it was a pleasure to finally get to meet him in person. He has a friendly and unassuming manner, and his two presentations were definitely a highlight of the weekend!

The following Monday, we had decided to visit some fish habitats west of Port Macquarie, as I (GB) wanted to collect some *Melanotaenia duboulayi* from the Hastings River system (it's southernmost limit), and we also thought we might find some Riffle Shrimp. We ended up at the Pappinbarra River just west of Wauchope. From the elevated bridge over the river, we could see schools of fish 30 - 40cm long, but couldn't identify them clearly. There were also smaller streamlined silvery fish rising to some bread berley which were probably Freshwater Herring.

After conversing with one of the locals for half an hour who had materialised on an inflatable kayak, she eventually left (not before Kwai had to rescue her Chihuahua pup which had fallen into the river). We could see plenty of small fishes swimming in the clear water: lots of Pacific Blue-eyes, Firetail Gudgeons, the odd juvenile Long-finned Eel and a few small Rainbowfish. The Rainbows proved extremely hard to catch, but we eventually caught a small number. Riffle Shrimps were even harder to find, but Greg and Kwai eventually caught a couple of 5 - 6cm specimens at another spot further upstream.

So the convention drew to a close, thanks to the ANGFA NSW convention organising committee for all their efforts, it was a great weekend!



Three species of Goby now listed as vulnerable, Queensland scientist says.



Orange Cling Goby *Stiphodon rutilaureus*.
Photo: Brendan Ebner

Three species of a fish found in streams in Wet Tropics rainforests are now listed as vulnerable, with another critically endangered, a Far North Queensland scientist says.

Dr Brendan Ebner, from the CSIRO, said habitat loss was the biggest threat, particularly for the critically endangered Opal Cling Goby.

Three of its relatives — the Birdsong Cling Goby, the Emerald Cling Goby and the Orange Cling Goby — were last week listed as vulnerable in the lead-up to today's National Threatened Species Day.

"They're a stunning thing and we'd be hoping in time that they become a little bit of a focal species for the Wet Tropics region, that we can sort of rally behind in terms of making sure that we're using our rivers and streams in a sustainable way," he said.

Opal Cling Gobies are one of a group of 10 Cling Goby species found in the region.

Dr Ebner said making the critically endangered Opal Cling Goby an iconic animal in the region would help ensure its survival. He said all of the fish were dependent on the protection of small rainforest streams that lead to the Coral Sea.

"They spend pretty much their whole life in the stream where they grow and live most of their life," he said.

"Then the male starts to turn on some really beautiful colours and attracts a female in."

"They lay their eggs under rocks in fast flowing areas [and] after a few days the eggs will hatch and within 24 hours they'll be straight out to the ocean like a water slide."

By Renee Cluff
4 Sep 2015
ABC News

Photo to left: Male and female Opal Cling Gobies, *Stiphodon semoni*, from Goodenough Island, Papua New Guinea.
Photo: Gerald R. Allen.

The Field Trip Files: Riffle Shrimp and the Pappinbarra River post convention Monday, 26th October 2015



John Lenagan and Glenn Briggs look for signs of fish in the Pappinbarra River well upstream of Beechwood whilst Kwai gets straight into it in the background. *Photo: Greg Martin*



The Pappinbarra River, a tributary of the Hastings River, lies to the west of Wauchope in the hinterland above Port Macquarie. As this river contains the southern most population of *Melanotaenia duboulayi* and also contains *Pseudomugil signifer* and Riffle Shrimp *Australatya striolata*, it was chosen by Glenn Briggs as a good location for our end of convention field trip.

Attendees of the Monday field trip split into three groups: one lot going with Peter Unmack, one group going with Rodney Wubbin and then there was Glenn and Jen Briggs, John Lenagan, Keith Martin, Kwai and Connie and I who headed out to the Pappinbarra. Glenn was keen to get some *M. duboulayi* and I was keen to find some Riffle Shrimp, something I had never seen in the wild.

We stopped at a couple of sites along the way, one being Mortons Creek where we found only a few Rainbows, and then at the first crossing of the Pappinbarra road across the Pappinbarra River. The second site didn't

Photo to left: Jenny Briggs shows Connie how to identify the Rainbowfish from the Empire Gudgeons which had been attracted to the bread she had thrown into the water above the Glenn's waiting net. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Glenn quietly coaxes Rainbowfish into his square net using a dip net. Such a patient man. *Photo: Greg Martin*

produce many fish - only light entertainment for Jenny Briggs, Connie and I watching from the bridge as a local woman took a keen interest in what Glenn, John and Kwai were doing in “her” river. She was canoeing with her Chihuahua which lept out into the water only to be caught by Kwai in a net! This was where we stopped for lunch and



Glenn checking the net. There were lots of Empire Gudgeons *Hypseleotris compressa* (not showing much colour) and Pacific Blue-eyes *Pseudomugil signifer* but only a few *Melanotaenia duboulayi*. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Glenn herds Rainbowfish into his square net. *Photo: Greg Martin*



Most of the Riffle Shrimp came from below this small waterfall.

Photo: Greg Martin

whilst Kwai and I began the hunt for Riffle Shrimp. John Lenagan went his own way chasing birds to photograph. Connie, Jenny and Keith watched from the bank.

At first there was little luck with finding Riffle Shrimp but before long (a nearly naked) Kwai had found three beautiful specimens. Glenn had caught what he wanted and the others were calling for us to “wrap it up!”

Kwai moving rocks around in order to flush out Riffle Shrimp. This technique worked well and within a relatively short period of time he had three magnificent specimens!

Photo: Greg Martin

Jenny regaled us with stories of bee keeping, having been reminded that she had bees by a couple of hives up the road from where we sat eating.

After lunch we proceeded further up the road to a more remote part of the river. This location looked pretty undisturbed, pristine and had signs of the huge flood events that must occur each year; fallen trees and debris banked up against still standing trees. Glenn proceeded to investigate what might be present in this part of the river-

When we returned to Port Macquarie we learned that Peter Unmack’s group had caught “hundreds” of Riffle Shrimp and that Rodney Wubbin, who had gone north to fish in the Coffs Harbour hinterland, had had no luck at all. Perhaps the fact that we had difficulty in finding our Riffle Shrimp, meant they would remain special to me.



The prize: three Riffle Shrimp. Such an amazing animal and pretty too. *Photo: Greg Martin*

Club Meeting Details and the ANGFA VIC Trade Table

General Meetings:

ANGFA Victoria's meetings are held on the first Friday of every second month starting the year in Feb, at The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria which is situated at 1 Gardenia Street Blackburn. (Melways map 47 K11). Doors open at 7:30pm. Meetings start at 8.15pm sharp and aim to be finished by 10pm, followed by supper.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Friday 4th December 2015

Friday 5th February 2016

ANGFA Vic Committee Meetings:

Venues: To be announced. Contact Kwai Chang Kum if you would like to be further involved (0430 434 488).

Trading Table

Any financial ANGFA member who has fish, plants or live food that they would like to sell is invited to bring their goods to the trade table. All items being presented for sale must be clearly marked: fish showing species name and location if applicable and plants identified by species. Goods will be accepted prior to 7.45pm and the Trading Table will operate between 7.45 and 8.15pm.

New items now available on the Trade Table from the 'ANGFA SHOP' include airline, valves, nets, fish-food, fish bags and more.

Other Fish Groups in VIC

EDAS

Meets last Friday of the month starting Jan.
Contact: Daryl Maddock (03) 9874 1850

EDAS Plant Study Group

Meets Second Friday of the month (at various members' homes).
Contact: Eddie Tootell (03) 9337 6435 (a.h.)

Aquarium Society of Victoria (AS of V)

Meets last Friday of the month, alternating with EDAS.
Contact: Daryl Maddock (03) 9874 1850

Marine Aquarium Society of Victoria

Contact: MASOV (03) 9830 6073.

Victorian Cichlid Society

Meets first Wednesday of the month.
Contact: Graham Rowe (03) 9560 7472.

ANGFA Vic key contacts



President: Kwai Chang Kum
Phone: 0430 434 488



Treasurer: John Lenagan
Phone: 0413 730 414



Secretary: Glenn Briggs
Phone: 0408 771 544



Vice President and Membership Officer: Gary Moores
email: kathmoores@yahoo.com.au



VICNews: Greg Martin
Phone: 0407 094 313
email: greg@aquariumsbydesign.com.au



ANGFA Vic Website: Lyndon Giles
email: webmaster@angfavic.org

Postal Mail to:

ANGFA Victoria

P.O. Box 298 Chirnside Park, Victoria. 3116.

ANGFA National Website: www.angfa.org.au

ANGFA Vic Website: www.angfavic.org

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If you want to use snail mail and pay by cheque, print out the form below, fill out your details and send it to: ANGFA Victoria, P.O.Box 298, Chirnside Park. Vic. 3116

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To the Treasurer, ANGFA Victoria, Please accept my application for membership to ANGFA Victoria.

(Please print)

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Phone Bus

A/H:.....

1. I enclose \$45 for my ANGFA Membership which includes digital copies of Fishes of Sahul (FOS), VICNews and the ANGFA NSW magazine.
2. I enclose \$65 (in total) to get a printed copy of each edition of FOS this subscription year, as well as the above items.

Forward application and cheque to: ANGFA Victoria, P.O.Box 298, Chirnside Park. Vic. 3116.

**Businesses who support
ANGFA Victoria**

The businesses listed below actively promote Australian Native Fishes by making native fishes available in the aquarium trade.

ANGFA suggests that members show their appreciation by supporting these businesses.

Amazing Amazon

Paul and Ben

365 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley

Phone: (03) 9545 0000

www.amazingamazon.com.au

Aquagreen

Dave Wilson

Phone: (08) 8983 1483

aqua.green@bigpond.com

Aquariums By Design

Greg Martin

Phone: 0407 094 313

greg@aquariumsbydesign.com.au

Coburg Aquarium

Greg Kirby

Phone: (03) 9354 5843

232-236 Bell Street, Coburg

www.coburgaquarium.com.au

Exotic Aquatic

Adrian

300a Neerim Road, Carnegie

Phone: (03) 9079 3899

www.exoticaquatic.com.au

Subscape Aquarium

Justin & Kim

Phone: (03) 9427 0050

310/312 Victoria Street, Richmond

Upmarket Aquarium

Greg Kirby

Phone: (03) 9600 9051

442 Queen Street, Melbourne

Victorian Reptile supplies

Adam

Phone: (03) 8742 1283

6/75-85 Elm Park Drive, Hoppers Crossing