

Victorian Cichlid Society Incorporated

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CONTENTS

Why is it so? - By Peter Robinson	2
ROAR Cichlid - By Graham Rowe	4
Rowemin'round - By Graham Rowe.....	6
The fish I keep - By Peter Robinson.....	8
Mr. Peter Garrett MP - By Daryl Hutchins.....	10
Lepidiolamprologus hecqui - By Peter Robinson.....	12
Neolamprologus Magarae, Calliurus - By Scott Haymes.....	14
Cichlid Profiles Page (VCS Website) - By Daryl Hutchins.....	16
Prez's PONDerings - By Peter Robinson.....	18

THE NEXT MEETING of the Society, will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 8 pm sharp at the Oakleigh Centre, 773 Warrigal Road, Oakleigh.

Visitors are encouraged to come along and join in.

Fish of the Day:

Main Talk:

Mini Talk:

Door Prizes:

Draw Prizes:

- 1st.
- 2nd.
- 3rd.

Visitors are encouraged to come along and join in.

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NB: Please note that the opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and are not necessarily those of the Editor of TCM or the Committee of the Victorian Cichlid Society Inc. Write to, or e-mail the Editor on any subject raised herein.

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COVER PICTURE:

Cyphotilapia Gibberosa "Blue Zaire - Moba" (Wild Caught)
 Supplied and photographed by Debra Dickson (VCS Librarian)
www.cichlids.net.au

Why is it so?

by Peter Robinson

Why is it that when we attend a fish auction it is impossible not to purchase something be it plants or fish? I go along with the best intentions not to spend any money but every time I end up coming home with many bags of goodies. Is it because the items are cheaper than retail prices asked by the aquarium retail establishments or is it that one gets caught up in the vibes of the day?

Is it the fact that many people are bidding on the goods causes a copycat response or do we subconsciously desire to buy the items? I can't answer the questions and I wonder if anyone can. Maybe I need to visit a psychologist or a psychiatrist to unravel this strange behaviour. It seems to influence us all and after the day is over one is left slightly mystified and a tad embarrassed as you struggle home-wards bearing your latest acquisitions.

You arrive home and then wonder just where you can house these new fish and plants, a quandary that must be

solved as you float fish bags in various tanks to keep them warm while you frantically begin acclimatizing your new finny friends. It is especially difficult if like me you only have 5 tanks to house them, although one of these had been recommissioned after being left empty of water for some years and had been flushed out to remove the dust of ages that had settled in it since the water was drained away. It was filled with water from other operating tanks to establish bacteria quickly and a large sponge filter that I'd removed from another operating tank to assist the under gravel filter that was already in the tank.

The 5th tank, a 24x12x12 inch, was set up specifically to house a new pair of *Nannochromis nudiaceps* that Ernie brought along for me after I lost the original pair I bought at our auction. The original pair passed away one after 3 days and the second after a week, nothing visible to explain why and I really wanted to get another pair to attempt to breed these beautiful African dwarfs. Trouble was Ernie brought 2 pairs and I being me couldn't just purchase one pair, no I had to buy both. The second pair had to go

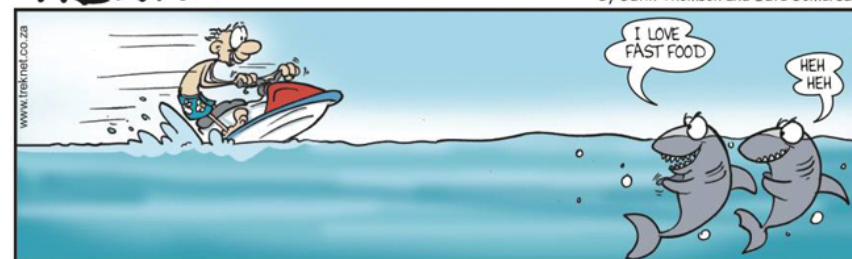
Aims of the Society:

The Victorian Cichlid Society was formed by cichlidophiles in March 1972, thus becoming the first specialist aquarist group in Victoria. Its main aims are:

1. To promote the keeping of cichlids;
2. To gain and disseminate knowledge of cichlids, their habits and attributes through the use of slides, films, books, lectures, practical demonstrations, local and overseas magazines, articles by members and discussions with fellow members or experts in the field;
3. To assist, in any way possible, the establishment and/or maintenance of approved public aquaria;
4. To be involved in the education of the general public with regard to the benefits of fishkeeping (particularly cichlids), and the potentially harmful effects of animal mismanagement;
5. To promote fellowship between members;
6. To further the conservation of species and their natural habitats;

TREK NET

By Gavin Thomson and Dave Gomersall



into the original 43x18x18inch tank that housed the original pair that passed away, now 7 days have passed and they are still alive and well, so it wasn't the tank that caused their demise.

Of course I also purchased some necessary dither fish, platies for the nudicep's tank, which the male loves to chase, and some black line tetras to go into the *Nannochromis transvestitus* tank to hopefully reduce the aggression between the pair. I swapped my original imported male with Cuz for one of his locally bred boys, as my female seemed to hate him and kept him pinned in the top corner of their tank, funny thing though the boot is on the other foot now, the new lad is giving her a hard time and the tetras haven't made any difference to the aggression. It is really strange as both pairs of nudiceps get on like a house on fire yet their cousins the transvestitus seem to be much more aggressive towards one another. I seem to remember this was also the rule way back in the 1990's when I kept them before and never succeeded in spawning them, let's hope this time I can coax them to breed as they are as scarce as hen's teeth and the new fresh bloodline will hopefully improve the longevity of the species.

Plants are no great hassle when you

buy them at auctions, you can always find some room in a tank to plant them, and of course my young *Amphiacanthoides uaru* delight in eating them, Anubias and Java Fern usually not touched by fish soon vanish into the always hungry tummies of uaru. I picked up 2 massive Bolbitus Ferns, a plant I've always loved but never been able to grow, cross fingers these being large may survive and flourish.

Of course there is sometimes a downer, I purchased a supposedly new Pro Aqua internal power filter and when I got it home found that the plate with the suction cups that position the filter to the tank glass was missing. It pays to check things after you buy them and if there is a problem let the club know before leaving the hall. Once you take the goods home it is too late to complain.

All told auctions are lots of fun, things are generally cheap, which makes them hard to resist no matter how steely your resolve or how tight you clench your wallet and teeth. I've resolved from now on I won't take any money with me maybe that will put the brakes on, only joking folks. ROLL ON OCTOBER the 2nd I can't wait to resist purchasing anything.

ROAR Cichlid

By Graham Rowe.

A comment by the Urinator at the last Committee meeting awakened a memory of times long gone. He commented on the Breeders Achievement Program reports in some Overseas Exchange magazines that I had mentioned in Rowemin' 'round.

It triggered a memory of my continuous comment in my writings in early editions of The Cichlid Monthly.

I suggested to members that they ROAR cichlid. This was not a plea for members to harass colleagues at the water cooler, at the pub, at the footy, at social gatherings on the train on the way to work or wherever there was a potential audience. I didn't want to be sued for hospital bills for wounded members. It was a lot easier than that

It was a suggestion to help members have success in keeping species they hadn't kept before..

R stood for Read.

Before they bought the wanted fish they should read everything they could find on the target species. This meant borrowing books from Libraries; Society, School, Public or Friends, even buying a book if there was one available. Reading Aquarium magazines again from whichever source you had available. Now of course it would include the Internet.

O stood for Observe.

here I suggested that the member observed the behaviour of the species in mate's tanks, in Aquarium tanks and after purchasing your prize in your tank.

A stood for Adapt.

After observing your new purchase closely, you may have noticed something that the species didn't like so you would adapt your techniques to make them happier. Naturally this was not necessary on all occasions. Remember the old adage "If it ain't broke don't fix it."

R stood for Record.

After having done all this work to achieve success, then you should record a summary of your efforts as it may be some time before you kept that species again and as the next purchases may require different conditions it is human to forget exactly what was required and it would be expensive and embarrassing to lose this species after your earlier success. It was much simpler to refer to your records to refresh your memory.

A bonus of course was that you had the kernel of an article to hand to the Editor so that other members could include your article in their reading when they purchased that species. As it was local knowledge and local conditions it would be even more beneficial to your grateful fellow members.


Maybe it is still very relevant and members may even now benefit from ROARing Cichlid.

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is now on-line.



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HomeShow 2010

27th June

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ROWEMIN' 'ROUND

By
Graham Rowe



I don't know whether it's the ongoing disruption to airline schedules or a worldwide case of writer's block but there are a very limited number of invitations this month. We have determined that the magic carpet suffered no permanent damage from the ash cloud so we are to fly as soon as we get invitations.

Our only invitation is contained in the May issue of New Zealand Aquarium World, the magazine of the Federation of New Zealand Aquatic Societies. Tanya Rowe of Kapi-Mana Aquarium Club records her successful efforts at Raising Apistogramma Eunotus Fry. She is observing the parents closely to hopefully see the actual courting and spawning behaviour in the near future.

Caryl Simpson reports on an email she received from Dominique Hawkinkeis who informed her that he had developed a severe reaction to feeding frozen and freeze dried bloodworms. She then surfed the web

and in Allergic to Fish Food? reports on some reactions that hobbyists had posted. One person almost died, collapsing in a hospital emergency ward after a desperate dash by her concerned husband. Her oxygen level hit the twenties and her blood pressure had spiked at 212 over 145. She has eliminated bloodworms from her fishes diet.

This is just a timely warning to those who believe they are suffering from one or a combination of these complaints: hayfever, itchiness of the hands, runny nose, conjunctivitis or breathlessness and difficulty swallowing to check with your doctor to see if bloodworms are the culprit. The sites

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Caryl listed as having surfed are www.myfishtank.net, www.aquarist-classified.co.uk and www.guppies. I'm sure that regular web surfers could find a number of other references if they are interested.

An uncredited report is helpful to get us thinking of the welfare of our finny friends.

It is titled; 10 Reasons Why Fish Go Belly-up.

Perhaps aquarists will stop worrying about violence in our streets and those of Bangkok, volcanic ash clouds electioneering and focus on fish keeping and make their Editors work happily.

Until next trip.

Graham.



(Don't forget the 2010 Elaine Turner Memorial)

AUSTRALIAN & NEW GUINEA FISHES ASSOCIATION



Meets bi-monthly at the
Field Naturalist Club,
1 Gardenia St, Blackburn.

Call:
John Cousins: 9844 1245 (AH)

AQUARIUM SOCIETY OF VICTORIA



Meets on the last Thursday
of the month at
29 Grant Street, Clifton Hill.

Call:
Daryl Maddock: 9874 1850.

EASTERN DISTRICTS AQUARIUM SOCIETY



Meets on the 4th Friday of the month
at Nunawading Civic Centre, White-
horse Road, Nunawading.

PO Box 3005, Nunawading 3131

NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN KILLFISH ASSOCIATION



Meets Bi-monthly
in members' homes.

Call:
Emma Jenkin 9442 3408.

The Fish I Keep

A monthly feature,
for our members.

By Peter Robinson

As everyone knows I love my New World Cichlids but I also like substrate spawning Africans, most mouth brooders leave me cold. It is supposedly true that mouth brooding is more advanced than laying adhesive eggs on a surface and looking after them and then looking after the fry when hatched for extended periods. Maybe it is true but I'm adamant that it takes a lot more intelligence to do it the old fashioned way. Watching parents and fry bonding and learning about life is something impossible to forget.

Due to being on the pension my ability to afford the electricity to operate a large number of tanks has limited me greatly, I have many tanks that were in service until it was no longer possible to run them. I closed everything down and they have been empty for more than 5 years until around 12 months ago

I obtained some Steatochromis Tinanti's from Aussie M and that started the incurable virus surging through my system once again.

Since that fateful day the number of tanks has slowly begun to multiply, let's face it, I needed fish to enter in the VCS table show, plus I'm very close to obtaining my 125 species bred so I have 2 incentives urging me on. I'm dreading receiving my next power bill, who knows it may force me to close up most of the tanks once more, the way the cost of electricity keeps increasing and who knows what the 'smart meters' will do; one can bet they won't be for us, the consumer's benefit.

So for now I'll list my finny friends.

1. Uaru Amphiacanthoides.
2. Acarichthys Heckeli
3. Microgeophagus Altispinosa
4. Pelvicachromis Subocellatus 'Matadi'
5. Nanochromis Nudiceps (2 pairs)
6. Nanochromis Transvestitus
7. Neolamprologus Leleupi
8. Cryptoheros Spilurus
9. Labidochromis Hongi (2xM 2xF)
10. Bristlenose Marble 4
11. Bristlenose Gold (1 pr)
12. Corydoras 3
13. Platys Wagtail 4 (dither fish)
14. Blackline Tetras 6 (dither fish)



As you can see the fish are mainly substrate spawners, both Old and New World except for the hongis, which I bought at our auction on the spur of the moment and in a flash of temporary insanity. Still I've never spawned hongis so it will be interesting and they are a little different to a blue or yellow blob.

(Chortle, Gurgle, Gasp, suppressed laughter)

Nanochromis Transvestitus male



VCS Calendar 2010

All General Meetings at the Oakleigh Centre,
773 Warrigal Road, Oakleigh

General	Committee	Note
Jan	n/a	tba
Feb	3	Fri 12/2
Mar	3	Fri 12/3
Apr	10*	Fri 18/4 Auction
May	5	Fri 14/5 Home Show 29/5
Jun	2	Fri 11/6
Jul	7	Fri 16/7
Aug	4	Fri 13/8 Annual Dinner, tba
Sep	1	Fri 10/9 Art & Photographic Comp
Oct	2*	Fri 10/10 Auction. VHS deadline, Fri 10/10
Nov	3	Fri 12/11
Dec	1	n/a Annual General Meeting

See the VCS Calendar online, victoriancichlidsociety.yuku.com, for more details or discussion.

*Auctions: Mulgrave Neighbourhood House,
Wellington Reserve, 36-42 Mackle Road, Mulgrave

TABLE SHOWS

Any cichlid species can be entered at any General Meeting except June (Dwarfs) and August (Pairs).

To: **Mr Peter Garrett MP**,
Minister for DEWHA,
PO Box 6022, Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT, 2600.
peter.garrett.mp@aph.gov.au

Re: Australian National Noxious List

Dear Sir,

It has been brought to my attention that your department intends to place many of the fish species currently on the National Grey List into the category of Noxious, an action which I strongly oppose.

You need to be made aware of the very large number of retailers, hobbyists and members of aquarium societies who will be adversely affected by these measures recommended on the basis of faulty "science" that is an international embarrassment,

The proposed extension of the Noxious List will include many widely owned aquarium species that have been in this country for many decades and have never caused problems here. Many hobbyists have, quite legally, invested much time (in many cases, a lifetime) and considerable finances in their hobby. Your proposals would wipe out this effort and investment overnight without compensation and quite possibly make instant criminals of many. Not to mention the instant Black Market that could also be created.

I hasten to add that this criminality would be the possession of noxious fishes that were previously much-loved pets. Whenever this sort of discussion comes up, the proposal arises that people are going to rush to the nearest river/lake and release their now-illegal fishes. I do not believe that this would, or, has ever happened. It is simply a myth used to bolster (usually authorities') arguments. Aquarium hobbyists are far too conscious of our natural environment to deliberately vandalise it. Historically, governments have far more to answer for than hobbyists with regard to biological pollution.

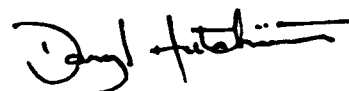
If genuine scientific methods were applied to the classification of fishes being considered for the Noxious List, rather than the ad-hoc methods (and obvious agenda) currently being employed, you would not be receiving this communication. If nothing else, proper science and some common sense need to be brought to the process of classification of fishes for both the Noxious and Allowable Import lists.

The regulation of aquarium fishes has been "fiddled with" in fits and starts for more than 30 years to my knowledge. Why it never seems to get anywhere is a mystery to me, but this latest process could almost be described as clandestine. Why do the current authorities find it necessary to have secrets? This process should be 101% public, accepting input from, and disseminating information to all interested parties. It is not.

Aquarium hobbyists and retailers used to have a representative in the process, Mr Norm Halliwell. He was removed from the committee for distributing proposals that were later claimed to be "confidential". He was not the only one to distribute this "confidential" information, but he was the only one removed. I am well aware that Mr Halliwell might be a challenge to some, but adults and professionals should be able to cope. His removal leaves hobbyists with no representation or channel of communication whatsoever. This is totally unsatisfactory.

I urge you to take a far more considered, balanced, and informed approach to this issue and allow Norm Halliwell to represent my interests and those of other hobbyists in all future TWG meetings.

Yours Sincerely,



Daryl Hutchins

Lepidiolamprologus hecqui,

a Fish by Any Other Name

By Peter Robinson

THIS fish has, I believe, caused some confusion in the past and again in the present. I purchased five of these interesting fish under the name of *Neolamprologus meeli* after they were imported from Germany. I then checked the fish out in 'The Complete book of Dwarf Cichlids' by Richter, the fish was fish listed there as *N. meeli*. I then checked out *N. meeli* in Ad Konings' new book 'Tanganyikan Cichlids in Their Natural Habitat', only to find that the fish known as *N. meeli* looked nothing like the fish I had purchased. My fish looked identical to *Lepidiolamprologus hecqui* as shown on page 213.

I placed the fish in a divided 48"x 18"x 18" tank with an undergravel filter, a liberal amount of shellgrit was mixed with the gravel to help maintain the pH at 7.8 and the hardness at 400 ppm. I also used one teaspoon of water conditioner to five litres of water, this is double the recommended

amount. Ten Mystery Snail shells were placed in the tank for the fish to live in and hopefully spawn in.

It soon became obvious that there was a dominant male in the group, he immediately began ruling the tank and driving the other male into the upper area of the tank. He also seemed to be favouring one particular female and sent the other two to the back of the tank. Sexing these fish is not easy as the only difference I can see is that the male is slightly larger and more robust in build.

Feeding these fish was simple, within a day all of them were eagerly snapping-up live brineshrimp, daphnia, live black worms and frozen bloodworms as well as flake food.

After seven days I noticed that one of the females, the one preferred by the male as mentioned earlier, was only leaving her shell to feed. She would then immediately return to her shell while the male was obviously guarding the territory around her and

keeping all the other fish in the rear areas of the tank. This behavior continued for around 14 days. Then after feeding brineshrimp one morning I thought I saw some brineshrimp already in the tank.

On donning my glasses I was overjoyed to see about 30 fry. They were about 3 mm in length hovering just above the gravel, they were very difficult to see as they blended with the color of the gravel. The fry were very slender in comparison to most Cichlids that I have spawned before, in fact they are very distinctive.

The fry were a nondescript beige color which, as I said, blended into the gravel to make them invisible when they dropped onto the gravel when frightened.

The fry at first appeared unable to eat newly hatched brineshrimp so I began feeding them microworms which they seemed to relish as their tiny stomachs soon rounded out after feeding. I kept feeding microworms to them for seven days then tried baby brineshrimp again. This time it was successful and the fry, which had grown to about 4 mm, could be seen hunting down the shrimp and you could see their stomachs swelling as they snapped them up.

After four weeks the fry have at least doubled in size and are now starting to display their parents' characteristic dark-brown blotches. In comparison to the other shell-dwellers I have in my fish room, *Neolamprologus multifasciatus*, these fry grow much faster even though the adults are only about twice the size of *multifasciatus*.

At the time of writing this article I have noticed that two other females have taken up residence in shells. So I

am eagerly awaiting the passage of the 14 days to see if some additional batches of these interesting, blue-eyed dwarfs are going to appear.

The day after typing the above I went out to feed the fish when lo and behold a further 30-odd little *hecqui* have been added to the world population. Now the fun has begun with two brooding females daring one another to cross an invisible territorial boundary. I have even observed the two girls jaw-locking. I now have to feed live baby brineshrimp to the older fry while feeding microworms to the new batch.

A further interesting behavioural pattern I have observed is the dominant male and both brooding females "helicoptering" in an identical way to that usually only seen in dwarf South Americans (eg: *Apistogrammas*). This is seen as the fish holding its body at 45 degree angle with all fins fully extended while propelling itself slowly with a head-down attitude. I have never seen such behavior in an African Rift Lake Cichlid before. This is a definite threat posture because if the fish being treated to this display does not depart the area it is then chased rapidly out of the territory.

All told these fish, although small, are a very interesting species if one observes the interaction that occurs in their aquatic world and I can highly recommend them, even though they have only been in my possession for a very short time.

REFERENCES:

'Complete Book of Dwarf Cichlids', Richter.

'Tanganyika Cichlids in Their Natural Habitat', Ad Konings.



Neolamprologus Magarae,

Calliurus

By Scott Haymes

I HAVE to start with the first time that I saw a photograph of this miniature, subtle beauty - it was at a VCS general meeting. The main talk was on new species of fish. The VCS had just acquired a set of American Cichlid Association (ACA) slides, and two of these slides were shell-dwellers. One was *Lamprologus ocellatus*; the other was the (then) *Lamprologus* sp. *Magarae*. But, according to Ad Konings, in his book 'Tanganyika Cichlids' (published in 1996) this fish is incorrectly named and should be called *Neolamprologus calliurus* (Boulenger 1906). So for the rest of this article, I will refer to this fish as *Neolamprologus calliurus*.

This fish is found in many locations throughout Lake Tanganyika - Cape Magara, Cameron Bay, Moliro Bay, Cape Chaitika, to name a few. From the moment that I saw the ACA slides I had to have these fish to add to my collection of dwarf cichlids, then comprised of *Julidochromis marlieri*, *Julidochromis regani*, Princesses, *Chalinochromis brichardi*, *Kribensis* and *Jewel Cichlids*. At the time, not a bad collection of fish. But these shell-dwellers were so different.

I finally got two pairs of *Neolamprologus calliurus* from All Aquarium and Pet Supplies that had just come in from Germany. My eyes nearly dropped out of my head when I saw these little fish fly into the Mystery Snail shells and completely disappear if you got too close to the tank. If you sat still long enough, they slowly backed-out again. The males were about 15 mm long and the females about 10 mm. I was guessing of course, as they were too young to sex.

As I was only an apprentice sign writer

at the time, I could only afford one pair. After long negotiations with Heinz, he let me take one pair home and pay-off the second pair, which I picked up about three weeks later. I set the first pair up in an 18" tank to start with, but put both pairs into a 24" tank with about five shells at each end. Heinz was kind enough to give me two Mystery Snail shells and I had some seashells about the right size on hand.

The pH was about 7.5 and the hardness about 350 ppm. The fish did quite well for about three months - and I actually had two pairs. One pair started to get frisky, with the male chasing the female all around the tank looking in every hole and crevice available. He nudged the female in the side and stood on his head a lot. After about three days of this displaying the female did the same standing on her head and nudging the male back with her mouth wide open and her fins totally erect. The male's color became very intense and the female's pattern became much darker and very patchy.

This pair must have become agro toward the other pair as I found the male dead and the female on the floor, quite dry. I still had one pair, but over the next nine months or so I never got a spawning and eventually lost the female. She was nowhere to be found - she just disappeared. Eventually, I lost the male as well.

It was not until about four years later that I eventually got my hands on another pair. But this time they were a little bigger - the male was about 20 mm and the female was about 10 mm.

In Lake Tanganyika, some 48 species of *Lamprologus* and *Neolamprologus* have been discovered and a number of these

are shell-dwellers. *Neolamprologus calliurus* in nature grow to 80 mm for males and 30 mm for females. Its mouth and teeth, which you can see quite clearly, suggest that it predominantly behaves as a micro-predator, feeding upon small insects, crustaceans and invertebrates that live amongst the algae and sponges.

This species is pushed down to deeper levels by more overpowering species and would seem to fill the gap between shell-dwellers and rock-dwelling cichlids. A dominant male will guard his territory with several females hidden in piles of shells left behind by the death of *Neothauma* Snails which are carried by the currents in open sandy areas and are deposited near rocks and ledges. Although the male defends his area of shells and females, for safety he never goes far from a rocky shelter.

Most *Neolamprologus* are supposed to be polygamists. From my observation in captivity, *Neolamprologus calliurus* seem to be monogamists, forming a very strong bond with only one female and become very intolerant of any others of their own kind being too close. In a community cichlid tank, *Neolamprologus calliurus* will guard an area up to 300 mm in circumference around his spawning shells. The strong bond between the pair make it very easy to keep a single pair in a small, isolated tank (such as an 18") with little danger of losing one of the pair.

Neolamprologus calliurus are very secretive about spawning. When the female starts showing a much darker and obviously blotchy pattern with a swollen abdomen and shows a reluctance to leave the spawning shell, this is an indication that they are ready to spawn. The female will virtually disappear for about three days and upon rising with a somewhat hollow belly, the male will keep pushing her back into the shell.

At a temperature of 26-28°C the fry will



Image courtesy of:

www.acuariosleuka.comtanganyica

hatch in two to three days and become mobile three to five days later. I found that if I want to save any fry, after four days I had to remove the spawning shell (with the female jammed inside). The shell was placed upright in a dark-coloured container filled with water from the breeding tank and shaken gently to dislodge the wrigglers. You will get anything from 20 to 150 fry from the shell, depending on the size of the female and how often they spawn.

I do not have much time to keep or raise live food, so I rely on commercial preparations. I have found that for the first three to five days after the egg-sacs are absorbed, the OSI microfood is fantastic providing you change approximately 25 mm of water from the container every day and have an airstone to keep the water circulating.

I then go on to Tetra Tabimin or JBL Novo Tab. When they get to about 7 mm they go onto Tetra Bits or JBL Grana Cichlid to grow them on to a saleable size of about 15-20 mm. As they are quite slow growing, this will take about four to six months.

I have found that this fish needs to be at least one year old before it will spawn. They will play the game for months - but nothing will happen. I hope that this article will help you have more success with this beautiful fish.

HELP NEEDED!



Work is currently in progress building a Cichlid Profiles Page on the Society's Website.

We really, really need **your** help!

A large number of images are required, as each profile will need at least one picture. Preferably there will be more; we would like to have images of males, females and fry.

Pictures do not have to be top-notch, art competition-quality masterpieces. Just clear, full-body images representative of the species will do very nicely. (However, if you do have any of those "masterpieces", we do have a Gallery too! See gallery.cichlids.org.au.)

We are desperately in need of pictures of even the most common cichlids, like Convicts etc. Images of cichlids that are "not around much anymore" are needed too.

Credit, of course, will be given to the photographer of any images that are used in the Profiles.

There is only one requirement: you must be the copyright owner of any image that you send for inclusion in the database. So please don't send anything that you may have acquired from other sources, like the internet, books, magazines, etc.

Your images can be e-mailed to profiles@cichlids.org.au, or delivered in any way that you see fit.

Go to forums.cichlids.org.au and check out ♦♦♦ **Suggestion Box** > **Profiles pages** for a discussion.

Daryl Hutchins..[webslave@cichlids.org.au]



Have you been onto your Forum Today ?

forums.cichlids.org.au



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Maybe it is time for our club to get into the 21st Century and phase out the printed form of The Cichlid Monthly as other aquarium societies have done. This modernisation would facilitate a reduction in fees as the production and postage is a major and ongoing drain on our finances. Your input regarding this matter is requested and vital and I'd be glad to receive your comments via email at president@cichlids.org.

I have asked before for all members to email me to obtain their email addresses but so far none have done so, except for most of those who attend the monthly meetings, I again request that those who are unable to attend meetings to provide their email addresses as soon as possible as it is a vital way to communicate if we have some urgent need to contact our total membership between magazines. This is something that won't be used unless it is urgent or affects all our members, such as the magazine going out via

the Internet. A second example is that we had the opportunity to obtain a world-class speaker who is coming to Australia to address the Perth Cichlid Society but due to the short time span we are unable to get in touch with everyone to organise a visit here while he is in Australia. Please email me at president@cichlids.org.au so we have a record of your email addresses.

Due to unforeseen circumstances our talk for the May meeting had to be cancelled so we had an open forum and lively discussions were the order of the evening, I found it refreshingly different and everyone interacted well. We don't usually get the time to interact in this fashion and some great ideas were forthcoming, thanks to all.

Our Secretary, Graham Rowe, was congratulated on his successful spawning of *Microgeophagus ramirezi*; Graham has diligently purchased many hundreds of these little beauties over the 40 odd years he has been

PREZ'S PONDings



By: Peter Robinson.

attempting this feat (someone suggested possibly up to 50% of those on sale, HEHEHE). Looks like the sales of these fish will reduce markedly now he has finally succeeded in spawning them.

Congratulations Graham for the perseverance and determination you displayed; it's a pity the Rams weren't the fish that earned your recently awarded 100 species bred badge and certificate. From what Graham said it could be his littering his dwarf cichlid tanks with fallen oak leaves that led to his success in this matter, I must say his dwarfs do seem to be firing since he began tossing leaves everywhere.

Due to lack of response, the Home Show has been postponed to the 26th of June as Uri, Debra and Graeme want to enter tanks, so here is your chance to enter and show us how artistic you can be setting up a display tank and give the judges something to tax their abilities; even a novice can win. We have seen in the past a novice scoop the pool and take out both 1st & the novice places.

Happy fish keeping to all, Cichlid POWER, Peter Robinson

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Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Apologies were received from Nanda and the Heppers.

The President was in the chair to open the meeting and welcome all present.

The magazine was received by every member present. The minutes were taken as read on motion moved by Daryl Hutchins and seconded by John McCormick.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

The Treasurer reported that the Auction raised \$1176 for the society.

Income on the day was \$2413 comprising:

Commission \$818.20

Raffle \$88

Canteen \$371 less expenses of \$207 giving a profit of \$164

Donations \$46

and 3 renewals.

Expenditure was \$123

The balance in the bank is \$2089.54

Public Liability Insurance is \$672.

This report was received on a motion moved by Tony Ferguson and seconded by Johanna Frost.

Correspondence was as follows: Postage Bill, 2 Months Printing Bill, Bank Statement, an advertising brochure from Videopro, and a reply from Canberra informing us that Norm Halliwell was not reinstated to the OFIMC.

The correspondence was accepted on a motion moved by Aussie Magnussen and seconded by Vien Nguyen.

A short break was then called.

After the break a short discussion on the use of leaf litter in Dwarf Cichlid tanks. There had been some success locally with members using Indian Almond leaves and Oak leaves.

There was discussion on the advantage of having a power point presentation on the fish in the Table Shows.

A discussion was held regarding the benefits of printed copy versus email copy.

Members will now be able to view the magazine on line.

Mention was made of an offer from Perth Cichlid Society to include Melbourne in his Australian "tour."

The raffle was then drawn and First Prize of a \$60 voucher from Evalife: A World of Fish was one by Peter Robinson. John McCormick won Second Prize of a \$30 voucher from the same establishment. Aussie Magnussen took home the Box of Chocolates proffered for Third Prize.

The Table Show results were announced. Graham Rowe was awarded First Prize in the Kevin Archibald Show for his Caquetia Umbriferum and Peter Robinson received Second Prize for his Cryptoheros Spilurus.

Uri Bouman took out First Prize in the Keith Patford with his Metriaclima Estherae.

The next meeting will be held at this same venue on 2 June.

Committee Meeting will be held at David Green's on 14 May.

The President closed the meeting at 10.05 pm and invited everyone to stay and have a chat and supper with him.



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