

Australian Society for Fish Biology

NEWSLETTER



“promoting research, education and management of fish and fisheries and providing a forum for the exchange of information”

VOLUME 41: (2)
December 2011



ISSN: 1325-1503
Incorporated Association
Registration #: A0030371C



ASFB Executive 2011/2012

Please Visit ASFB website (<http://www.asfb.org.au/about/ASFB-Executive.htm>) for contact details of Executive Council Members.

President:	Bronwyn Gillanders
Vice President:	Gary Jackson
Past President:	Jeremy Lyle
Conference & Workshop	
Co-ordinator:	Gary Jackson
Secretary:	Charles Todd
Treasurer:	Christopher Izzo
Newsletter Editor:	Michelle Treloar
Council Members:	
Matt Taylor	(NSW)
Meghan Rourke	(NSW)
Mark Grubert	(NT)
Michael Hammer	(NT)
Tony Fowler	(SA)
Rowan Chick	(SA)
Stephen Balcombe	(QLD)
Leanne Currey	(QLD)
Sean Tracey	(TAS)
Ben Chuwen	(TAS)
Ben Broadhurst	(ACT)
Dan Wright	(ACT)
Alex Hesp	(WA)
Stephen Beatty	(WA)
Gerry Closs	(NZ)
Brendan Hicks	(NZ)
David Crook	(VIC)
Jodie Kemp	(VIC)
Danswell Starrs	(Student)
Vincent Raoult	(Student)

Cover: Feature article (Page 3) on 'Moving forward in leaps and bounds to conserve threatened Barred Galaxias (*Galaxias fuscus*).

From top left (clockwise):

Rescuing Barred Galaxias after the bushfires - Photo by Simon J Nicol

Releasing translocated Barred Galaxias into Taponga River - Photo by Fern Hames

One hour old Barred Galaxias larvae - Photo by Tarmo Raadik

Electrofishing for Barred Galaxias in Robertson's Gully - Photo by Simon J Nicol



Contents

Editorial	1
President's Preamble	1
Feature Article - Moving forward in leaps and bounds to conserve threatened Barred Galaxias (<i>Galaxias fuscus</i>)	3
News and Information	7
ASFB Information	7
Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre Closure	8
IMAS representation of the postdoctoral committee Australian Academy of Science	17
Marine Biodiversity Hub receives \$11 million to continue biodiversity research	17
Fish taxonomy gets a boost	18
Book Review - Dessert Fishing Lessons: Adventures in Australia's Rivers <i>by Adam Kerezszy</i>	19
Ichthyology Hall of Fame	
Rod Lenaton (K.R. Allen Radway)	21
ASFB 2011 Conference	25
ASFB 2012 Conference	27
State Reports	28
Student Spotlight	62
2011 Research & Travel Award Recipients	66
Student Opportunities	69
Upcoming Events	70
Executive Council Meeting Minutes	71
Annual General Meeting Minutes	76
Committee Reports	82
Treasurer's Report	98
Society Committee's	102



Editorial

Welcome to all new members, including executive members and of course to our new President Bronwyn Gillanders. We wish you all the best on your journey.

This bumper filled edition showcases events, stories, important current issues and lots more, all provided from various institutions, professionals and members.

One of the most current ongoing issues that most of you may be aware of is the Closure of the Cronulla Research Centre of Excellence. When this was announced, this not only pulled at the heart strings of those employees that are passionate about the centre but also to those fishery researchers who refer to this centre as the birth place of fisheries science in Australia. Because this touched so many ASFB members the executive committee got together and drafted a letter to the minister for Primary Industries which was sent by Bronwyn on behalf of the ASFB (Pages 11-12). A reply to this letter was received on the 5th October 2011 (Pages 13-14), basically saying that they are pressing ahead with the proposal and that decentralisation of the centre is to continue over the next 12-18 months. Kevin Rowling has also provided us with an informative article (Pages 8-10) about the

history of the centre and the extraordinary level of support from the local community, recreational and commercial fishers, educators, universities and the Sutherland Council which sparked many rallies and a signed petition of more than 19,000 signatures which went to the NSW Legislative Assembly.

Hope you will enjoy reading this editions feature article on the threatened Barred Galaxias (*Galaxias fuscus*). With most of its habitat being compromised during the 2009 bushfires this species is struggling. However, several research projects have been conducted during 2010-2011 to advance our knowledge on this species and to assist with conservation management plans. With continuous support and funding the conservation of this species is looking promising.

Once again thanks to all member`s for providing the material that makes up the bulk of this newsletter and to the state reps who chased up stories from members and various institutions.

Happy reading and here`s wishing you all the joys of the season and a Merry Xmas and prosperous New Year.

Michelle Treloar, Editor



Presidents Preamble

Wow, we are almost at the end of another year. Perhaps it's an age-related trend, but the years seem to be going faster! No doubt your preparations are well underway for the festive season, and for those of you with little ones there is probably much excitement about the impending arrival of Santa. In our household, we are made up of non-believers, but our youngest member still wants to visit Santa just to ensure Mum and Dad deliver Santa's present! I'd like to

acknowledge those members of the executive who 'retired' in 2011 for their services to the society, in particular Patrick Coutin and Philippe Ziegler, as well as several state representatives. I should also welcome the new executive including Gary Jackson (Vice



President) and Chris Izzo (Treasurer) plus several new state reps.

We have made significant progress as a society during Jeremy Lyle's Presidency. The Future of the Society (FoS) working group, which brought together a number of members to work through key issues has certainly moved the Society forward. In particular, through the FoS a number of initiatives were developed around early career researchers (ECR). The input of Chris Fulton and the other ECRs in their discussion paper is gratefully acknowledged. We were able to award the inaugural Early Career Excellence Award and International Travel Scholarship for the first time (see articles latter in the newsletter from the winners). These awards, along with our postgraduate research support, conference awards and student international travel scholarship are important recognition of the outstanding individuals within the society. The K Radway Allen Award, recognising an outstanding contribution in fish or fisheries science, was awarded this year to Rod Lenanton, representing only the eighth time the award has been made.

One area that we are now starting to increase is our international engagement. ASFB is a member of the World Council of Fisheries Societies, which comprises seven other member organisations. The Council is a nonprofit, nongovernmental membership organisation open to scientific or professional fisheries societies and affiliated organisations, and is headquartered at the American Fisheries Society in Maryland, USA. The main aim of the Council is to promote international cooperation in fisheries science, conservation and management. People are probably most familiar with the Council through its involvement in the Fisheries World Congress, held every four years. No doubt a number of you will be attending the next Congress in Edinburgh from 7-11th May 2012 (see flyer on our website <http://www.asfb.org.au/news/>), which is being hosted by the Fisheries Society of the British Isles. This is also where bids for the 7th World Fisheries Congress to be held in 2016 will be presented.

I would also like to congratulate the organisers of the ASFB conference in Townsville for such an enjoyable and well organised conference. The

many excellent presentations especially from our students and early career researchers certainly led to lots of discussions. I also look forward to welcoming you all to my home state, South Australia, for the 2012 joint conference and symposium with the Oceania Chondrichthyan Society, being held in Adelaide from 15-18 July. For those of you interested in snorkelling or SCUBA diving, the conference timing will provide a great opportunity to visit Point Lowly near Whyalla (about 5 h from Adelaide by car) to see the world's only known breeding aggregation of cuttlefish. Every time I dive on this aggregation I am always impressed by the fascinating behaviours and sheer numbers. For those from the east coast, while the numbers are impressive, the cuttlefish are significantly smaller than what you are likely used to. Also on the radar is a return to the land of the long white cloud for a joint conference with the New Zealand marine and freshwater societies (planned for 2013). There is certainly lots to look forward to.

Finally, I wish you and your families all the very best for an enjoyable festive season. I hope you are all able to return to work in 2012 rejuvenated and ready for another stimulating year in the fish or fisheries area.

Bronwyn Gillanders, President