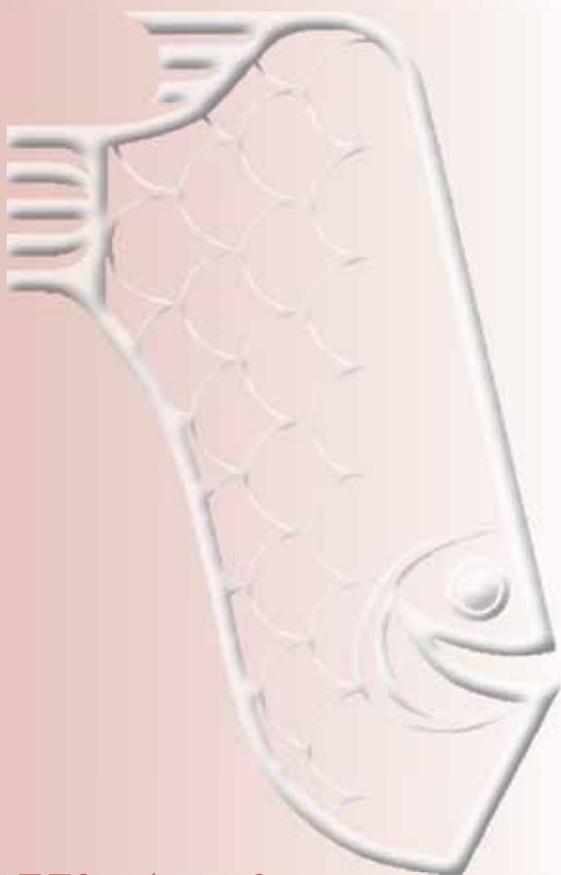


# HANDY BOOK



Victorian  
Cichlid Society  
Incorporated



# HANDBOOK

The Committee and Members of the Victorian Cichlid Society Incorporated bid you ...

## *Welcome to the Victorian Cichlid Society*

... this Handbook is intended to familiarise you with the club's facilities, activities and the rules (if there are any) of said activities.

The first Handbook of the Society was produced in 1985. The identity of its publisher, like a lot of information from that era, has been lost in the mists of time. It contained the Constitution of the era, line drawings, and some of the same Society records and "honour rolls" that we find in the subsequent versions. Quality was limited by the mimeograph printing process in use at the time for both the Handbook and the monthly journal.

The second version of the Handbook was published in the 1990s by Daryl Hutchins, and by utilising offset lithographic printing, presented photographs for the first time as well as detailed line drawings.

Under the auspices of the newly formed Handbook Sub-committee (Graham Rowe and Daryl Hutchins) in 2004, Handbook #3 had substantial improvements. The Constitution had a major overhaul at the time, and has had a few small tweaks since then.

Some major revisions in 2005, resulted in version 4 of the Handbook being produced.

Requiring far fewer revisions than the "honour rolls" etc, the Constitution, which contains all the more formal and legally required rules, was not included in the fifth version and is now available on the website as a stand-alone document.

In 2008 the Handbook was re-designed. It will be updated online as required and is always available on the Society's Website.

### **Photographic Credits:**

1. Sunset on Xakanaxa Lagoon, Botswana (page 1) – Kerrie-Lee Hensler.
3. Gold *Heros efasciatus* female tending eggs (page 3) – Daryl Hutchins.
3. The Oakleigh Centre entrance (page 5) – Daryl Hutchins.

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## Definition of a Cichlid:

1. Cichlids are bony, perch-like fishes whose bodies are usually, though by no means always, bilaterally compressed.
2. Most bony fishes have two pairs of nostrils, but in all cichlids there is only a single nostril on each side of the head – this feature alone is enough to distinguish it from most other families.
3. There is a single, well-developed dorsal fin whose anterior rays take the form of spines and are usually more numerous than the soft posterior rays.
4. The pelvic (ventral) fins, which have an outer spine and five soft rays, are located well forward on the body.
5. The mouth is protractile (able to be lengthened).

6. All the teeth located in the mouth are on the jawbone – there are none on the palate.
7. Cichlids are unique among freshwater perch-like fish in that their lower pharyngeal bones are more or less united, forming a roughly triangular shape, the apex of which points forward and whose upper surface is covered with teeth.
8. The lateral line is interrupted and is usually in two separate sections.
9. The swim bladder is physoclistous (closed) – having no direct connection with the gut. This imparts virtual weightlessness to the fish, enabling it to hold its position with ease – a distinct advantage when tending eggs.
10. The head is incompletely covered with scales.



## Distribution of the Family Cichlidae:

Cichlids are found naturally in a variety of habitats throughout the tropical and temperate regions of Central and South America, Africa, Madagascar, Syria, the Jordan Valley, southern India and Sri Lanka. The latter two localities being home to a single, endemic genus (*Etoplus*) which contains only three species. Unfortunately, deliberate introductions of cichlid fishes have been made into other tropical areas as food or sport fishes.

## Relationships:

The family Cichlidae is most closely related to the marine perches, wrasses and pomacentrids – those usually highly colored fishes that help to make coral reefs such a delight to see.





## History of the Victorian Cichlid Society Incorporated

[Additions to, and corrections/clarifications of this history are required.]

The Victorian Cichlid Society (VCS) was formed at Mulgrave in March 1972, thus becoming the first specialist fish society in Victoria.

Heinz Staude was elected President, and for 12 months meetings were held at Dunoon Court, Mulgrave.

The first newsletter of the Society appeared in April 1972, thanks to the efforts of Robert Dinn.

Society meetings were moved in April 1973 to Noble Park Hall (Dunblane Road, Noble Park). Subsequent changes of venue were made to: AMRA Hall (Wills Street, Glen Iris) in November 1975; Ashburton Library (High Street, Ashburton) in July 1982; Ashburton Primary School (Fakenham Road, Ashburton) in October 1986; Northvale Primary School (Albany Drive, Mulgrave) in February 1989; St John's Church Hall (Finch

Street, Malvern) in March 1992; Courtyard Room (Nunawading Community Centre, Whitehorse Road, Mitcham) in February 1994; Antonio Park Primary School, (Whitehorse Road, Mitcham) in February 2001; Mitcham Scout Hall, (Brunswick Road, Mitcham) in February 2002.

The Oakleigh Centre, (773 Warrigal Road, Oakleigh) became the Society's new home in August 2008.

Although new, comfortable and beautifully appointed, the Oakleigh Centre was considered too small for Auctions, so the bi-annual auctions continued to be held at the Mitcham Scout Hall until October 2009 when they were moved to Mulgrave Neighbourhood House, 36-42 Mackie Road, Mulgrave.

In March 1973 the Society became a Foundation Member of the Victorian Federation of Aquarium Societies. Due to a perceived lack of any benefit to the society or the hobby from its continued membership, the VCS withdrew from the VFAS in April 1991.

November 1976 saw the staging of the inaugural 'Cichlid Expo' which was held at the Australian Model Railway Association (AMRA) Hall, Wills Street, Glen Iris. In March 1978 the VCS combined with Eastern Districts Aquarium Society and other societies to stage the first of six annual 'Aqualife' exhibitions. 'Cichlid Expo' was again staged in 1988 by the VCS as its contribution to Australia's Bicentenary celebrations.

May 1979 saw the first of the bi-annual meetings held at the Melbourne University, hosted by Professor Angus Martin, a keen cichlid-keeper, honorary member for many years and a member of the university's Zoology Department.

In 1984 the 'Elaine Turner Memorial Art & Photographic Competition' was established to honour Elaine Turner, the late aquarium fish enthusiast who contributed so much to the Society and the hobby in general.

A significant milestone in the history of the Society was reached with its incorporation on 11 March 1987 (Certificate of Incorporation Number A0012794D). Steve Butcher was the Society's first Public Officer.

The Society was keenly involved with the Australian Federation of Cichlid Societies (AFCS) from its formation in 1987 until it appeared to "go into recess" in 1994. VCS members travelled to interstate AFCS conferences and the Society was host to the national 'Cichlid Conference' in June 1989; and again in 1993. Despite the lack of a national body, good interaction continues between the various cichlid societies both as clubs and at a personal level.

The January Pool Party/BBQ day was a popular family function for many years until 1997 when it lapsed due to waning attendances. Weather permitting, a lively volleyball match took place and was usually very entertaining for both the spectators and surviving participants.

"Draw Prizes" became a thing of the past on 22 May, 2012, when the Society was officially declared a "Community or Charitable Organisation" (Declaration Number 58700) on application of the A40 Chairman, Daryl Hutchins. This enables the Society to legally run a raffle.

In March 2012, the Society celebrated its 40th Anniversary. The actual celebration took place on 13 October. Two international speakers, Spencer Jack and Alf Stalsberg, provided a memorable evening's entertainment during a Convention and Dinner at the Manhattan Hotel in Canterbury Road, Ringwood.

Fifty-five people registered to attend the Convention, with 20 of those being from interstate and overseas.

A major raffle was held in conjunction with the Convention, with prizes including a top-of-the-line iPad, Fish Tank Set-up, \$200 Fuel Card, many Books and Magazines, as well as packages of Aquarium Chemicals and Fish Foods.

The 2012 Elaine Turner Memorial Art & Photographic Competition was also held in conjunction with the A40 Convention and was well-supported.



## Aims

*The main aims of the Victorian Cichlid Society Incorporated 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 discussion 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 fish-keeping (particularly cichlids), and the potentially harmful effects of animal mismanagement;
5. To promote fellowship between the members;
6. To further the conservation of species and their natural habitats; and
7. To further the identification, distribution, breeding, maintenance and enjoyment of species in the Family Cichlidae.

### PLEASE NOTE:

These 'Aims' are considered by the Department of Justice as an integral part of the Constitution. Notification, voting and DoJ approval (plus a \$30+ fee) are required to alter it in any way.



## Meetings

- **General Meetings** – commence at 8 pm on the first Wednesday of each month except January (no meeting), April and October (Auctions).
- Meetings in April and October take the form of Fish and Aquarium Accessory **Auctions** and are held on a Saturday afternoon, normally beginning at 1 pm (doors open an hour earlier for receipt of goods).
- **Annual General Meeting** – is held concurrently with the December General Meeting.
- **Committee Meetings** – are held generally each month (although not normally in December) on the Friday two weeks

**ABOVE: The entrance to the current, well-appointed accommodations at The Oakleigh Center, 773 Warrigal Road, Oakleigh.**

after a General Meeting, at 7:30 pm. Or at such time as is deemed more appropriate by the committee, due to Auctions, Special Events or other circumstances.

See TCM and/or the Message Board for more details.

## Representation

### ASCC

In 2001 the Department of Natural Resources and Environment set up an **Aquarium Sector Consultative Committee** to assist the department in deciding on changes to the Victorian Noxious Species List. The VCS was represented on this committee.

This process has been seen several fits and starts since, with innumerable changes of direction and name, and is ongoing.



## Past-Presidents

1972-1975	Heinz Staude (3);
1975-76	Peter Robinson (1);
1976-1978	Max Davenport (2);
1978-1980	Bill Paterson (2);
1980-81	Heinz Staude (1);
1981-82	Kevin Archibald (1);
1982-1985	Danny Genovese (3);
1985-86	Stephen Butcher (1);
1986-87	Danny Genovese (1);
1987-88	Heinz Staude (1);
1988-89	Graham Rowe (1);
1989-1992	Aart Langelaar (3);
1992-93	Danny Genovese (1);
1993-94	Daryl Hutchins (1);
1994-95	Dave Thorn (1);
1995-1998	John McCormick (3);
1998-99	Aussie Magnussen (1);
2000-2002	John McCormick (3);
2003-2005	Peter Clarkson (3);
2006-2008	John McCormick (3);
2009	Daryl Hutchins (1);
2010	Peter Robinson (1);
2011-	John McCormick. (2*)

## Membership

### Fellow of the Society

This designation may be conferred on a Life Member of more than 10 years standing for continued valuable service. (See the Constitution for details.)

#### Current Fellow of the Society:

Graham Rowe (1999).

### Honorary Membership

Honorary membership may be conferred on a member of the public who has rendered exceptional services to the Society.

#### Current Honorary Member:

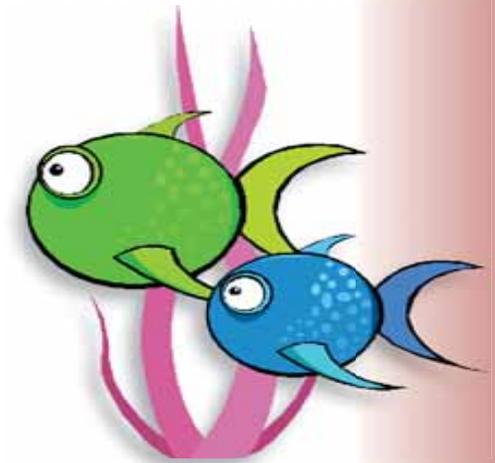
Max Davenport.

### Life Membership

Life membership of the Society may be conferred on a member who has rendered exceptional services to the Society. (See the Constitution for conditions.)

#### Current Life Members:

1979 Graham Rowe;  
1980 Heinz Staude;  
1984 Kevin Archibald;  
1987 Keith Patford;  
1994 Danny Genovese;  
1999 Daryl Hutchins;  
2005 John McCormick.



# Magazine

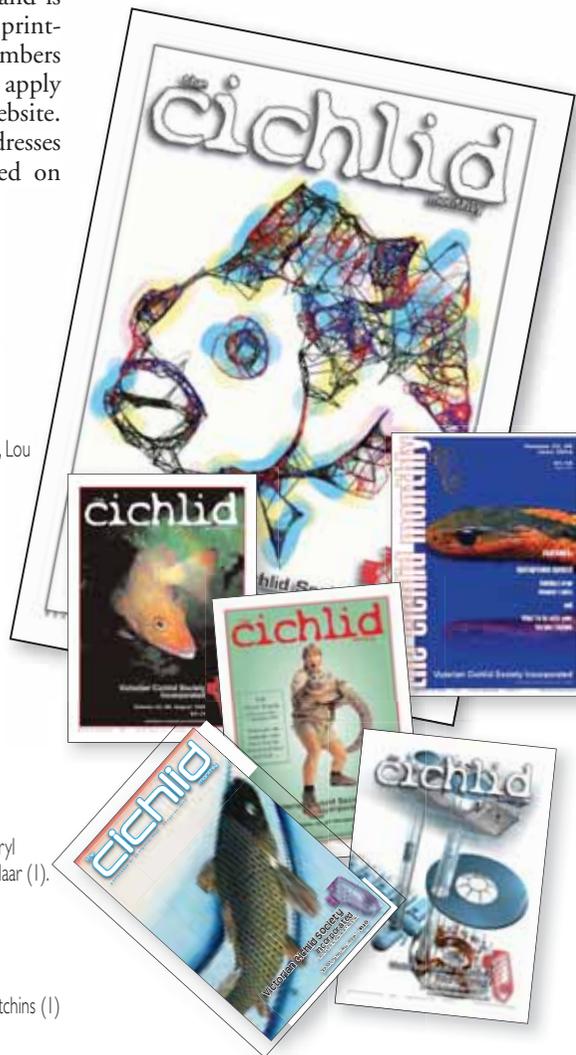
*The Cichlid Monthly* is a medium for the exchange of information, ideas and society notices. It is distributed to all financial members and visitors to the monthly meetings as well as being made available through selected aquarium shops.

A sample edition of *TCM* is also available on the Society's Website as a colour pdf ([tcm-sample.cichlids.org.au](http://tcm-sample.cichlids.org.au)) for on-screen viewing. This version is laid out as facing pages in consecutive order, and is therefore unsuitable for printing. A printable version is available to all members and qualified interested parties who apply to receive it via the form on the Website. New members who supply valid addresses upon joining are automatically placed on the e-mail list.

## Past Editors, Publishers and Editorial Committees:

Vol	Year	Editor/Committee (editions published)
1	1972-73	Robert Dinn.
2-3	1973-75	Vic Cottren/Peter Dedrick.
4	1975-76	Daryl Hutchins.
5	1976-77	Klaas Zylstra (9), Committee (2): Bob Lee, Lou Mingaars, John O'Brien, John Shortreed.
6	1977-78	Max Davenport/Peter Dedrick.
7	1978-79	Peter Dedrick.
8	1979-80	Bill Paterson.
9	1980-81	Viviane Farley (8), Graham Rowe (3). Committee: Kevin Archibald, John McCormick, Bill Paterson, Les Sholl.
10	1981-82	Peter Southern.
11	1982-83	Adrian Lane.
12	1983-84	Alex Caughey/Russell Pearson.
13	1984-85	Kevin Archibald.
14-15	1985-87	Amanda Genovese.
16	1987-88	Steve Morton.
17-19	1988-89	Daryl Hutchins.
20	1991-92	Paul Greaves (8), Lynda Van Pooss (1), Daryl Hutchins (1), Lynda Van Pooss/Aart Langelaar (1).
21	1992-93	Daryl Hutchins.
22	1993-94	Daryl Hutchins (7), Lynda Van Pooss (4).
23	1994-95	Aart Langelaar.
24	1995-96	Daryl Hutchins.
25	1996-97	Elias Iliopoulos (9), Helen Rowe/Daryl Hutchins (1) (#11 is a single-sheet "newsletter").

26	1997-98	Daryl Hutchins.
27	1998	Daryl Hutchins. (Note: this volume has only nine editions due to the alignment of committee tenure with the calendar year)
28-30	1999-01	Daryl Hutchins.
31	2002	Peter Clarkson.
32	2003	Vicki Clarkson.
33	2004	Vicki Clarkson (1-2), Daryl Hutchins (3-12).
34	2005	Adrian Quental (1-6), Daryl Hutchins (7-11).
35-37	2006-08	Daryl Hutchins.
38	2009	Daryl Hutchins (Publisher).
39	2010	Graham Rowe (1-2), Graeme Dickson (3-10), Daryl Hutchins (11).
40-41	2011-12	Daryl Hutchins.



## The Editor's Prize:

This award was created in 1989 by the Editor of *TCM* at the time to acknowledge the efforts of contributors and in the hope that it would encourage new authors.

The final duty of the outgoing Editor each year is to select an outstanding article to do with fish or fishkeeping, printed in the just-completed volume of *TCM* and award the 'Editor's Prize' (free membership for one year) to the author.

The award is strictly for *original\** articles. It is not a "best-article" award, and is unashamedly biased toward *new* authors. It need not be presented at all if, in the opinion of the Editor, no article was suitable/eligible.

(\* "Original" means first published in *The Cichlid Monthly*.)

## Editor's Prize Winners:

Vol	Author/Title
18	Tracey Spain – 'Indiana Baddy and the Forging of the Torrent' #5.
19	Jon Shields – 'Cichlasoma festae' #7.
20	Jon Shields – 'Cichlasoma umbriferum: the Blue-Freckled Cichlid' #8.
21	Lynda Van Pooss – 'Tropheus duboisi "Babimba" Strain Narrow White Band' #4.
22	John McCormick – 'Where Did It All Start' #9.
23-25	n/a.
26	Peter Robinson – 'Aquatic Butterfly' #6.
27	Peter Robinson – 'The Aquatic Prairie Dog – Nannacara aureocephala' #4.
28	Jon Shields – 'Tilapia buttikoferi – Hornet or Zebra Cichlid' #9.
29	Peter Robinson – 'Gymnogeophagus balzani – A Treasure Revisited' #5.
30	Peter Robinson – 'Cyprichromis leptosoma – the Sardine With Colour' #5.
31-32	n/a.
33	Peter Robinson – 'Geophagus pindare' #10.

34	Peter Robinson – 'Breeding Cichlids ... or is that all there is to it?' #4, #5 and #7.
35	n/a.
36	Peter Robinson – 'Scared, Weird Little Cichlids' #6.
37	Peter Robinson – 'Uaru amphiacanthoides' #3.
38	Shannon Laughnan – 'Investigating the wild fisheries of Central and South America, with emphasis on Cichlidae' #8.
39	n/a.
40	David Green – 'Retrofitting a LED Lighting System Into a Sunsun Aquarium' #11.
41	n/a.



## eCichlids

Over a period of several years, a collection of every edition of *TCM* ever published was compiled and put on sale for the first time at the December 2009 General Meeting.

Titled *eCichlids*, the inaugural presentation comprised of a DVD containing more than 420 editions from May 1972 to December 2009 in pdf format for on-screen reading in a browser (ie, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Safari, Firefox, etc). Because it works via an html menu, the collection can be viewed on PC, Macintosh or Linux operating systems ... it even works on iPad.

The collection is updated annually and is now supplied on a USB flash drive, or other media to order.

## Activities

As well as regular monthly meetings, the members of the Victorian Cichlid Society enjoy a few social functions from time to time. The major function of the year is the Annual Dinner, which is usually held in July or August at varying locales.

Always standing ready to participate in useful inter-club activities – social, sporting and the promotion of the clubs or the hobby in general – the VCS encourages the promotion of friendliness and cooperation between like-minded societies.

Supper is partaken of following each General Meeting – a time at which members have an opportunity to relax and talk among friends.

In the past, the occasional live-food collecting days have been organised during the year, adding yet another enjoyable activity to the calendar.

Fund-raising activities are organised at each meeting to assist in covering the cost of prizes, trophies, publications, etc. A major fund-raiser is normally conducted in conjunction with our Annual Dinner. These activities all aid in keeping the cost of running the Society at a minimum.

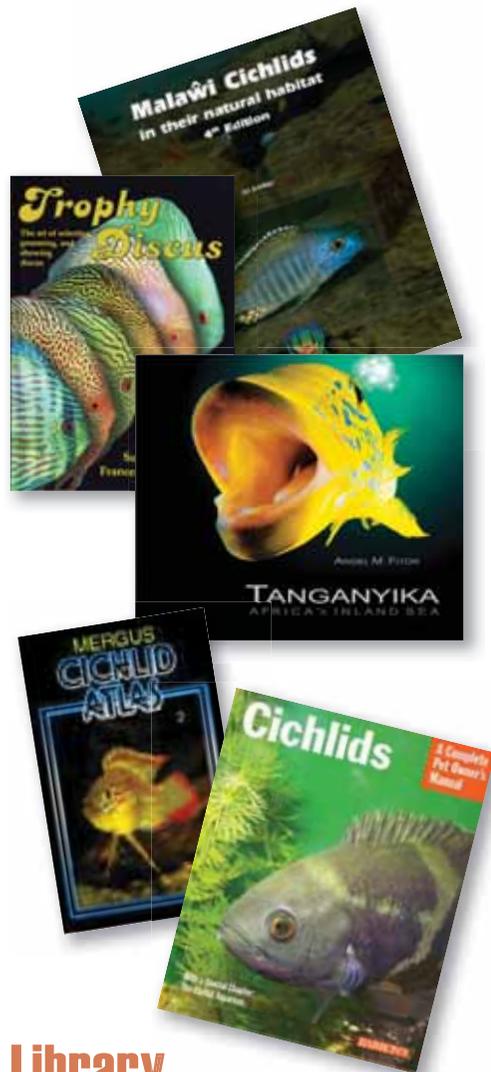
Fish house tours are organised from time to time, and are extremely popular events.

## Trading Table

The Trading Table makes a variety of aquarium products available for purchase and provides all new members with a focal-point for trading between themselves.

### Products Available:

- Flake and pelletised foods;
- Brineshrimp Eggs;
- Club Insignia (car stickers, fridge magnets, cloth badges);
- Members' trade items (eg, surplus fish);
- Various other goods when available (eg, fish buckets, baby-savers, nets, etc).



## Library

This valuable Society asset contains a comprehensive range of books dealing with most subjects pertaining to cichlids, aquatic plants and aquarium fish in general. A list of available books can be found on the Society's Website, [home.vicnet.net.au/~cichlids](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~cichlids).

Most of these books are loaned at a nominal fee, on a monthly basis – naturally there is a small penalty for late returns.

Exchange magazines from both Australian and overseas societies are also available.



## Species Maintenance

A most important aim of the Victorian Cichlid Society is the maintenance of cichlids to ensure that we do not lose species, especially those that are not on the Allowable Import List and may be difficult to have placed there. These fishes are always in danger of being lost to the Australian hobby forever.

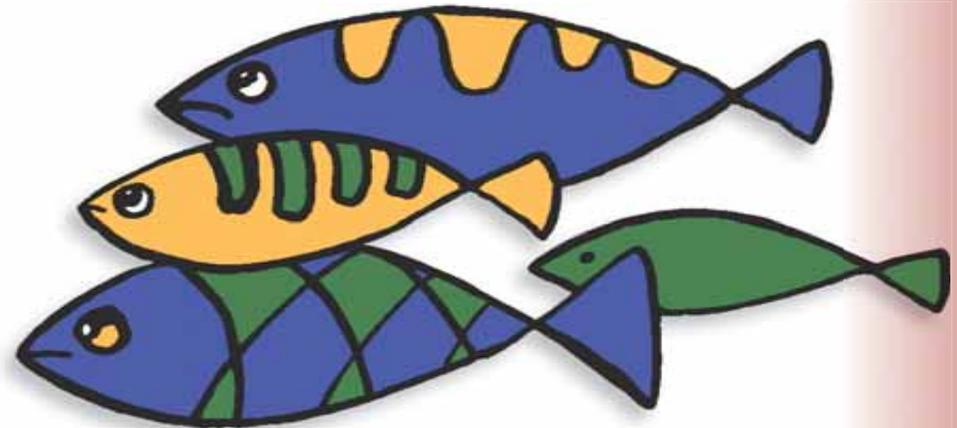
The Species Maintenance Committee maintains a list of cichlid fishes and tries to remain aware of their status within the hobby in Australia.

Should a species be, in the opinion of the SMC, in danger of disappearing, the SMC has a program in place to support members technically and/or financially, who wish to maintain that species.

Of course, there are some rules to be observed in the acquisition and disposal of fishes under the Species Maintenance Program. For instance, the program is not to be used for fishes that are expensive but readily available. All applications will be treated confidentially on their merits and will receive a reply.

### Species Maintenance Rules:

1. Applicants may request pairs, colonies, or a single fish to complement existing stock (see SMC chairman).
2. The Species Maintenance Committee will, upon receiving an application, determine if the applicant has the correct aquarium set-up for the species.
3. If the applicant meets the above requirement, the SMC will endeavour to acquire the requested fish. If obtained, the fish are supplied free-of-charge but the recipient must agree to return a percentage of the fry to the Society. These fry will be auctioned at a general meeting and the proceeds of the sales will be recorded by the SMC. When the purchase price has been recovered, the fish become the property of the applicant.
4. The SMC may negotiate a sale between one of its contacts and an applicant. This will lessen expenses for the Society, impose less responsibility on the applicant and will only require a token percentage of fry to be donated.
5. If, after being supplied with fish at the society's expense, the recipient fails to continue to competently maintain the species in the agreed-to set-up, the Society may take possession of the fish.
6. Hybridisation, either deliberate or as the result of neglect, will void the agreement. The fish must be returned to the Society.
7. The applicant will not be held financially responsible in the event of accidental loss or non-spawning of the fish.



## Breeder's Achievement Award

The Breeder's Achievement Award (BAA) is designed to encourage members to breed a variety of cichlid species and to assist in their maintenance (especially in Victoria).

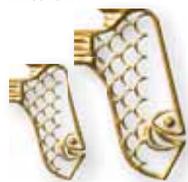
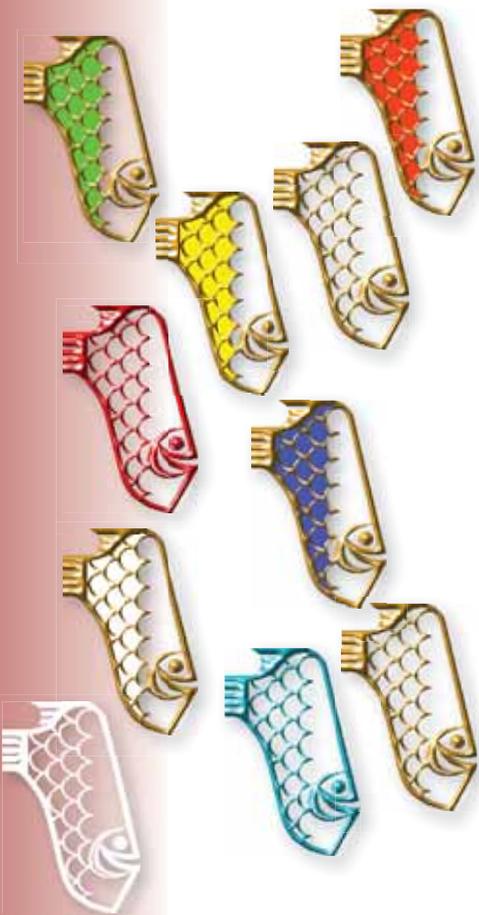
A series of lapel pins and certificates are awarded to a member when that person achieves the totals of species bred:

5 Green	100 Gold
10 Yellow	125 Gold/Red
25 Red	150 Gold/Blue
50 Blue	175 Gold/White
75 White	200 Gold

These color-codes have been adopted by many aquarium societies within Australia as a common form of acknowledging these respective achievements. However, as the VCS deals with just the one family of fishes, a badge is given for five species bred, whilst general aquarium societies begin with the 10-species badge.

### BAA Rules:

1. For the purpose of BAA points, any fish listed in the current edition of the *Cichlid Register* may be claimed except where it is listed as an aquarium strain.
2. Albinos and other color varieties are considered aquarium strains.
3. The parent fish and fry must be inspected within two (2) weeks of the fry becoming free-swimming, a second inspection takes place at least sixty (60) days after spawning.
4. Both the abovementioned inspections must be made by a person (or persons) who is/are (a) financial member/s of a recognised aquarium society.
5. At these inspections the witness shall sign BAA registration forms in the appropriate places.
6. Registration forms are available from the BAA Secretary to who they are to be conveyed within 120 days post-spawning.
7. Species registered with any recognised aquarium society shall be added to the member's total on production of a letter from the secretary of that society attesting to the validity of the claim.
8. Financial members who have a valid reason for so doing may ask for information to be extracted from BAA records (eg: a list of fishes bred by the member; whether or not a species has been claimed). Under no circumstances will information about another members' spawnings be disseminated without their permission.



## Table Show

The Society conducts a Table Show in which members may exhibit fish at each monthly General Meeting.

First, second and third places are awarded and a Popular Choice award is presented for the fish voted by the members to be the most popular on that night.

Prizes are subsequently awarded to the three most successful (highest aggregates of the year's votes) exhibitors for the year and also to the most successful Novice Exhibitor.

All members entering a fish in the Table Show are awarded one point with first, second and third placings receiving an additional three (3), two (2), and one (1) point/s respectively.

Judging is conducted by an experienced club member, selected by the Table Show Steward from a panel nominated by the Committee. Points are awarded on the following criteria up to the maximum points indicated –

General condition	Condition of fins	Shape	Scales	Age (maturity)
30	30	20	10	10

At the table show's inception a different group of fishes was shown each month (except for 'Pairs' and 'Cichlid of Your Choice'), eg: Apistogrammas one month; Haplochromis the next, and so on. Each group was only shown once during the show year.

In an attempt to generate more participation, the format was adjusted to alternate between African and American cichlids (again excluding "special" shows) with Asian and (from 2004) Madagascan cichlids being eligible at all shows.

In an attempt to regenerate interest in the table show, the new parallel American/African system formulated by Graham Rowe and Travis Hingston was instigated in 1995.

In December, a separate "Baby Show" is held. This is a novelty event and is run concurrently with the normal show. Judging is by popular choice and points are not allocated toward a contestant's tally for the

year, but certificates are presented for "under three months" and "three months and over".

### Table Show Rules:

1. Only financial members may enter.
2. Fish must be the property of the Exhibitor.
3. Entries are restricted to cichlids.
4. An exhibitor is allowed only one entry per section at each meeting.
5. Only one specimen per species may be entered during the club year – except for special shows (eg: Pairs, Cichlid of Your Choice and Baby Show).
6. Fish must be shown in a clear, flat-sided tank of appropriate size.
7. Tanks may not contain any decoration other than gravel. Any type of gravel may be used.
8. The base, back and/or sides of tanks only may be painted or covered with plain-colored backing material (printed, drawn or photographic backgrounds are not allowed).
9. Lighting and aeration is provided.
10. Any variation to shows is advertised in the Society's magazine.

### Table Show Winners:

- 1973-74 1. Theo Geitenbeek; 2. Graham Rowe; 3. Max Davenport.  
 1974-75 1. Peter Robinson; 2. Ron Jeffs; 3. Dot Jeffs.  
 1975-76 1. Max Davenport; 2. Daryl Hutchins; 3. Graham Rowe.  
 1976-77 1. Riv Halford; 2. Graham Rowe; 3. Kevin Archibald.  
 1977-78 1. Heinz Stauda; 2. Kevin Archibald; 3. Graham Rowe.  
 1978-79 1. Graham Rowe; 2. Heinz Stauda; 3. Keith Patford.  
 1979-80 1. Kevin Archibald; 2. Heinz Stauda; 3. Graham Rowe.  
 1980-81 = 1. Danny Genovese/Kevin Archibald; 2. n/a; 3. Peter Southern. =Nov: Danny Sorensen/Chris Andersen.  
 1981-82 1. Gordon Freese; 2. Chris Andersen; 3. Danny Genovese. Nov: Warwick Gill.  
 1982-83 1. Gordon Freese; 2. Tery Rowlands; 3. Amanda Genovese. Nov: John Emmanuel.  
 1983-84 1. Danny Genovese; 2. Gordon Freese; 3. Bob Loudon. Nov: Don Olney.  
 1984-85 1. Kevin Archibald; 2. Steve Butcher; =3. Scott Haymes/Sid Solch. Nov: Sid Solch.  
 1985-86 1. Aart Langelaar; 2. Craig Lee; 3. Matthew Riley. Nov: Aart Langelaar.

- 1986-87 1. Scott Haymes; 2. Aart Langelaar; 3. Luke McCrae. Nov: Luke McCrae.
- 1987-88 1. Aart Langelaar; 2. Dave Thorn; 3. Dale Berry. Nov: Manny Vella.
- 1988-89 1. Dave Thorn; 2. Jeffrey Staude; 3. Jon Shields.
- 1989-90 1. Di Parbery; 2. Jon Shields; 3. Aart Langelaar. Nov: Di Parbery.
- 1990-91 1. Ken Whelan; 2. Jon Shields; 3. Paul Greaves. Nov: Ken Whelan.
- 1991-92 1. Lino Avellino; 2. Jon Shields; 3. Garry Van Ekeren. Nov: Garry Van Ekeren.
- 1992-93 1. Lino Avellino; 2. John McCormick; 3. Steve Young. Nov: Steve Young.
- 1993-94 1. Maurice Breward; 2. John McCormick; =3. Steve Young/Lynda Van Pooss. Nov: Maurice Breward.
- 1994-95 1. Irene Alger; 2. David Thorn; 3. Maurice Breward. Nov: Irene Alger.
- 1995-96 KP: Maurice Breward. KA: Carl Bentin. Nov: Ernie Hicks. DG: Maurice Breward. GR: Maurice Breward. HS: John McCormick.
- 1996-97 KP: 1. Robert Coghlan; 2. Helen Jackson; 3. Carl Bentin. KA: 1. Peter Robinson; 2. Greg and Belinda Katsap. Nov: Helen Jackson GR: Robert Coghlan. DG: Stuart and Nicole Horsford. HS: Peter Robinson.
- 1998 KA: Peter Robinson. KP: Peter Robinson.
- 1999 1. Peter Robinson; 2. Maurice Breward; 3. Greg Lacey.
- 2000 1. Granville Lawrence; 2. Marty Bell 3. Peter Robinson.
- 2001 —
- 2002 —
- 2003 KA: Graham Rowe. KP: David Green.
- 2004 —
- 2005 —
- 2006 —
- 2007 —
- 2008 —
- 2009 —
- 2010 —
- 2011 —
- 2012 —

**KEY:** B = Baby Show (December Popular Choice)  
 DG = Danny Genovese Trophy (Best Pair)  
 GR = Graham Rowe Trophy (Best Dwarf)  
 HS = Heinz Staude Trophy (Cichlid of Choice)  
 KA = Kevin Archibald Trophy (Best American)  
 KP = Keith Patford Trophy (Best African)

## Home Show

### Home Show Rules/Guidelines:

1. Any financial member of the VCS may enter one tank only.
2. The fish displayed in that tank must be predominantly cichlids.
3. The tank and internal decor are to be arranged in a way that makes the inhabitants comfortable; is attractive to the observer and usually is a fair representation of a natural, appropriate cichlid environment.
4. The Committee shall appoint a Home Show Convenor who will select the judges – one of whom must be a member of the VCS.
5. Points will be allocated thus:
 

Fish	Decor	Impact	Compatibility
30	30	30	10
6. The judges' decision shall be final.
7. As it is very unlikely that the judges will be able to maintain a timetable on the day of judging, entrants are requested to ensure that access to their tanks is provided.
8. Trophies/prizes shall be awarded for first, second and third places as well as Best Novice (first-time) Entry.

### Home Show Winners:

- 1981 1. Erich Goelz; 2. Peter Sorensen; 3. Bob Lee.
- 1982 1. Erich Goelz; 2. Geoff Gunn; 3. Adrian Lane.
- 1983 1. Erich Goelz; 2. Peter Sorensen; 3. Geoff Gunn.
- 1984 1. Scott Haymes; 2. Geoff Gunn; 3. John Reeves.
- 1985 1. Mark Lee; 2. Kevin Archibald; 3. John Reeves.
- 1986 1. Marion Hartley; 2. Andrew Challingsworth; 3. David Hitzler.
- 1987 1. Jonathan Shields; =2. Aart Langelaar/Peter Thomas. Nov: Jonathan Shields.
- 1988 1. Jonathan Shields; 2. Scott Haymes; 3. Martin Criddle. Nov: Martin Criddle.
- 1989 1. Jonathan Shields; 2. Scott Haymes; 3. Manny Vella.
- 1990 1. John McGrath; 2. Willem Brouwer; 3. Aart Langelaar. Nov: John McGrath.
- 1991 1. Jeff Ross; 2. Lino Avellino; =3. Lynda Van Pooss/John Reeves. Nov: Jeff Ross.
- 1992 1. Glenn Briggs; 2. Lynda Van Pooss; 3. Scott Haymes. Nov: Glenn Briggs.
- 1993 1. Scott Haymes; 2. Steve Young; 3. Brian Bone. Nov: Brian Bone.
- 1994 1. Dave Thorn; 2. Scott Haymes; 3. Lynda Van Pooss. Nov: Maurice Breward.

- 1995 1. Dave Thorn; 2. Pieter Jaeger; 3. John cCormick. Nov: Pieter Jaeger.
- 1996 —
- 1997 1. Jason Taylor; 2. Chang Ling; 3. Helen Jackson. Nov: Jason Taylor.
- 1998 —
- 1999 1. Chuong Hong Le; 2. Carl Bentin; 3. Maurice Breward. Nov: Chuong Hong Le.
- 2000 1. Marty Bell; =2. Sebastian Zwalf/Anthony Caiolfa. Nov: Marty Bell.
- 2001 1. Granville Lawrence (PC); 2. Ben Carbone.
- 2002 1. Vicki Clarkson (PC); 2. Granville Lawrence.
- 2003 —
- 2004 —
- 2005 —
- 2006 —
- 2007 —
- 2008 —
- 2009 —
- 2010 —
- 2011 — n/a
- 2012 — n/a

PC = Popular Choice.; Nov = Novice.



## Video Home Show

The inaugural Video Home Show took place in 2005.

This new format for a home show was instigated to afford our far-flung members, whose tanks it would be impractical (in many cases, impossible) to judge normally, the opportunity to participate in a Home Show.

### Video HS Rules/Guidelines:

1. Any financial member of the VCS may enter one tank only.
2. The fish displayed in that tank must be predominantly cichlids.

3. The tank and internal decor are to be arranged in a way that makes the inhabitants comfortable; is attractive to the observer and usually is a fair representation of a natural, appropriate cichlid environment.
5. The judges' decision shall be final.
6. Trophies/prizes shall be awarded for first, second and third places.

To level the playing field, all videos must conform to the following format:

1. Video to commence with a two-minute static view of the whole tank, ie: the tank should fill the picture from left to right.
2. Move in until the tank fills the picture from top to bottom and pan slowly from one end to the other and back again.
3. Zoom in and show any features or fish of particular interest.

Entries can be sent/delivered on VHS tape or disc to the Secretary any time before the October Committee Meeting. Alternatively, digital files (less than 10Mb) can be e-mailed to [vhs@cichlids.org.au](mailto:vhs@cichlids.org.au). Larger digital files (up to 2GB – but that would be overkill) can be transmitted via free systems such as [YouSendIt](http://YouSendIt.com).

### Video HS Winners:

- 2005 1. Geoff Wills; 2. Tony Ferguson; 3. Phillip Russell.
- 2006 1. Lauren McCormick; 2. Dean Hepper; 3. Rob McManus.
- 2007 —
- 2008 n/a
- 2009 n/a
- 2010 n/a
- 2011 n/a
- 2012 n/a





## Fish and Aquarium Accessories Auctions

Auctions of Fish and Aquarium Accessories are held to provide a venue at which the members can exchange livestock and pre-loved equipment, while simultaneously ensuring the financial viability of the club.

Normally two Auctions are held each year, one early in April and the other in October. These auctions are traditionally (always have been) held on a Saturday. Doors open at Noon for the receipt of goods, the auction itself starts at 1:00 pm. The auction is finished when the last lot has been processed – occasionally as late as 8:00 pm, but is usually between 5-6:00 pm.

Auctions attract many non-members and contribute significantly to the financial well-being of the club.

The following rules have evolved to protect both buyers and vendors; to uphold the standards of the Society; and to ensure the humane treatment of the animals.

### Auction Rules:

[20121112-023256]

#### 1. Reserve Price:

1.1 The Reserve Price (if any) includes the Society's commission (see also Rule 7.2).

#### 2. Scrutineers:

2.1 Official Scrutineers shall be appointed by the Committee and empowered to remove sub-standard fish from sale.

#### 3. Care of Goods:

3.1 All items come under the care and control of the scrutineers upon delivery.

3.2 There will be no access to any item unless, under special circumstances, the scrutineers permit such access.

#### 4. Eligibility of Goods for sale:

4.1 At the discretion of the Auction Committee, the sale of non-aquarium-related items may be deferred until all aquarium-related items are processed.

4.2 First boxes shall be auctioned, where practicable, in order of arrival. Second boxes shall be auctioned thereafter, followed by third boxes, and so on.

4.3 No more than four (4) lots of the same item may be offered by any vendor.

4.4 Known hybrid fishes are not to be offered for sale.

#### 5. Packing Standards:

5.1 At the discretion of the scrutineers, a fee will be charged for re-bagging necessitated by obvious poor or inappropriate bagging.

5.2 Uninsulated cardboard boxes will not be allowed for fish.

5.3 Fish to be in closed foam/insulated boxes with completed Auction Form/s.

#### 6. Accounts:

6.1 Only Auction staff and VCS Members well-known to the staff will be permitted to run accounts. They must make arrangements with the Accounts Clerk before the Auction begins.

6.2 Accounts will be settled immediately after the Auction. Payment by cheque, only by prior arrangement with the Accounts Clerk.

#### 7. Marking of Items:

7.1 All lots are to be clearly marked as to contents and reserve price, if any, consistent with the Auction Form.

7.2 Any item without a reserve price marked on it will be auctioned as if there is no reserve.

7.3 Second-hand equipment not marked "working" will be treated as if it is "not working".

#### 8. Vendors:

8.1 Only Financial Members of the **Victorian Cichlid Society Inc** (VCS), the **Aquarium Society of Victoria** (ASoV) or **Eastern Districts Aquarium Society Inc** (EDAS) are eligible to submit goods/livestock for auction.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Using these rules and as much diligence as can reasonably be expected, the Society does its best to ensure that goods and livestock are as-described at the time of sale.

Vendors are required to observe the rules and use common sense and honesty in presenting goods/livestock for sale.

Buyers are responsible for the welfare of livestock once their care has passed to them, so it is very important to check purchases carefully, as soon as they are received. If a problem is observed with goods or livestock at this point, they should notify the scrutineers to have the problem remedied.

The Society can cancel sales during the course of the auction, where considered reasonable, but will accept no responsibility whatsoever for goods or livestock once the vendors have left the auction premises.

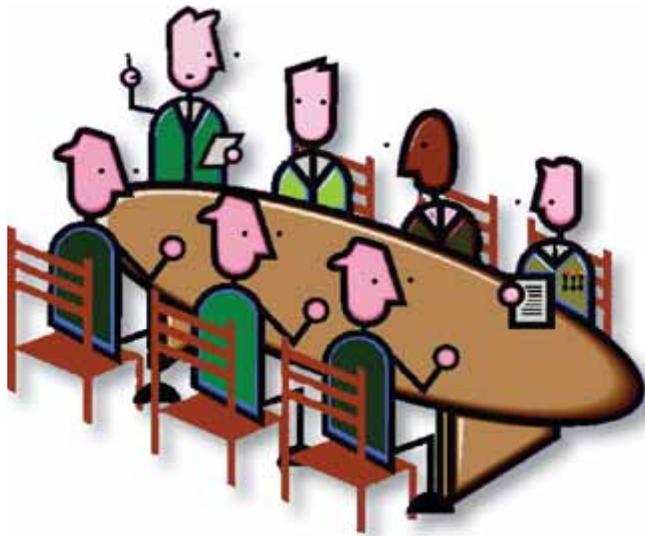
Like all rules, these are subject to change. Any changes will be notified in the Society's magazine and on the Website/Forums prior to the auction. Notices will also be displayed at the venue.

The current version of the Auction Rules is always displayed on the Society's Website.



Auctions are currently held at the **Mulgrave Neighbourhood House** (above), **Wellington Reserve, 36-42 Mackie Road, Mulgrave.**





## Committee

The following is a guide for aspiring committee persons and a rough indication of what committee people do to earn their fame and, of course, the undying gratitude of all.

### President

1. Chairs all meetings according to the society's rules and/or the "rules of order";
2. Promotes at all times the society's views.

#### Annually:

Traditionally, at the last meeting for the year, provides an overview of the year's events.

### Vice-president

#### At each meeting:

1. Performs the duties of any committee member who is absent.

### Treasurer

1. Takes charge of receiving, managing and distributing the moneys of the Society;
2. Provides monthly meetings with a reconciliation of monthly balances.

#### Annually:

1. Passes accounts to the Auditor;
2. Provides the AGM with an annualised statement of the Society's turnover/financial standing.

### Editor

#### Between meetings:

1. Edits articles:
  - (a) Corrects grammar and/or spelling without changing the meaning;
  - (b) Removes inappropriate, personal or libellous comments;
  - (c) If (b) is incompatible with (a), returns copy to the author for revision.

2. Publishes the Society's journal.

#### At General Meetings:

1. Collects articles/photos from members.

#### Annually:

1. At the end of the volume, selects the recipient (if any) of the Editor's Prize (one year's free membership).

### Secretary

#### At General Meetings:

1. Reads correspondence, if required;
2. Takes minutes of the meeting;
3. Makes sure the Visitor's Book is available in a convenient place.

#### At Committee Meetings:

1. Takes notes of the meeting;
2. Ensures that the names of all new members are put forward for acceptance.

#### At other times:

1. Is the contact person for the Society; accepts mail, e-mail and telephone calls on its behalf;
2. Answers all correspondence.
5. Keeps the Membership List up-to-date.

### Social Secretary

#### Between meetings:

1. Organises dates, venues and catering (if required) for regular and special social events.

#### At General Meetings:

1. Makes food and beverages available for supper.

### Trading Table Steward

#### Between meetings:

1. At the best possible price, buys goods for sale to members.

#### At each meeting:

1. Mans the trading table and sells goods to members.

### Librarian

#### At General Meetings:

1. Uses the library system to keep track of all books, magazines and videos that are borrowed.

### Table Show Steward

The table show steward is responsible for all business relating to the operation of the table show, tasks include:

#### At General Meetings:

1. Setting-up lighting and air supply.
2. Arranging Popular Choice voting.
3. From the list of table show judges, selecting and locating a judge who is both qualified and willing to judge on the night
6. Presenting prizes/awards.

#### At other times:

1. Maintaining a running tally of table show entrants, their entries and scores.

#### Annually:

1. Orders and presents table show prizes.

## Appointed Positions

### Standing Sub-committees

Sub-committees are not elected, but are appointed by the elected committee to perform special functions and continue until their job is finished or the elected committee replaces them.

Normally only a chairperson is appointed by the elected committee and he/she seconds other willing persons to help with the work. Although it is common that at least the chair is a member of the elected committee, neither he/she, nor the other sub-committee members need to be.

A list of Standing Sub-committees and their chairpersons can be found in every edition of the Society's journal, and include, but are not limited to: Breeder's Achievement (BAA), Constitution, Handbook, Mailing and Species Maintenance.

### Public Officer

The Public Officer is also appointed by the committee. Although it is obviously inappropriate for the Treasurer to also hold the position of PO, any member can hold it, including a committee member. He/she is the contact point for the Department of Justice Victoria, Office of Fair Trading and Business Affairs (OFTBA). The responsibilities of the Public Officer are:

1. To maintain a list of all the financial members of the Society complete with current addresses.
2. To see to it that the OFTBA receives a form each year detailing the Society's financial activities and status.
3. To forward a list of the Society's assets to the Auditor by 15th October each year.
4. To notify the OFTBA of any changes to the Statement of Purposes of the Society ("Aims") or its Constitution.
5. Perform all the duties of the Secretary in the event of the position being vacant.

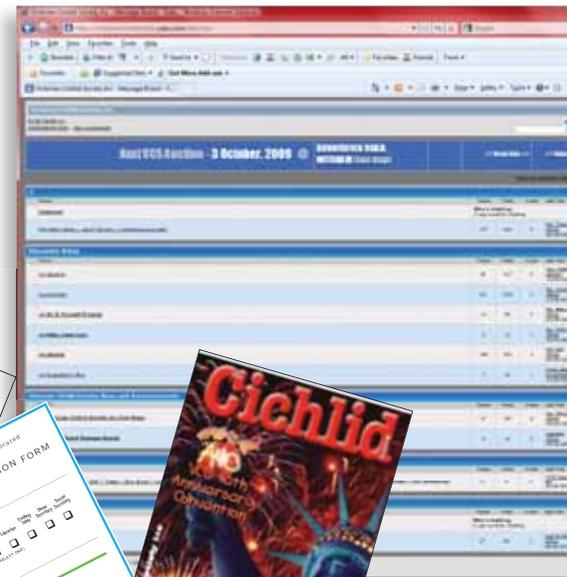
The Victorian Cichlid Society Inc Website officially began in 1996 as 'The Electronic Cichlid' (blaze.net.au/~darylh). No-one seemed particularly interested in the internet at that time, so it was not heralded, used much, or even managed efficiently for some years. As a result of Blazenet being taken over at some point during these dark years it migrated to hotkey.net.au/~darylh where it remained until mid-2003.

When the world was finally ready for it, the url was displayed across the top of page 1 of *The Cichlid Monthly* for a couple of years in fairly large lettering.

This address soon proved unsatisfactory (hard to remember?). So, in 2000 the url **cichlids.web.com** was purchased. This easy-to-remember address was prominently displayed in *The Cichlid Monthly* and elsewhere for some time until it fell out of use due to a change of ownership, philosophy and apparently ethics, at web.com which resulted in the url (which was paid for until 2014) becoming unusable in 2007 (no, there was no refund, apology or compensation of any type. Memo: deal only with Australian Domain Registrars).

In 2005, the Website was moved to Vicnet, a Community Information Portal run by the State Library of Victoria, which supplies Victorian not-for-profit organisations with limited web space free of charge. In so doing, the Society's url then became home.vicnet.net.au/~cichlids. The move was transparent until the cichlids.web.com url, which was redirected, became unusable.

A new url, **cichlids.org.au** (Australian-registered), was purchased in 2008. Now all



## Message Board

forums.cichlids.org.au

In July 2002, due to popular demand, the Society established a Message Board (these days usually referred to as a Forum).

The board provides forums where fishkeepers from all walks of life and geographical areas can gather to discuss topics of interest in the comfort of their own homes.

Forums are provided for discussion of various subjects such as cichlids, aquarium-keeping, DIY projects and general discussion. There is also a "trading post" forum where items aquatic may be bought, sold, traded, etc.

A chat room is provided on the board to allow for real-time discussion of urgent subjects ... or for those who just prefer a live chat.

Anyone can peruse the board, but to post messages you must first register. A free, simple process that takes only a few moments.

VCS e-mail addresses and sites are based on this address.

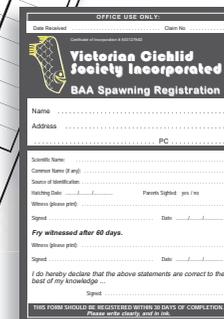
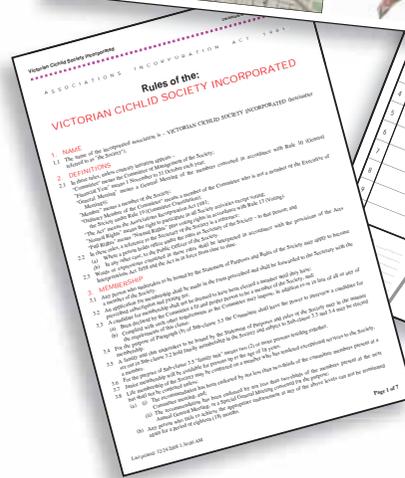
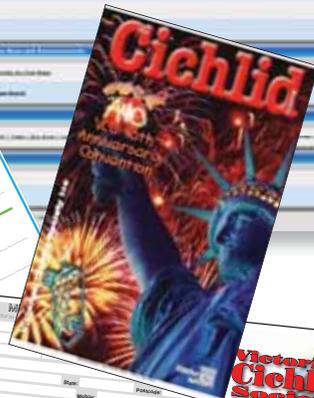
To reach any current committee member by e-mail simply type the name of their position (or the first word thereof) and append "@cichlids.org.au". IE, president@cichlids.org.au,

The site contains a wealth of information about the Society for prospective members, a Gallery of cichlid pictures by members and a facility to apply for membership online.

The *Cichlid Register* (although very out-of-date) is available for download as is this Handbook, the Constitution and a sample edition of *TCM*.

A promotional Brochure and various forms are also available, including: Auction, BAA Registration, Committee Nomination and an application to receive a printable version of *The Cichlid Monthly* (conditions apply).

There are links to other Australian and overseas cichlid societies and local general aquarium societies as well as members' websites and ... well, other people and things we just like.



# Allowable Cichlid Imports

The following are the only cichlids approved for import into Australia. Not much of a list; and when you consider that none have been added for many years, you could be forgiven for presuming that the "authorities" concerned either have no idea what they are doing or they are deliberately choking the hobby to death.

*Aequidens maronii*  
*Aequidens pulcher*  
*Apistogramma* spp  
*Astronotus ocellatus*  
*Aulonocara nyassae* (5cm+ only)  
*Aulonocara* spp  
*Benthochromis tricoti*  
*Chalinochromis brichardi* (bridled morph, 5cm+ only)  
*Chalinochromis* spp  
*Chilotilapia rhoadesii*  
*Cichlasoma nicaraguense* (5cm+ only)  
*Crenicara filamentosa*  
*Crenicara maculata* (5cm+ only)  
*Cyathopharynx furcifer*  
*Cyprichromis leptosoma*  
*Cyrtocara moorii*  
*Eretmodus cyanostictus*  
*Eretmodus maculatus*  
*Gnathochromis permaxillaris*  
*Iodotropheus sprengerae*  
*Julidochromis* spp  
*Laetacara curviceps*  
*Laetacara dorsigerus*  
*Melanochromis auratus*  
*Melanochromis simulans*  
*Mesonauta festivus* (albino prohibited)  
*Nannacara anomala*  
*Nannacara aureocephalus*  
*Nannacara taenia*  
*Neolamprologus brichardi*  
*Neolamprologus cylindricus*  
*Neolamprologus leleupi* (yellow morph only, 5cm+)

*Neolamprologus meeli* (5cm+)  
*Neolamprologus mustax*  
*Neolamprologus ocellatus* (5cm+)  
*Ophthalmotilapia* spp  
*Papiliochromis altispinosa*  
*Papiliochromis ramirezi*  
*Paracyprichromis nigrispinnis*  
*Pelvicachromis pulcher*  
*Pelvicachromis subocellatus*  
*Pelvicachromis taeniatus*  
*Petrochromis trewavasae*  
*Pterophyllum* spp  
*Spathodus erythrodon*  
*Symphysodon* spp  
*Tanganicodus irsacae*  
*Tropheus* spp



## Logo

The Society's logo was designed in 1972, by one of the very first members.

The design was selected from a number of proposals, however, no current member can recall the identity of the designer.

It is often referred to as the "Boot", or more formally, "Cichlasoma inyabootus".

## Victorian Cichlid Society Supporters 2012:

**All Aquarium** – 6 Dunoon Court, Mulgrave. 9546 1025.

**Aquariums and Reptiles at Cranbourne** – 14 Cooper Court, Cranbourne. 5995 5066.

**Cichlid Press Australia** – 5429 1516.

**Davenport & Associates** – Level 1, 23-27 Wellington Street, St Kilda, Victoria 3182.

**Evalife Aquarium** – 3 Olsen Street, Frankston. 9783 2204.

**Fishy Business Aquarium** – 141 Whitehorse Road, Blackburn. 9877 0394.

**Keysborough Aquarium** – 214 Cheltenham Road, Keysborough. 9798 3668.

**Mate's Rates Computer, Publishing and Web Services** – 0430 032 304.

**Prestige Fish Foods** – Aquapics.

**Rayonne Aquarium** – 712 Plenty Road, Reservoir. 9478 6614.

**Resun & White Crane** – Absolute Aquarium Products – Victorian distributor: Great Fish 9560 7472.

**E&OE**

Any printed version of this Handbook potentially contains obsolete information. Before placing reliance on rules contained herein, check online for updates. The Version Number can be found at the bottom of the front and rear inside covers.

If you are in possession of information (ie, show data, etc) that is missing from this publication or you become aware of an error, please e-mail your information to [handbook@cichlids.org.au](mailto:handbook@cichlids.org.au).

The Hand.



